



**University Canada West**  
**PSYC 107: Fundamentals of Psychology**  
**Course Outline**

<b>Course Instructor:</b>	<b>Contacts:</b>	<b>Office:</b>
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**1. Course Objective**

This course will provide an introduction to psychology and a basic understanding of how our actions, thoughts and emotions are related to the activity of the brain. As well as gaining insight into the complexity of behaviour, the intent will be to explore current ideas and real-life applications and establish a pattern of critical thinking about these issues. Specific topics to be covered include the biological basis of behavior, research methods, learning, sensation and perception, consciousness, memory, and behaviour in a social context.

**2. Underlying Principles**

1. Psychology is a biological and social science.
2. The study of human behaviour requires the application of the basic principles of the scientific method, critical thinking and innovation.
3. The study of psychology involves the study of all human beings and is a process, not an end result.

**3. Course Outcomes**

By the end of the course you should be able to:

1. Describe, in a general way, how our actions, thoughts and emotions are related to the activity of the brain.
2. Explain the underlying theories of human behaviour as presented in the text, and illustrate these theories with examples of current research and applications to everyday life.
3. Evaluate psychological information according to the scientific method and view yourself as an informed consumer of information about human behavior.

**4. Evaluation and assignments**

Midterm Exam	35%
Final Exam	35%
Individual, Team Assignments	30%

**5. Textual**

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**Text:** *Psychology, (Canadian Edition, 2004)*, Wade, C., Tavris, C., Saucier, D., & Elias, L., Pearson Education Canada Inc., Toronto.

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**6. Schedule:**

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Text</b>
1	Introduction to psychology	1	pages 2-31
2	Research Methods	2	pages 32-65
3	Genes and Behaviour	3	pages 66-97
4-5	Biology and Behaviour	4	pages 98-137
6	Consciousness	5	pages 138-175
7-8	Sensation and Perception	6	pages 176-221
9	Learning	7	pages 222-258
10	Thinking and Intelligence	9	pages 302-343
11	Memory	10	pages 344-383
12	Social and Cultural Context	8	pages 260-301

**Internet Resources**

Textbook Website: [www.pearsoned.ca/wade](http://www.pearsoned.ca/wade) this companion website contains an online study guide with practice tests and chapter review material, and interactive media simulations and assessments.

Additional internet resources will be used with each of the individual study units.