

PSY100H1S: Introductory Psychology

July/August 2025 Syllabus

Course Meetings

- Throughout the term, students will be expected to watch asynchronous lecture videos.
- There will be **two online term tests (each scheduled on a specific day** and available for 24 hours) as well as an **in-person, on-campus final exam (scheduled on a specific day** by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences during the final exam period). See our course schedule below for more details.

Course Contacts

- **Instructor:** Dr. Paul Whissell (paul.whissell@utoronto.ca)
 - I am happy to answer questions via email. However, the best place for general content-related inquiries is our **Quercus discussion board**. Please share your thoughts there so other students can benefit!
- **Teaching Assistants:** Ryan Barker and Sam Haar
- **Virtual Office Hours on Zoom Media:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00 – 3:00 pm
 - <https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/85120554843>
 - Meeting ID: 851 2055 4843
 - Passcode: 280411

Course Overview

A brief introductory survey of psychology as both a biological and social science. Topics will include behavioural neuroscience, learning, perceptual, motivational, cognitive, developmental, personality, abnormal, and social psychology.

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

Exclusions: PSY100Y5/ (PSYA01H3 and PSYA02H3)

Recommended Preparation: None

Credit Value: 0.5

Course Materials

Recommended Textbook (optional, not required): *Discovering Psychology: The Science of Mind*. 1st Canadian edition. 2020. Cacioppo, J.T., Freberg, L. A. and Waggoner Denton, A. Nelson Cengage Adapted. ISBN: 9780176877262.

Marking Scheme

Term tests will be administered online via Quercus and available over a 24-hour window (e.g. Test 1 is available July 17, from 12:01 am to 11:59 pm EST). Extra time is not granted for late starts, so please make sure to begin the test well beyond the deadline (i.e. no later than 9:59 pm EST). Tests will be locked at the end of the window.

The **final exam will be in-person and on-campus** at a date scheduled by the Faculty Registrar.

Assessment	Percent	Details	Due Date
Term Test 1	25%	Based on Lectures 1 – 4, 2 hours, majority multiple choice questions + a few written answer questions	July 17
Term Test 2	25%	Based on Lectures 5 – 8, 2 hours, majority multiple choice questions + a few written answer questions	August 5
Participation in the SONA program	3%	Provided in Week 2	Throughout term
In-Person, On-campus Final Exam	47%	Lectures 1 – 10, Format TBA	August 15 – 21

Lecture Recordings

- All course content (Lecture PDFs and Lecture videos) is released at the start of the term.
- PDFs can be found in the “Lecture PDFs” section on Quercus.
- Videos can be accessed via the “Lecture Recording Links” document on Quercus.
- PDFs and videos were taken from the most recently completed terms of PSY100 (i.e. May-June 2025 and Winter 2025). **As such, they contain details that are not relevant for you (e.g. assessment formats and dates). Please ignore all such details.** For information regarding assessments and activities in our course, please use the posted syllabus and Quercus announcements.

Course Schedule

While lecture materials can be viewed at any time, it is important to spread them out to maximize learning and minimize stress. We've recommended a schedule for doing so below.

In contrast, tests and exams must be completed within specific time windows (highlighted in red). Please make sure you are available to complete them in advance.

Date	Activity	Optional Chapter Readings
July 3	Lecture 01: Introduction to Psychology	1
July 8	Lecture 02: Research Methods in Psychology SONA presentation	2
July 10	Lecture 03: Biological Psychology	3 + 4
July 15	Lecture 04: Sensation, Perception and Consciousness	5 + 6
July 17	TERM TEST 1 (LECTURES 1 – 4) available for 24 hours on Quercus	
July 22	Lecture 05: Learning and Memory	8 + 9
July 24	Lecture 06: Intelligence and Language	10
July 29	Lecture 07: Emotion, Motivation and Personality	7 + 12
July 31	Lecture 08: Developmental Psychology	11
August 5	TERM TEST 2 (LECTURES 5 – 8) available for 24 hours on Quercus	
August 7	Lecture 09: Social Psychology and Decision-Making	14, 15
August 12	Lecture 10: Psychological Disorders	13
Final Exam Period August 15-21	IN-PERSON, ON-CAMPUS FINAL EXAM (LECTURES 1 – 10, Cumulative)	

Policies & Statements

Course Materials, including lecture notes

Course materials are provided for the exclusive use of enrolled students. These materials should not be reposted, shared, put in the public domain, or otherwise distributed without the explicit permission of the instructor. These materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other sources depending on the specific facts of each situation and are protected by copyright. Students violating these policies will be subject to disciplinary actions under the Code of Student Conduct.

Video Recording and Sharing (Download and Re-use Prohibited)

This course, including your participation, will be recorded on video and will be available to students in the course for viewing remotely and after each session.

Course videos and materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other sources depending on the specific facts of each situation and are protected by copyright. Do not download, copy, or share any course or student materials or videos without the explicit permission of the instructor.

For questions about the recording and use of videos in which you appear, please contact your instructor.

Religious Accommodations

As a student at the University of Toronto, you are part of a diverse community that welcomes and includes students and faculty from a wide range of cultural and religious traditions. For my part, I will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, examinations, or other compulsory activities on religious holy days not captured by statutory holidays. Further to University Policy, if you anticipate being absent from class or missing a major course activity (such as a test or in-class assignment) due to a religious observance, please let me know as early in the course as possible, and with sufficient notice (at least two to three weeks), so that we can work together to make alternate arrangements.

Students with Disabilities or Accommodation Requirements

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have an acute or ongoing disability issue or accommodation need, you should register with Accessibility Services (AS) at the beginning of the academic year by visiting <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/departments/accessibility-services/>. Without registration, you will not be able to verify your situation with your instructors, and instructors will not be advised about your accommodation needs. AS will assess your situation, develop an accommodation plan with you, and support you in requesting accommodation for your course work. Remember that the process of accommodation is private: AS will not share details of your needs or condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with AS.

Specific Medical Circumstances

If you become ill and it affects your ability to do your academic work, accommodations are possible. To receive accommodations, you will need documentation in support of your specific medical circumstances. This documentation can be an Absence Declaration (via ACORN) or the University's Verification of Student Illness or Injury (VOI) form. The VOI indicates the impact and severity of the illness, while protecting your privacy about the details of the nature of the illness. If you cannot submit a VOI due to limits on terms of use, you can submit a different form (like a letter from a doctor), as long as it is an original document, and it contains the same information as the VOI (including dates, academic impact, practitioner's signature, phone and registration number). For more information on the VOI, please see <http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca>. For information on Absence Declaration Tool for A&S students, please see

<https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/absence>. If you get a concussion, break your hand, or suffer some other acute injury, you should register with Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

Make-Up Quizzes/Tests

If you require a make-up test and have the necessary documentation (see above), please complete the following form: <https://forms.office.com/r/Z90fxtxsNi>. This is our dedicated system for processing make-up requests. Please do not email me directly. **According to the formal Arts & Science policy, you have a maximum of 1 week to get in touch about a missed test (deadline of July 24 for Term Test 1 or August 12 for Term Test 2).** Each situation will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

If you miss a single term test (e.g. test 1) and provide valid documentation justifying the absence, you will be given an automatic grade reweight wherein the proportion of your grade allocated to the missed test (e.g. 25% for test 1) will be reallocated to your other tests (e.g. 37.5% for test 2 and 59.5% for the final exam).

If you miss BOTH term tests (i.e. test 1 AND test 2) and provide valid documentation justifying the absence (see above), you must attend a make-up test. The **date of this make-up test will be Thursday, August 12.** The make-up test will be similar in format to test 2. The weight of the make-up test will be 37.5% and the weight of the final exam will be 59.5%.

If you miss the formal final exam, you must write a deferred final exam at a later date. The deferred final exam will be similar in format to the missed final exam. To be eligible for a deferred exam, you will need to file a petition with your College RO immediately following missing the exam.

Re-marking Policy - Timeline and Protocol

This item is listed here to remind you that A&S policy on re-mark requests for term work specifies that students have two weeks from when the work was returned to make such a request. If you want to include a re-marking policy in your syllabus, please consult Section 4.13 in the [A&S Academic Handbook](#) on re-marking protocol (<https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/faculty-staff/teaching/academic-handbook#AssignmentsAssessmentTermWork>).

Academic Integrity

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#) (<https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019>). If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, please reach out to me. Note that you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from me or from other institutional resources. For example, to learn more about how to cite and use source material appropriately and for other writing support, see the U of T writing support website at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca>. Consult the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters for a complete outline of the University's policy and expectations. For more information, please see [A&S Student Academic Integrity](#) (<https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and->

[support/student-academic-integrity](#)) and the [University of Toronto Website on Academic Integrity \(https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca\)](#).

Mental Health and Well-Being

Your mental health is important. Throughout university life, there are many experiences that can impact your mental health and well-being. As a University of Toronto student, you can access free mental health and wellbeing services at Health & Wellness (<https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/health-wellness/>) such as same day counselling, brief counselling, medical care, skill-building workshops, and drop-in peer support. You can also meet with a Wellness Navigation Advisor who can connect you with other campus and community services and support. Call the mental health clinic at 416-978-8030 ext. 5 to book an appointment or visit <https://uoft.me/mentalhealthcare> to learn about the services available to you.

You can also visit your College Registrar to learn about the resources and supports available: <https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/college-registrars-offices>

If you're in distress, you can access immediate support: <https://uoft.me/feelingdistressed>

Departmental Guidance for Undergraduate Students in Psychology

The Department of Psychology recognizes that, as a student, you may experience disruptions to your learning that are out of your control, and that there may be circumstances when you need extra support. Accordingly, the department has provided a helpful guide to clarify your and your instructor's responsibilities when navigating these situations. This guide consolidates Arts & Science Policies for undergraduate students in one place for your convenience. As an instructor in the department, I will frequently consult with these recommendations when providing you with support, and I recommend that you also consult it to learn more about your rights and responsibilities before reaching out to me. <https://psych.utoronto.ca/current-program-students/guidance-undergraduate-students-psychology>