

Introduction to Psychology I - PSYC 1106 FA801

Fall 2025, **Online Pre-Recorded** Lectures in Blackboard (BB)

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Online Live Q&As **Tues/Thurs @ 3:30 – 4 pm**: BB -> **Class Collaborate** -> Join
+ other meetings *Online* or *In-Person* are Welcome!

Land Acknowledgement: Nipissing University sits on the territory of Nipissing First Nation, the territory of the Anishnabek, within lands protected by the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850. We are grateful to be able to live and learn on these lands with all our relations.

Course Objectives and Content + *Course Calendar Description Link*

In this survey course, you can develop a broad understanding of Psychology. PSYC 1106 examines *biological, cognitive,* and *environmental psychological* explanations of people / creatures.

In this course and PSYC 1107, you explore theories and findings which provide an **academic foundation for various university programs** in addition to Psychology-specific specializations.

PSYC 1106 lectures focus on *psychological theories, research methods, neuroscience, child development, the senses, classical and operant conditioning, personality, and psychological disorders.*

By the end of the course, you will be able to:
1. identify and differentiate among the foundational theories of psychology,
2. recognise core psychological findings,
3. contrast psychological explanations of human / animal behaviour, and
4. derive real-world implications of the psychological theories and findings.

Course Resources: Pre-recorded lectures & slides, free open-source readings, assignments, & other materials via the university's learning management system. Login to BB → select PSYC 1106 → Content

Course Approach

Workload for Success: **Watch** every lecture with *focus* and *attention*, **make** and **review** lecture notes, complete the **open-book assignments**, and **regularly self-test** your recall and understanding of the material. A general estimate is that these learning activities will require **3 hours per week outside** of the lectures. Success simply requires sustained effort and focused work! *for real*

Communication:
For **basic information**, see **BB** content (Lectures, Assignments, etc). I also regularly post **important information** on the **BB Q&A forum**. So, please **check the forum** regularly.
For **non-personal questions**, please post them on the *Q&A forum*. If you are confused, other students are likely confused too. So, I definitely want and need to know!
For **personal questions**, please email me via darrenc@nipissingu.ca . I tend to respond quickly. We also can arrange an online or in-person meeting.

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Course Evaluation

Scavenger Hunt (online)	7% (knowledge demo)
Online open-book Assignments (3)*	27% (select content topics, 9% each)
1 Secure Testing System verification	1% (ensure your system is exam ready)
Midterm 1	15% (see below for details)
Midterm 2	20% (see below for details)
Final exam	30% (all course content)
	/100%

For letter-grade equivalents and grading standards, see *link here*.
*Late submissions are given a grade = 0 because answers become available after the due date-time.
+Bonus (Optional) 3% (see details below)

Scavenger Hunt and Open-Book Assignments

Once you have Blackboard (BB) access, I recommend you briefly review the Scavenger Hunt and 3 Assignments. The reviews will highlight the content covered in the lectures and the types of exam questions asked. To improve your question analysis skill, I recommend altering assignment questions to make other legitimate answers correct. This process also improves your ability to differentiate among related course content.

Due dates do **not represent** the **day you start** the assignment. **Work** on the open-book assignments **gradually**. Ideally, complete the assignments section-by-section as you encounter/review the relevant course materials. **Enter** and **Save** your answers as you work on specific topics. **Do not Submit** your answers **until all questions** are **completed**. Undoing premature submissions is problematic. With effort and attention to detail, you should score well, be better prepared for exams, and gain insight into the course content.

Scavenger Hunt: An online search of Syllabus & BB content (7%)
Systematically examine the syllabus, course BB links, and posted files to better understand what to expect in the course, the grading system, and how to find what you need to be successful.

3 Open-Book Assignments (27% = 3 x 9% each)
The assignments encourage you to review the course content in a timely manner. Each assignment includes questions which demonstrate the type of understanding and content assessed in each exam.

1 Secure Testing System Verification (STSV, 1%)
To complete this task, follow the lockdown browser (LDB) + Webcam monitoring instructions and the environmental scan instructions (+ see my video demo). To earn 1%, conduct a good quality scan and demonstrate appropriate exam-like behaviour. You should do this task before the first midterm to ensure that your system is ready for the exam. Feel free to conduct such a STSV before each exam.

Your Online Exam Environment & Behaviour should = In-class Testing Scenarios & Behaviour

During the exam, do not access other resources (phone, tablet, notes, books, etc.) or communicate with other people. Before each exam you must complete a thorough environmental scan (twice actually). **Use a webcam** to **show me** that **no one else is in the room** and there are **no papers or devices** on your desk, floor, or other **nearby** surfaces to see or use. An effective way to show me is to **stand somewhat away from the test area** (desk, table, couch, etc.). The **larger viewing angle**

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captures the various surfaces (walls, desk, floor) within view. A **common error** is to show me **what's beside and behind you**, but **not what you see in front of you**.

Arranging to take your test in semi-public room, such as a library room or a residence meeting room, is very effective for having a distraction free and clear test environment.

There is a **recording break** between the environmental scan and the start of the exam recording. **So**, once the actual exam recording has started, you need to **do a second scan** (which can be faster) to **show you have not added anything** to the area. At some point, **show me** that your **phone is out of reach** and **view**. You need to **leave** the **sound recording on**.

Finally, **do not read out loud the questions and answers**, especially word-for-word. Saying key words out loud to help you focus should be fine. But if you vocalize test content and then consistently look towards areas other than your computer screen, this is suspicious and problematic.

Note 1. These steps are necessary because a very small number of students attempt to cheat. Why should they get a higher mark than you without doing the work or knowing the content?
Note 2. These steps are for **test integrity** and **fairness**. I wish these steps were not needed. If any of you prefer to take the test in-person, we might be able to arrange it.

Exams (require detailed content knowledge and a clear understanding of content implications)

1. You are expected to **be available for** each of the **scheduled exams**.

2. You will have 65 minutes for Midterm (MT) 1 and 75 minutes for Midterm (MT) 2. [If SAS registered, your test time will be assigned appropriately.] **Read** and **think about** the **questions carefully**. Most people finish under the time limit.

3. **MT 1** is worth 15% and **MT** 2 is worth 20%.
The midterm questions will focus on **all** course **content** (lectures, videos, etc.) **covered up to the date** of the test. The **date** of each Midterm is identified **in the schedule** below.

4. Given the extended exam-access time-window, there are **no opportunities** for **questions during** the **exams**. If you provide item comments, I will consider them during my exam review.

5. If **uncontrolled circumstances** cause you to miss a midterm, please contact me as soon as possible. If you provide me with a legitimate reason for missing and not too much time has passed, we will arrange a make-up exam. If too much time has passed, no make-up exam will be possible. With sufficient justification, I will transfer your missed MT points to your Final exam (↑ 15% or 20%).

6. The **Final Exam** is worth 30% of your final grade. The questions will focus on **all** content covered throughout the course.

7. **Supervised** personal **exam reviews** are available by appointment.
Strict university rules apply to writing exams (see *academic-senate/policies/exams*).

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Lecture Schedule & Important Dates

Term Classes: 2 Sep 2025 to 3 Dec 2025

Week	Lecture Topic	Review Topic Content by
1	Syllabus + Psychological Perspectives	Sep 4
2-3	Research Design	Sep 16
3-4	Neuroscience	Sep 25
Uni. closed **National Day of Truth and Reconciliation** Tues Sep 30th		
5	**Midterm 1** - 65 mins once started, access from 7am to 11pm	**Oct 2** (Thur)
6	Development Part I	Oct 9
7	***Thanksgiving + Study Week*** *-> Oct 13 to 17*	
8	Development Part II	Oct 21
8-9	Sensation & Perception	Oct 30
10	Learning Part I	Nov 6
Uni. closed **Remembrance Day** Tues Nov 11th		
11	**Midterm 2** - 75 mins once started, access from 7am to 11pm	**Nov 13** (Thur)
12	Learning Part II	Nov 20
13	Personality	Nov 25
13-14	Anxiety Disorders	Dec 3



Final exam is a **secure online exam**: The **date,** and **time** is set by the University within the **final examination period** (see WebAdvisor -> My Exam Info). *You are expected to be available for the **specific date** and **specific 3-hour** time-window*.

Tasks & Assignments	Submit by **6pm**	Answers Revealed **@ 9pm**
Scavenger Hunt - 7%	Sep 12 (Fri)	Not Applicable
Assignment 1 - 9%	Sep 29 (Mon)	Sep 29
Assignment 2 - 9%	Nov 10 (Mon)	Nov 10
Assignment 3 - 9%	Dec 3 (Wed)	Dec 3

I highly recommend **reviewing** all of the assignments **within** the **first week**.

Scavenger Hunt: Maximum scores if submitted late: by Sep 26 up to 75%, by Oct 10 up to 50%, and after Oct 10th up to 25%.

Grading and Grade Postings

For each assignment and exam, I review the item results for potential problems. If needed, I will adjust the scoring. In the Q&A Forum, I post class-level results to give you a broader view of student performance patterns. You can see your personal grades in BB Gradebook. If you believe that there is a mistake, please contact me.

Bonus-Mark Options

You can earn up to **3%** bonus points for your final grade. The completion **deadline** is **Dec 2nd**.

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Bonus Option 1: Participate in research through SONA

If you participate in Nipissing University SONA studies, you can earn bonus points (see *link* for details). **FYI**: After classes end, I am sent a list of names with SONA credits earned and no other information.

Bonus Option 2: Class-only research-like participation:

Online links will become available in a course BB folder. These online activities **highlight** psychological methods or content relevant to the course. Bonus credits are earned for each activity.

Course Policies and other Important Notices

1. **Policy for Recording of Lectures/Materials link for details**

Students with disabilities have permission to audio record and, based on the terms defined in fair dealing use the material "for purposes of private study, research, criticism [or] review" (CIPO, 2011). However, the information contained in the audio-recorded lecture is still protected under federal and international copyright legislation and, therefore, may not be published or quoted without the lecturer's explicit consent and without properly identifying and crediting the lecturer.

All materials developed for this course, including, but not limited to, lectures, lecture notes and slides, assignments, examinations, and syllabi **are** the **intellectual property** of the **course instructor**. Posting, providing, sharing, or selling unauthorized audio, video, or textual material violates an instructor's intellectual property rights, and the Canadian Copyright Act. Failure to follow these instructions is in contravention of the university's *Code of Conduct*. Participation in this course constitutes an agreement by all parties to respect the intellectual property and privacy of others during and after their association with Nipissing University.

2. **Evaluation and Grading System link for details**

3. **Academic Integrity link for details**

The **more effort you put into** your education and experiences, the **more you will get out** of them. Unethical behaviours undermine your ability to develop life-long time-management strategies, coping skills, and specific course knowledge and insights. The **University takes a most serious view of offences against academic honesty** such as plagiarism, cheating, impersonation and the presentation of altered or falsified documents. Penalties for dealing with such offences will be strictly enforced.

4. **Student Appeals and Petitions link for details**

5. **Student Rights and Responsibilities** link ~ **Fair Behaviour & Respect for Others**

Nipissing University is dedicated to cultivating a campus community where students thrive academically, socially, and personally. We all prefer a positive environment where everyone can learn and prosper. ✋ Disruptive or negative behaviour is not good. ☹️

6. **Student Development & Services (SDS) link for details**

Supports for every learner are available to help ensure your success at Nipissing University.

7. **Harris Learning Library link for details**

The library offers excellent resources and services. I encourage you to use them.

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