

Introduction to Psychology

HH/PSYC 1010B (SU)

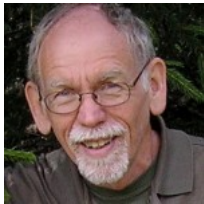
Correspondence

General Description

Psychology 1010B is an introduction to the academic study of psychological phenomena. The course emphasizes the historical and cultural origins of the constructs, methods and purposes associated with contemporary Psychology. Numerous divisions exist among psychologists concerning the appropriate purposes of Psychology and concerning the appropriate constructs and methods to adopt in order to achieve these purposes. The most important division we consider in the course is that associated with those who favour a natural science approach to the study of psychological phenomena *versus* those who favour a human science approach. Among the constructs we examine are learning, personality, and psychological disorder. Among the methods are experimental, survey, naturalistic and hermeneutic method. And in our examination of competing purposes we look to a variety of conceptions of Psychology, including Psychology as a basic science, Psychology as a healing technology, and Psychology as a discipline organized around the resolution of social problems (poverty and racism, for example).

The course will be divided into thirteen weekly units. Each week students must read the material assigned for the given week, listen to the recorded commentaries associated with this material, and complete a set of exercises that involve participation in discussion of the course material on the web-based Dialogue Forum.

Course Director



Ron Sheese
rsheese@yorku.ca
S334 Ross Building
(416) 736-2100, ext. 22509

Teaching Assistants

Zhipeng Gao
gzhipe@yorku.ca

Elissa Rodkey
erodkey@yorku.ca

Kristian Weihs
KDWeihs@yorku.ca

Required Course Textbooks

[Benson, N.](#) (2007). *Psychology: A graphic guide to your mind and behaviour*. Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin.

[Haidt, J.](#) (2006). *The happiness hypothesis: Finding modern truth in ancient wisdom*. New York: Basic Books.

[Moghaddam, F.](#) (2005). *Great ideas in Psychology: A cultural and historical introduction*. Oxford: One World.

Other Required Reading

[Cosgrove, L. & Flynn, C.](#) (2005). Marginalized mothers: Parenting without a home. *Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy*, 5, 127-143.

[DeLoache, J. S., Miller, K. F. & Rosengren, K. S.](#) (1997). The credible shrinking room: Very young children's performance with symbolic and nonsymbolic relations. *Psychological Science*, 8(4), 308-313.

[Dixon, J., Durrheim, K., & Tredoux, C.](#) (2005). Beyond the Optimal Contact Strategy: A reality check for the contact hypothesis. *American Psychologist*, 60, 697-711.

[Kahneman, D. & Renshon, J.](#) (2007). Why Hawks Win. *Foreign Policy*, 158, 34-38.

[McLeod, S. A.](#) (2007). Perception theory. *Simply Psychology*.

Course Reading Schedule

Week 1 – May 2 through May 8

- Moghaddam, Chapters 1 and 2
- Benson, Pages 3 through 29
- Haidt, no assignment this week

The full schedule is available on [this page](#).

Course Format

There are no class meetings scheduled for Psychology 1010B. A set of readings will be assigned for each week of the course. I record comments on the readings and post these on the website throughout the week in which they are assigned, typically on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings. Each student will be assigned to an online group composed of 25 students for discussion of various aspects of the readings and my comments on them. Students will be required to contribute to the discussion each week, but the discussion is asynchronous – that is, students are not expected to be online simultaneously; each will contribute to the discussion at those times during the week that are most convenient for him or her. I typically refer to the online discussion site as the Dialogue Forum, and it can be found by clicking on that term in the sidebar of the course website.

All students will work with a small set of other students from their discussion group to prepare an annotated bibliography on a subject of interest in the field of Psychology. The project will be completed in stages, and details about the project components will be provided in the early weeks of the course. The principle purposes of the project are first to learn to use the PsycINFO database to locate appropriate materials for study of a psychological issue, and second to gain some facility in reading, summarizing and evaluating primary sources in the psychological literature. The annotated bibliographies that students develop will be posted on the Dialogue Forum near the end of the course.

Course Evaluation

Course work will be evaluated with a letter grade in each of the following categories. These letter grades will be weighted as indicated in assigning the final mark:

- 15% Dialogue Forum participation (weekly)
- 10% Annotated Bibliography project (due July 22)
- 20% Exam 1 (Saturday morning, June 4, 10-12)
- 25% Exam 2 (Saturday morning, July 9, 10-12)
- 30% Comprehensive Final Exam (TBA between August 2 and August 12)

The York University grading system, including the generic [letter grade definitions](#) used in the system and in the course, is described in the University Calendar.

Students who will be more than three hours driving time from York on the date of any of the examinations can arrange with the [Distance Education staff](#) to take the exam at an off-site location. Click the Distance Education link for more information.

Course Websites

Home Page:

<http://www.yorku.ca/rsheese2/1010b/blog>

Dialogue Forum:

<http://www.yorku.ca/rsheese2/1010b/discussions/>