

PSYCH 109 — MIND, BRAIN AND BEHAVIOUR
COURSE INFORMATION — SEMESTER 1, 2008

READ AND RETAIN THIS DOCUMENT. YOU WILL NEED
THE INFORMATION IT CONTAINS DURING THE SEMESTER

This document is also available on Cecil (www.cecil.edu)

Course Co-ordinator

Dr Tony Lambert

Room: HSB 650, Ext 88520

t.lambert@auckland.ac.nz

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Course Administrators

Undergraduate Senior Tutor

Michelle Burstall

Room: HSB 344, Ext. 88526

m.burstall@auckland.ac.nz

Please check Cecil for office hours.

Undergraduate Senior Tutor

Andrea Mead

Room: HSB 344, Ext. 86253.

a.mead@auckland.ac.nz

Please check Cecil for office hours

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: This course has six main learning objectives. Upon successful completion of the course students should:

1. Be familiar with the major divisions and structures of the human brain, and be able to describe the main functions of important brain structures.
2. Be able to describe the structure and function of nerve cells.
3. Be familiar with basic principles of research design, and have an appreciation of the practical, ethical and conceptual issues that researchers may face when designing and undertaking psychological research.
4. Be able to describe major theories of cognitive development during childhood, together with evidence that tends to support or undermine these theoretical approaches.
5. Be able to describe the psychological and neural processes that give rise to important aspects of perception, memory, language and thinking.
6. Be able to describe the major principles underlying learning in both animals and humans, and some of their implications for understanding the relation between behaviour and environment in everyday life.
7. Be able to adopt a critical stance when evaluating evidence and theory in psychological science.

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LECTURES: Lectures commence on Monday March 3, and are held on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 10 am **or** 5pm. You will already have chosen a lecture stream when you enrolled in the course. Please check NDeva for the location of your lecture theatre.

Important: To avoid overcrowding in lecture theatres and in order to comply with fire regulations, it is **essential to ensure** that you attend the **correct** lecture stream.

LABORATORIES: All students **must** attend one two-hour laboratory period per week. Attendance at laboratories is a compulsory course requirement. Instructions for streaming into a laboratory time will be given in the first lecture. **Ensure that you attend the laboratory time to which you are assigned.** A student may make a change to their laboratory time only after obtaining a white card from one of the course administrators. To avoid overcrowding and to ensure accurate record keeping, students may not attend a laboratory other than the one to which they are assigned.

COMMENCEMENT DATES: Laboratories commence at the beginning of the second week of SEMESTER 1; that is, the week beginning Monday March 10. Laboratories are held in Rooms 336 or 337, located on Level 3 of the Human Sciences Building.

LABORATORY MANUAL: It is strongly recommended that students purchase a laboratory manual before laboratory classes begin in the week of March 10th. These are available from Room BO1, 38 Princes Street. In principle, it is possible to complete the laboratory component of the course by downloading individual handouts week by week from CECIL, which is the web-based learning system used at this university. However, for most students it will be easier and more economical to purchase the lab manual at the beginning of the semester.

COURSEWORK MARKS: On-course marks for PSYCH 109 **can** count 40% toward your final grade. Coursework consists of four laboratory reports (worth a total of 40%) *Note that the marks from ALL laboratory reports count towards your coursework mark.*

PLUSSAGE: Plussage is a system in which your final mark can be based *either* on your coursework marks plus your exam mark, *or* your exam mark alone. If you are eligible for plussage the final mark will be the *higher* of these two marks. The advantage of this system is that it accommodates students with different styles and strategies of learning.

PLUSSAGE: To be eligible for plussage students must:

1. Attend all eight laboratory classes and submit four laboratory reports. Students may miss the Introductory and the Revision laboratory sessions and still be eligible for plussage but are strongly advised to attend these.
2. Obtain an average mark greater than 50% across all coursework.

For those students **eligible** for plussage, their final grade for PSYCH 109 will be based **either** on the final exam alone marked out of 100, **or** on the final exam marked out of 60 *plus* the coursework marked out of 40, whichever alternative gives the student the better mark.

For those students **not eligible** for plussage, their final grade will be based on the final exam marked out of 60 *plus* the coursework marked out of 40. Thus, if you fail plussage, you are still able to sit the final examination, but your coursework will **automatically** count toward 40% of your final overall grade.

ABSENCES: In the case of unavoidable absence from the final exam, students must consult the Examinations Office in the Clock Tower Building. In the case of unavoidable absence from any of the laboratories, the student should attend an alternative time for that week. The student will need to see one of the course administrators in person to arrange an alternative session to attend. Students may not attend an alternative session without having a completed white card signed by a course administrator. In the case of absences from laboratories due to illness, a medical certificate **must** be presented to your regular tutor at the following session. A letter from an accredited counsellor or therapist may also be presented. Medical certificates may not be used more than twice in the course.

MARKING POLICY: Laboratory reports must be handed in at the beginning of the following week's laboratory session, except where indicated otherwise in this handout. Late laboratory reports must be handed in to the psychology departmental office (HSB Room 660) and a receipt obtained and retained until the end of semester. Laboratory reports handed in after the deadline will only be accepted up to the time that the marked reports of other students are returned. However, any report handed in late without an adequate excuse or medical certificate will receive a 50% reduction in its grading. Reports handed in after **any** marked reports have been returned to students will not be marked and will be considered a missed laboratory. Note that to submit a report, a student must personally have attended the associated laboratory session. Students are advised to see their laboratory tutor in the first instance for any issues regarding the marking of laboratory reports. Should the issue not be resolved with the laboratory tutor then students may then approach Michelle Burstall or Andrea Mead. We ask that queries about the marking of laboratory reports are raised within TWO WEEKS of the marked laboratory report being handed back.

CECIL: Please follow the link on Cecil (www.cecil.edu) to access grades and attendance records. It is expected that students will access this site at least once a week during their course to check their details and see if there are any messages. Course administrators and lecturers will post important messages on Cecil. Handouts may be provided at lectures and/or on Cecil. Please ensure that all your personal details (phone numbers, email address, and street address) are correct on Cecil and NDeva.

EMAIL: Undergraduate students are able to use the University computer labs for computing and email. The University assigns each student a university email address. If you have a preferred email address that would like to use please change it on Cecil.

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING: Plagiarism means using the work of others in preparing an assignment, and presenting it as your own without explicitly acknowledging where it came from. This can include copying from published material, or copying from another student's coursework. When students prepare laboratory reports it is perfectly acceptable, and often beneficial, for students to collaborate at an initial stage of discussing the aims and outcome of the assignment. However, the final stage of actually writing the laboratory report must be an individual exercise. The final form of any assignment must be written entirely in your own words. It is not acceptable that students submit work where it is clear that collaboration has extended up to the final stage of writing the laboratory report. In the first laboratory session you will be asked to sign a student declaration to indicate that you have understood the course requirements for Psych 109.

The University of Auckland will not tolerate cheating, or assisting others to cheat, and views cheating in coursework as a serious academic offence. The work that a student submits for grading must be the student's own work, reflecting his or her learning. Where work from other sources is used, it must be properly acknowledged and referenced. This requirement also applies to sources on the world-wide web. A student's assessed work may be reviewed against electronic source material using computerised detection mechanisms. Upon reasonable request, students may be required to provide an electronic version of their work for computerised review.

TUTORS for PSYCH 109 will be available in the Undergraduate Resource Room (HSB 344) to assist students during selected office hours. Office hours will be held in the following weeks: **31st March, 7th April, 5th May, 19th May.** The times and days office hours will be held will be posted on Cecil, displayed on the door of HSB 344, and advertised during the first laboratory session.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS: The University of Auckland Counselling Service is a free service available to all University students. They can be contacted on 09 373 7599 ext 87681. Students can also access the counselling website from the University home page at www.auckland.ac.nz. Louise Pentney is the student Mental Health Co-ordinator. Appointments can be made through the Disability Co-ordinators,

Student Health & Counselling or with Louise on 09 373 7599 ext 87433. This service offers support to students who are living with a mental health impairment and assists them to achieve their maximum potential while studying. The type of support offered varies according to each student's specific needs. It may involve emotional support, psychotherapy, practical help and advice, education, advocacy, liaison with external agencies or networking with University staff. Students who may need help for a disability are advised to contact Disability Services, phone 3737599 Extn. 88808.

LABORATORY REPORT DUE DATES: Laboratory reports are due to be handed in ~~at the~~ students' normal laboratory session in the weeks beginning:
7th April, 28th April, 12th May, 26th May.

PRESCRIBED TEXTS:

- *Psychology: An Introductory text for the University of Auckland.* (2008). Compiled by Tony Lambert and the Stage One teaching team at the University of Auckland. Pearson Education: Auckland, New Zealand.
- *Psychology PSYCH 109 Laboratory Manual.* (2008) University of Auckland.

To purchase your laboratory manual please go to Room B01, 38 Princes Street.

**PSYCH 109 Lecture Timetable
 City Campus, Semester 1 — 2008**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading (Psychology: An Introductory Text for UoA)</i>	<i>Lecturer</i>
03/03	Introduction	Course Handout	Stage 1 Team
04/03	Research Methods	Chapter 2	Dr. Doug Elliffe
05/03	Research Methods	Chapter 2	Dr. Doug Elliffe
10/03	Research Methods	Chapter 2	Dr. Doug Elliffe
11/03	Cognitive Development	Chapter 10	Dr. Claire Fletcher-Flinn
12/03	Cognitive Development	Chapter 10	Dr. Claire Fletcher-Flinn
17/03	Cognitive Development	Chapter 10	Dr. Claire Fletcher-Flinn
18/03	Cognitive Development	Chapter 10	Dr. Claire Fletcher-Flinn
19/03	Psychobiology and Neuroscience	Chapters 3 & 4	Ms. Michelle Burstall
24/03	<i>Easter Break</i>	<i>No lecture</i>	
25/03	<i>Easter Break</i>	<i>No lecture</i>	
26/03	Psychobiology and Neuroscience	Chapters 3 & 4	Ms. Michelle Burstall
31/03	Psychobiology and Neuroscience	Chapters 3 & 4	Ms. Michelle Burstall
01/04	Psychobiology and Neuroscience	Chapters 3 & 4	Ms. Michelle Burstall
02/04	Psychobiology and Neuroscience	Chapters 3 & 4	Ms. Michelle Burstall
07/04	Psychobiology and Neuroscience	Chapters 3 & 4	Ms. Michelle Burstall
08/04	Psychobiology and Neuroscience	Chapters 3 & 4	Ms. Michelle Burstall
09/04	Psychobiology and Neuroscience	Chapters 3 & 4	Ms. Michelle Burstall
14/04	<i>Mid-semester Break</i>	<i>No lecture</i>	
15/04	<i>Mid-semester Break</i>	<i>No lecture</i>	
16/04	<i>Mid-semester Break</i>	<i>No lecture</i>	
21/04	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 5	Dr. Tony Lambert
22/04	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 5	Dr. Tony Lambert
23/04	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 5	Dr. Tony Lambert
28/04	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 5	Dr. Tony Lambert
29/04	Memory	Chapter 8	Dr. Tony Lambert

30/04	Memory	Chapter 8	Dr. Tony Lambert
05/05	Memory	Chapter 8	Dr. Tony Lambert
06/05	Memory	Chapter 8	Dr. Tony Lambert
07/05	Language	Chapter 9	Dr. Tony Lambert
12/05	Language	Chapter 9	Dr. Tony Lambert
13/05	Language	Chapter 9	Dr. Tony Lambert
14/05	Language	Chapter 9	Dr. Tony Lambert
19/05	Learning	Chapters 6 & 7	Dr. Doug Elliffe
20/05	Learning	Chapters 6 & 7	Dr. Doug Elliffe
21/05	Learning	Chapters 6 & 7	Dr. Doug Elliffe
26/05	Learning	Chapters 6 & 7	Dr. Doug Elliffe
27/05	Learning	Chapters 6 & 7	Dr. Doug Elliffe
28/05	Learning	Chapters 6 & 7	Dr. Doug Elliffe
02/06	<i>Queen's Birthday</i>	<i>No lecture</i>	
03/06	Learning	Chapters 6 & 7	Dr. Doug Elliffe
04/06	Final Lecture		Stage 1 Team

PSYCH 109 Laboratory Timetable

<i>Week Beginning</i>	<i>Laboratory</i>
03/03	<i>No Laboratories (Streaming)</i>
10/03	Introductory Laboratory
17/03	Laboratory One: Sex differences and thinking (Assessed Laboratory - <u>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday lab sessions only</u>)
24/03	Laboratory One: Sex differences and thinking (Assessed Laboratory - <u>Friday lab sessions only – to be held on the 28th March</u>)
31/03	Laboratory Two: Brain and Behaviour: The Brain Story (Non-assessed Laboratory)
07/04	Laboratory Three: Brain and Behaviour: Basic Neuroanatomy and Function (Assessed Laboratory)
14/04	<i>Mid-semester Break No laboratories</i>
21/04	<i>No laboratories</i>
28/04	Laboratory Four: Visual Illusions (Non-assessed Laboratory)
05/05	Laboratory Five: Exploring the Stroop Effect (Assessed Laboratory)
12/05	Laboratory Six: Memory 1: The Past Imperfect (Non-assessed Laboratory)
19/05	Laboratory Seven: Memory 2: Recall of Information and The False Memory Task (Assessed Laboratory)
26/05	Laboratory Eight: Sniffy the Virtual Rat (Non-assessed Laboratory)
02/06	Revision Laboratory (Non-assessed) Monday lab streams 2/6 to restream into other classes.

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TEACHING AND LEARNING IN LARGE CLASSES

Due to the great popularity of our subject at the University, Psychology undergraduate classes have very large enrolments. Both students and lecturers can encounter particular kinds of difficulty when working in large classes. Accordingly, students and teaching staff have worked together, under the auspices of the Staff-Student Consultative Committee, to draw up the following guidelines concerning behaviour in large classes.

1. Noise levels: While many lectures will include problem solving and discussion periods, at other times silence should be observed. This is a matter of courtesy, both to fellow students and to your lecturer. In a room with several hundred students, even a small number of extraneous conversations can impair the ability of both students and teacher to concentrate on the task in hand. Please turn mobile phones off during lectures, laboratories and tutorials.
2. At the end of a lecture: It is important not to begin packing bags, donning overcoats and so on, before the lecturer has completed her/his concluding remarks, or finished answering student questions from the floor.
3. Leaving early: If you need to leave a lecture early due to a pressing appointment, it is expected that, as a matter of courtesy, you will inform the lecturer beforehand of your need to leave early. In such cases please make sure that you are able to leave in an unobtrusive way, so that the class is not disturbed.