

# PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

**Course:** 222.11 - Psychology I: Fundamentals  
**Credit:** 3 Hours  
**Session:** Fall Semester 2011  
**Instructor:** Dr. Morgan Mulenga, Associate Professor of Psychology  
**Tel.:** (204) 433-7488 ext. 283  
**Office Hours:** (# 2A20) **Mondays:** 1:30 - 3:30; **Tuesdays:** 9:00 - 11:00; 1:30 - 3:30 &  
**Thursdays:** 3:00 - 4:00  
**Class:** **Mondays & Thursdays:** 9:50 - 11:05, in Classroom # 1.

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## SYLLABUS

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### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is “an introductory” survey of the methods and findings of modern scientific psychology aimed at providing a general overview of this field by introducing students to the basic concepts of psychology and to the many areas that comprise this field. Topics to be covered include defining, describing and explaining such basic substantive concepts as sensation, perception, learning, and memory as well as considering the historical foundations of psychology, human development, and the biological bases of behaviour. In addition to learning basic content information about psychology, students will also learn how psychologists ask questions, evaluate evidence, and communicate with each other and to others.

### B. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The major objective of this course is to give students a broad introduction to the field of psychology. By the end of the course, students will be expected (through exams, quizzes, class discussions, and written assignments) to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge and comprehension of the wide range of subjects studied by psychologists.
2. Describe the field of psychology (e.g., the major subfields, discuss what psychologists do and the kinds of information they consider to be important, as well as the methods of study they utilize).
3. Have an understanding of issues on which psychologists debate (e.g., the “nature versus nurture” debate).
4. Define and describe the basic concepts and principles of psychology.
5. Apply the information provided in this course to real-life situations.

### C. COURSE TEXT(S) AND SUPPLEMENTARY RESOURCES

**Text:** Myers, D. G. (2007). *Psychology (1<sup>st</sup> Canadian ed.)*. New York: Worth Publishers.

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#### *Special Note to Students:*

It is your responsibility to retain course syllabi for possible future use to support applications for transfer of credit to other educational institutions.

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. **(The 5<sup>th</sup> edition is available in the Reference Section of the Library)**

**Useful Site:** <http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/myerscanadian/default.asp>

#### **D. COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Readings:** You will be expected to come to class prepared by having read the listed chapter of the text for that day's topic. The Prologue and chapters 1 to 9 will be covered in this course.

The final course grade will be based on quizzes, 2 exams, and 2 written assignments.

**Quizzes:** Brief quizzes based on the assigned reading material for the day will be given. NO prior notification will be given for these quizzes. Questions for the quizzes will typically be short and basic. As long as you have read the material, you should have little trouble answering the quiz questions. There will be several quizzes given throughout the semester. In calculating your final grade for these quizzes, I will drop your **two (2) lowest scores**.

The quizzes will be given either at the beginning or the end of class. It is your responsibility to be in class on time. **THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES.** This includes missed quizzes due to illness, being at an official school related event, came to class late (**at least 5 minutes from the start of the quiz**) or left the class early. **If a quiz is given at the end of the class and you were not in class that day, you will not be permitted to write it if you show up just for the quiz. You have to have attended that day's class to be eligible to take it.**

**Exams:** Two non-cumulative exams are scheduled for the semester. Exams will typically cover the assigned reading materials, lectures notes and any demonstrations used in class, such as videos.

**Assignments:** You will be required to submit **TWO** type-written assignments. Both assignments are to be double-spaced and be **between 5 and 7 pages long. I Will Subtract Points for Writing Too Much or for Not Writing Enough.**

Provide a cover page for both your assignments. The cover pages must contain (a) your full names; (b) student number; (c) the name and number of this course; (d) the name of the institution; (e) the name of the professor; (f) the due date of the assignment; and (g) the title of the assignment (***the cover page must look exactly like the example given at the end of this syllabus, with the same font and font size as the rest of the paper.***)

#### **Assignment # 1: Review A Journal Article.**

The goal of this assignment of reading and reviewing a journal article is to teach you the skills of looking up information in a psychological journal and being able to comprehend what research was done, how it was done, and what the findings were.

## Assignment # 2: Learning (Conditioning)

Choose **ONLY ONE** From the Following Two Options (Due on November 14, 2011):

**Option A: Classical Conditioning**

**Option B: Operant/Instrumental Conditioning**

**DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF EACH OF THESE ASSIGNMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE HARDCOPY TO BE GIVEN IN CLASS ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASSES AND ON BLACKBAUD.**

Both assignments (**journal articles and learning**) must be submitted to me in hardcopies **ONLY**. **I do not accept e-mail submissions of assignments**. Your typed assignments must be printed in **black ink**. They must be double-spaced **with 1 inch margins all round**. Also, use only one font and one font size for your entire document. Use only **“COURIER NEW”** with a **font size of 12**.

Be sure to **staple, NOT PAPER-CLIP**, your papers together in the top left corner. **Do not use a folder or cover**. Each entire paper should be **left-justified**. Also, make sure your **pages are numbered**. Please print your assignments only on **white sheets of paper**.

Provide a reference or references according to the APA style. I will relentlessly insist on this. (Refer to the APA Publication Manual for examples). The reference page, which appears on a separate page, **must also be double-spaced**, and should be headed **“REFERENCES”**. **DO NOT** use the words **“WORKS CITED”**.

**Note:** *Any violation of the instructions given regarding how the papers should be written will result in points being deducted - to as much as 25% of the paper's total mark.*

### E. GRADING SUMMARY (and Percentage to Letter-Grade Breakdown)

Grade	%	G.P.	Grade	%	G.P.
A+	95 -100	4.0 <i>Exceptional</i>	C+	67 - 73	2.5 <i>Satisfactory/Average</i>
A	88 - 94	4.0 <i>Excellent</i>	C	60 - 66	2.0 <i>Adequate</i>
B+	81 - 87	3.5 <i>Superior</i>	D	50 - 59	1.0 <i>Marginal</i>
B	74 - 80	3.0 <i>Good</i>	F	< 50	0.0 <i>Failure</i>

**NOTE: Last Day for Voluntary Withdrawal (VW) From a Course is November 14, 2011.**

### F. COURSE POLICIES

Full text to the academic policies, procedures and regulations of Providence University College can be found online in the Student Handbook ([http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/student\\_life/](http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/student_life/)) and the Providence University College Academic Calendar ([http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/programs/registrars\\_office/calendar/](http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/programs/registrars_office/calendar/)).

In addition to these policies the following policies will also apply to this course:

**1. Class Attendance Policy**

Although I do not keep a record of class attendance, students are expected to attend regularly and punctually. You disrupt the class when you arrive late. Also, try not to leave until the class is over. If, for some vital reason you must leave class early, please let me know before class starts. I will probably ask you to sit close to the exit so as to not disrupt the class when you leave.

Attendance will be important because much of the lecture material will go well beyond what is covered in the text. Exams will cover both material presented in the text as well as material presented via lectures and any demonstrations, such as videos. Attending class regularly therefore, will be vital to your learning and performance on exams.

Come to class everyday prepared to learn. Please stay silent when others are speaking. This includes when the instructor is speaking AND when other students are asking questions or making contributions to class discussions. Be polite and realize that everyone has the right to ask questions and to be heard.

**2. Late Assignment Policy**

Late assignments will be penalized @ 2.5% per day (**including Saturdays, Sundays and holidays**) up to a maximum of 25% (i.e., 10 days). **I will not accept assignments that are more than 10 days late.** If you need an extension, you may request for one **at least 3 days prior to the due date.** Once an extension has been granted, it is expected that the assignment will be submitted on the extended date, without penalties. **If the assignment is not submitted on the new date, the extension becomes null and void.**

Notwithstanding this policy, I will also consider extensions when you find yourself in circumstances that are beyond your control, such as sickness, (**not the sickness of another person**), or you are involved in an accident, as examples.

If your assignment is going to be submitted late, please attach to it the “**Late Assignment Submission Form**”, found at the end of this syllabus. If you ask another person to submit the assignment on your behalf, make sure that they do so on or before the due date, otherwise your assignment will be marked late. **Assignments are deemed duly submitted when I have received a hard copy from you.**

**It is your responsibility to back up data. Lost data due to computer/printer-related problem(s) will not be an acceptable excuse for failing to meet the deadlines.**

**3. Academic Integrity**

Issues of academic integrity will be dealt with according to the policies outlined in the Academic Conduct section of the Student Handbook ([http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/student\\_life/](http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/student_life/)), the Providence University College document entitled “Academic Dishonesty: The Problem of Plagiarism in Academic Writing,” in the Providence University College Academic Formation Guide

available in the Bookstore. Students are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the policies and with the consequences attached to their violation.

#### 4. **Missed Exams**

No make-up exam will be given except in the case of extreme circumstances such as a serious illness **on your part**, death in the family or an accident in which you are directly or indirectly involved, etc. Written proof from a physician, in case of an illness, may be required. To qualify for a make-up exam, I must be notified at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled exam, where possible. When permission is granted, make-up exams must be completed within the shortest possible time from the original exam date, **at a time that is convenient for me**.

Requests to write **mid-term** exams earlier or later than scheduled will normally not be granted. However, if there are extenuating circumstances that dictate that the exam be given to you at a different date than scheduled, please talk to me ahead of time, preferably two weeks in advance.

#### **Final Exams: (Early Leave Policy)**

All requests to have a final exam rescheduled must be approved by the Academic Committee in accordance with the Early Leave Policy (available in the Providence University College Academic Calendar

[http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/programs/registrars\\_office/calendar/](http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/programs/registrars_office/calendar/)).

#### 5. **Information and Communication Technologies in the Classroom**

Student use of electronic information and communication technologies, such as laptops, iPads, iPods, etc., is **NOT allowed in this class**. While I deeply regret the inconvenience for note-taking this becomes, too many students in the past have abused ICTs in the classroom, distracting themselves, their classmates, as well as me, thereby disrespecting the educational enterprise. As partial compensation, I will post the PowerPoint presentations from my lectures in your Blackbaud student portal for three (3) days after each topic is completed, for you to download if you wish.

<b>Course Evaluation</b>	<b>Worth</b>	<b>Due Dates</b>
Assignment # 1	15%	October 06, 2011
Assignment # 2	15%	November 14, 2011
Exam # 1	25%	October 24, 2011
Exam # 2	25%	TBA
Quizzes	20%	Any Class Time
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	

**October 5**

**9:50 - 12:15 “How to Do Academic Research and Write Excellent Papers”**

**All students, and *especially* new students, should attend this helpful workshop. At various points during your time as a Providence University College student you will be expected to submit research and writing assignments. This workshop will help you to excel in these tasks.**

**G. BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Ault, R. (1991). What goes where? An activity to teach the organization of journal articles. *Teaching of Psychology, 18*, 45-46.

Gelfand, H., & Walker, C. (1990 ). *Mastering APA style: Student workbook and training*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Jolley, J., Keller, P., & Murray, J. (1993). *How to write psychology papers : A student's survival guide for psychology and related field*. Sarasota, FL: Professional Resource Exchange.

Madigan, R., & Brosamer, J. (1990). Improving the writing skills of students in introductory psychology. *Teaching of Psychology, 17*, 27-30.

Parrott, L. (1999). *How to write psychology papers*. New York: Longman

Rosnow, R., & Rosnow, M. (2001). *Writing papers in psychology: A student guide (5th ed.)*. Pacific Groves, CA: Brooks/Cole.

Sternberg, R. (1993). *The psychologist's companion: A guide to scientific writing for students and researchers*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press.

## H. COURSE OUTLINE / SCHEDULE

### Dated Course Outline

Date	Topic	Read
Sep. 08 <i>Thu</i>	Course Introduction, Introducing Psychology	Prologue: The Story of Psychology
Sep. 12 <i>Mon</i>	Psychology as a Science	Chapter 1
Sep. 15 <i>Thu</i>	Psychology as a Science (Contd.)	Chapter 1
Sep. 19 <i>Mon</i>	Research Methods and Statistics in Psychology	Chapter 1
Sep. 22 <i>Thu</i>	Research Methods and Statistics in Psychology (Contd.)	Chapter 1
Sep. 26 <i>Mon</i>	APA	<a href="http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/">http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/</a>
Sep. 29 <i>Thu</i>	APA (Contd.)	<a href="http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/">http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/</a>
Oct. 03 <i>Mon</i>	Biological Bases of Behaviour	Chapter 2
Oct. 06 <i>Thu</i>	Biological Bases of Behaviour (Contd.)	Chapter 2 <b>ASSIGNMENT # 1 DUE</b>
<b>Oct. 10 <i>Mon</i></b>	<b>Thanksgiving Break - No Class</b>	
Oct. 13 <i>Thu</i>	Nature vs. Nurture	Chapter 3
Oct. 17 <i>Mon</i>	Developmental Psychology	Chapter 4
Oct. 20 <i>Thu</i>	Developmental Psychology (Contd.)	Chapter 4
<b>Oct. 24 <i>Mon</i></b>	<b>Exam # 1: READ - The Prologue, chs. 1 - 4, APA Online References, &amp; the Lecture/Video Notes</b>	
Oct. 27 <i>Thu</i>	Sensation	Chapter 5
Oct. 31 <i>Mon</i>	Sensation (Contd.)	Chapter 5
Nov. 03 <i>Thu</i>	Perception	Chapter 6
Nov. 07 <i>Mon</i>	Perception (Contd.)	Chapter 6
Nov. 10 <i>Thu</i>	Perception (Contd.)	Chapter 6
Nov. 14 <i>Mon</i>	States of Consciousness	Chapter 7 <b>ASSIGNMENT # 2DUE</b>
Nov. 17 <i>Thu</i>	States of Consciousness (Contd.)	Chapter 7
Nov. 21 <i>Mon</i>	States of Consciousness (Contd.)	Chapter 7
<b>Nov. 24 <i>Thu</i></b>	<b>Faculty Forum - No Class</b>	
Nov. 28 <i>Mon</i>	Learning	Chapter 8
Dec. 01 <i>Thu</i>	Learning (Contd.)	Chapter 8
Dec. 05 <i>Mon</i>	Memory	Chapter 9
Dec. 08 <i>Thu</i>	Memory (Contd.)	Chapter 9
<b>TBA</b>	<b>Exam # 2: READ Chs. 5 - 9, &amp; the Lecture/Video Notes</b>	

**Late Assignment Submission Form**  
**Providence University College**

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**Student Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student number: \_\_\_\_\_

Course Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Course Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_

**Assignment information**

Title of Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_

Assignment Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Assignment Submission Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Lateness: *Please provide an explanation for the lateness of the assignment.*

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**Note:** Please provide all relevant documentation (e.g. Doctor's note)

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Instructors Use Only**

Date Assignment Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Late Penalty Waived / Assessed

Late Penalty: \_\_\_\_\_%

Faculty Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Paper

By  
Full Names  
Student Number  
Box Number  
Due Date

Course Number and Name of Course  
Instructor's Name: Dr. Morgan Mulenga  
Providence University College