

I'll leave you tips and considerations through comments and sticky notes; click on the comment icon to reveal full tips and considerations!

Pre-Course WELCOME message

Hello, I'm Professor Lena Paulo Kushnir. I hope that you have had a wonderful holiday and I wish you a very Happy New Year!

 You are receiving this message because you are registered in my **REMOTE** Introductory Psychology course, SCTM2009 “technically starting” Tuesday January 7th, 2020. (If this is an error, then please double check your course registrations.) For those of you correctly registered, **WELCOME!** ...and I look forward to “meeting” you online next week.

This message is to let you know what text we'll be using in the course and to give you some tips that will help you start to prepare as the course rolls out over the next couple of weeks.

First and foremost: In case you didn't notice, **this course is MOSTLY a REMOTE course with mostly online activities**. I'm always so surprised that about 15% of students register in my course don't realize that it is **entirely remote, with the exception of 3 in person/face-to-face meetings**: that is, 2 term tests and 1 final exam (for which you will come to campus on the 2 dates listed on our canvas course, the University calendar/Course Catalogue, and in our course syllabus; a third date which has not been scheduled yet for the Final Exam, but should be posted by the Registrar's Office in the next few weeks). **PLEASE NOTE THAT**

 **THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH THE DATE FOR OUR FIRST TEST LISTED IN THE COURSE CATALOGUE. The University is closed for the holidays and so I cannot check until the new year if this is a typo and if I can get it corrected. I will list the date that it should be in the syllabus and in Canvas and will get back you with confirmation asap.**

I am just finalizing some last course details and I will continue to send important information over the next couple of days as it becomes available, but for now, I'd like to leave you some tips and information that will help you organize and plan your time, and learning in the course.

Required Course Reading: *Psychology: Foundations and Frontiers*, by Douglas A. Bernstein, published by Cengage Learning, (represented in Canada by Nelson Education, Ltd). The text is available at the UoFT bookstore (North-West corner of Beverly/St George and College St), or, if you prefer the text online, you can purchase it as an e-book through the publisher at: www.nelsonbrain.com/shop/micro/uoft/sctm2009.

 (**TIP #1:** In deciding whether you want to purchase the hardcopy textbook or e-book, consider whether you want to do all your reading and studying from a paper text or online? Some e-books are only valid for one year or less, and some students find it **difficult to always read online**. It's up to you, but think about what works best for you before buying. My experience is **online reading** for learning and studying **can be very difficult for many students.**)

(**TIP #2:** If you haven't checked, the text has been available at the bookstore for a few months. Get the text as soon as possible so that you can start the readings for the “first” and “second” class: 1st class we'll be covering **Chapter 1** in the text; 2nd class we'll be covering **Chapter 3**... likely the most difficult material in the course! Note that we don't cover all chapters in the text and sometimes the order changes (check

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our course syllabus for exact details!). Readings should be completed early in the week (Sunday-Tuesday) so that lecture videos make more sense and you have time for quizzes and discussions (described elsewhere), but since most students don't have the text early enough, most of you start the course off behind in your readings! Try your best to catch up and you'll be glad you did.

Recommended Course Material: MindTap student engagement resource that accompanies new purchases of the textbook (it's actually packaged with text purchases (hard copy or e-book)). This gives you access to an online homework and practice quiz program that will help you work through the course. I have heard from previous students that this is a fantastic resource and really helped them in the course (more about MindTap will be posted in CANVAS very soon... stay tuned; just waiting on the Publisher to send us some course specific info).

 Our course is pretty much ready, but not all the course materials will be released all at once (much like face-to-face courses, some things will become available as the course progresses). Materials and/or links to materials and resources used in the course can be found at <https://canvas.ocadu.ca/>, using your usual OCAD U login information. We will use this Canvas course site as our main platform from which materials and links will be available for you to access 24/7.

Although **high speed connection to the Internet** is not required, it **is highly recommended** so that you can have a better experience with the tools and videos used in the course. The few times I've heard complaints from previous students, those students were not on a highspeed connection and had some minor problems with the videos; ...make sure to have a good set of speakers or headphones to hear the lectures well.

 Here is a list of tips for both students and instructors that I prepared once in an interview about online teaching and learning.



Adobe Acrobat
Document

(I will attach my top 10 tips in case embedding it here doesn't work for you.)

 At times (more correctly, for the whole semester!), this course will seem **very** busy to you; filled with lots of activities and responsibility on your part. This course is no different than the face-to-face version of my course, other than it being offered remotely for the most part (remember, only the tests and the final exam are face-to-face), and so we use different tools and strategies for getting things done. It's sometimes easier to just turn up to a classroom and have things happen once a week for you by your instructor (it's what I call my "bums-in-seats" or "renter" model for typical lecture based, face-to-face classes... "I'm here; what do you have for me Professor Kushnir?"). In remote courses, all of the responsibility is on YOU, the student, to be motivated to turn on the computer, look for the lecture videos, do the assignments, click here and there, and under very tight deadlines (things happen quickly in a classroom, but take extra time online... to look for material, type, click, etc., all while being expected to know exactly what and when you should be doing all of your learning ***(see note below)**). Don't get me wrong, I

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don't want to discourage you; I just want to be upfront about what you should expect and have you correct any misconceptions for yourself before we start the course. Learning online requires a **tremendous amount of self-discipline, motivation, planning and organization**; if this sort of course or type of learning is not for you, or you do not have the time to make the commitment now, consider taking the face-to-face course in another session (remote learning is not for everyone!).

* Although this is a remote course that you can **usually** complete at times, and from locations that are convenient for you, there are **some dates and times when you will be required to come to campus in person between 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm** (e.g., for term tests, and the Final exam; details TBA and locations for tests posted in canvas, OCAD's course calendar, and our course syllabus; final exam location/date/time TBA). Also, while you can complete most of the online lectures and some activities at your own pace, **there are some course activities that are due by specific times/dates (e.g., reading quizzes, Peer Instruction, Science meets Art assignment, etc)**. To keep yourself on pace, and so you don't fall behind, you could imagine this course **as if we are "meeting" on Tuesdays** (although the entire course is remote with the exception of the face-to-face term tests and final exam). Doing this will also keep you on a good rhythm, so that you don't miss any of the quizzes (more information about these and other activities to come shortly; exact details to be posted in a short video in the Introductory lecture Module, class #1).

I'm just putting final touches on the course, and will continue to post materials very soon; the **complete syllabus** is attached here with my welcome message and is posted on our **CANVAS course site Home Page**; in the meantime, start reading the chapters 1 & 3 of the assigned course textbook.

Again, wishing you a very Happy New Year and welcome to the course; I hope that this course both interests you and challenges you. That's all for now; I look forward to meeting you online once the course begins.

-- Professor Lena Kushnir