

PSYCO 104

Basic Psychological Processes

Enduring Ideas Assignments

Learning Objectives & Learning Outcomes

In completing these assignments, you will:

- reflect on the content of the course, which will help you learn and remember **foundational knowledge** in psychology
- develop your **metacognition** (awareness and understanding of your learning and knowledge) so that you gain insight into what you understand vs. what you don't understand, which can provide feedback on your study skills
- enhance your **critical thinking and writing skills**, which are important abilities to have in university and are highly valued by employers

Requirements

Each assignment must be submitted online using [eClass](#). Answers to each assignment must not exceed **400 words** (approximately the equivalent of one double-spaced page). Use complete sentences; do not use point form. It is your responsibility to ensure that your assignment has been properly submitted. You should receive a confirmation email as soon as your submission is successful.

This is **not** a research paper. Do **not** use any external sources other than the textbook and lecture notes. You must indicate what chapter or lecture your topic is from, but no formal citation or reference is required. Do **not** use direct quotes; instead, paraphrase information (put it into your own words) if necessary.

Marks

Marks are assigned based on the completeness, relevance, and specificity of your answers. If your answer is incomplete, irrelevant, vague, or is lacking detail, marks will be deducted. Half-marks are assigned at the discretion of the teaching assistants. A scoring rubric is provided at the end of this document.

Do not copy and paste your answers or quotations from any other source (e.g., journal article, textbook, lecture notes, website, etc.). This is plagiarism; you will receive a mark of zero, and you will be prosecuted under the terms of the Code of Student Behaviour.

Deadlines & Late Policy

Each assignment must be submitted by the **end of class time** (not at midnight) on the day in which it is due, or it will be considered late. Late assignments will lose 1 mark per 24-hour period, starting immediately after the deadline. That is, if you submit your assignment 1 minute after the deadline, you will lose 1 mark. If you submit your assignment 23 hours and 59 minutes after the deadline, you will still lose only 1 mark. But if you submit your assignment 24 hours and 1 minute after the deadline, you will lose 2 marks. If you edit or make any changes to your eClass submission in any way after the deadline, you will receive a **late penalty**.

Do **not** email assignments to the instructor or the TAs. Late (or early) assignments may be submitted via eClass. However, after 6 days past the deadline, you will no longer be able to submit your assignment online. If you have exceptional extenuating circumstances (e.g., you cannot submit your assignment because you have [alien hand syndrome](#), or the [Infinity Gauntlet](#) eradicated you from existence), please contact the instructor.

Technical Support

“Technical problems” will not be accepted as an excuse for a late or incomplete assignment. IST eClass Support has [Using eClass for Students](#) tutorials, ranging from System Setup to Submitting Assignments. For help with eClass, see IST’s [eClass support knowledgebase](#) or contact [IST eClass support](#). For other IT problems, [contact IST](#).

Assignment #1 (4 marks) -- due **Monday, September 30 at 1:50 p.m.**

Look back at the material presented in chapters 1-3 of the textbook (Psychology: The Science of Behaviour, Studying Behaviour Scientifically, and Biological Foundations of Behaviour) and lectures 1-3 (Introduction to Psychology, Psychology and Research, and Neuroscience and Behaviour). Choose one interesting, surprising, or important idea, psychological phenomenon, research finding, or theory that has endured to be an important part of the science of psychology. Briefly describe and summarize it to show that you understand it. Why do you think it is important? Be sure to explain fully.

Assignment #2 (4 marks) -- due **Monday, November 4 at 1:50 p.m.**

Look back at the material presented in chapters 4-6 of the textbook (Genes, Evolution, and Behaviour; Sensation and Perception; and States of Consciousness) and lectures 4-6 (Genetic & Evolutionary Influences on Behaviour, Sensation, Perception, and Consciousness). Choose one interesting, surprising, or important idea, psychological phenomenon, research finding, or theory that has endured to be an important part of the science of psychology. Briefly describe and summarize it to show that you understand it. Why do you think it is important? Be sure to explain fully.

Assignment #3 (4 marks) -- due **Friday, December 6 at 1:50 p.m.**

Look back at the material presented in chapters 7, 8, and 11 of the textbook (Learning and Behaviour, Memory, and Motivation and Emotion) and lectures 7, 8, and 11 (Learning and Behaviour, Memory, and Motivation & Emotion). Choose one interesting, surprising, or important idea, psychological phenomenon, research finding, or theory that has endured to be an important part of the science of psychology. Briefly describe and summarize it to show that you understand it. Why do you think it is important? Be sure to explain fully.

Scoring Rubric

This guideline is intended to provide a general sense of how student answers are differentiated, scored, and resulting marks awarded. Due to the huge variability of enduring ideas, it is impossible to provide specific guidelines for how each question is marked. Therefore, this rubric is provided not as the final word on marks, but for information purposes.

Content				Presentation	
Does not identify a concept from the course	Identifies a concept, but neither correctly describes the concept nor explains its importance	Identifies a concept, and either correctly describes the concept or explains its importance	Identifies a concept, and correctly describes the concept and explains its importance	Many spelling and/or grammatical errors that make it difficult to understand the content	No spelling or grammatical errors
0.0	1.0	2.0	3.0	0.0	1.0

The Fine Print

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of [academic integrity](#) and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the [Code of Student Behaviour](#) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence.

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University. These resources from Student Conduct and Accountability, and the University of Alberta Libraries can help:

- [Academic Integrity: Introduction to Academic Culture](#) - videos on citing, quoting, summarizing, and paraphrasing
- [Plagiarism](#) - plagiarism definition, and tips for avoiding plagiarism
- [Citing, Quoting, Paraphrasing & Summarizing](#) - how-to document from the UAlberta Centre for Writers
- [Foundational Tutorials: Citing](#) - interactive tutorials on citing, plagiarism, and paraphrasing, with examples