

Introduction to Psychology Syllabus

UB Summer 2018

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Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the study of human nature, including such areas as development, states of consciousness, learning, memory, stress and health psychology, psychological disorders, impact of the nervous system on behavior, and methods of research.

Course Requirements

Points for total grade

Five tests (5 x 30 - lowest grade)	120 points
Project	40 points
Final Exam	50 points
Participation & In-class assignments	30 points
Homework Assignments	20 points
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Total	260 points

Attendance Policy:

Because lectures and class activities will cover material not contained in the readings, class attendance is absolutely essential. **More than one missed class will lower your final grade by a letter grade for each consecutive miss.** If you know in advance that you need to miss a class, please let me know. I can be reached at the above numbers. Students are expected to make up any work they miss due to an absence.

PLEASE BE PUNCTUAL TO CLASS. *Consistently walking into class late is disruptive and disrespectful to me and to your fellow students. **Excessive lateness will result in a reduction in your final grade.***

Class Participation:

Each student is expected to participate in class discussions and activities. Your overall class participation will be included in your final grade. Classes will not always closely follow the textbook. Although I will discuss some of the concepts covered in the book, most class time is intended to get you more involved with the material and to give you additional information. Thus, we'll do a variety of things in class: lectures, small group discussions and activities, classroom exercises and demonstrations, and videos among other things.

Homework:

Homework will be assigned each night as a way to help students keep up with course information. Homework will be included in your final grade so it is important to not only do the homework, but do produce quality work. Homework is due at the start of class each day.

NO LATE HOMEWORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Tests:

Five tests will be given throughout the course. Each test is worth 30 points and will contain information from lectures and the textbook. These tests will consist of mainly multiple choice, short answer, and essay. Students will be allowed to drop their lowest test grade.

NO MAKE-UP TESTS WILL BE GIVEN WITHOUT A DOCTOR'S NOTE OR PRIOR NOTIFICATION TO THE INSTRUCTOR. You **MUST** have approval from me before the test is given in class and you **MUST** make up the quiz within 2 class days of the day it is given in class.

Project: Each student will be expected to be an active member in a group project. Further instructions will be handed out in class.

PSY1010 INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

REQUIRED READING AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Text:

Morris, C. G. & Maisto, A. A. (2012). Understanding Psychology. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, Inc.

***Readings should be completed before the class for which they are assigned, and students' ability to discuss the reading material will be included in his or her participation grade.**

- Course Overview & Chapter 1: The Science of Psychology
- Chapter 2: Biology & Behavior
 - **Submit project proposal**
- **Test #1 (Chapters 1 & 2)**
 - Chapter 5: Learning
- Chapter 6: Memory
- **Test #2 (Chapters 5 & 6)**
 - Chapter 4: States of Consciousness
 - Chapter 11: Stress & Health Psychology
 - **Paper Rough Draft Due**
- **Test #3 (Chapters 4 & 11)**
 - Chapter 9: Life Span Development
- Chapter 10: Personality
 - **Presentation Outline Due**
- **Test #4 (Chapters 9 & 10)**
 - Chapter 12: Psychological Disorders
- Chapter 12 continued
 - Chapter 13: Therapies
- **Test #5 (Chapters 12 & 13)**
 - **Papers Due**
 - **Presentations**
- **Cumulative Final Exam**
 - **Presentations**

PSYCHOLOGY PROJECT

Choose a topic from a chapter in your psychology textbook that we will not be covering in class. You will be working individually to research the topic by reading your textbook, searching the internet, looking for journal and newspaper articles, and books in the library. You will present this information to the class on an assigned day.

Look at the chapters in your textbook that we will not be covering in class and choose one of the following topics. Only 1 student per topic so make sure you have a second and third choice in case your top choice is taken. These chapters include:

Chapter 3: Sensation & Perception

- Optical Illusions
- Studies on color and its effect on people's moods
- Subliminal messages in advertising

Chapter 7: Cognition & Mental Abilities

- Language and communication in animals
- Intelligence Tests
- Creativity Tests

Chapter 8: Motivation & Emotion

Eating Disorders
Aggression and Culture
Gender and Aggression
Culture and Body Language

Chapter 13: Therapies

Electroconvulsive Therapy
Light Therapy for Seasonal Affective Disorder

Chapter 14: Social Psychology

Milgram's Studies on Obedience
Cultural differences in altruism
The Psychology of Cults

Project Requirements and Timeline:

- Choose a topic and get permission from instructor
- Paper Rough draft due
 - Requirements: Must be APA format
 - At least 1 full page with an introductory paragraph of main points
 - Beginning body of paper
 - At least 2 citations using 2 separate references
 - References page
- Presentation Outline due (detailing presentation and use of multimedia)
- Final Papers Due
- Presentations

Project DO'S & DON'TS

Do:

- a. Do include interesting facts and statistics when applicable
- b. Do include visuals in your presentation (i.e., powerpoint, prezi, videos, overheads, handouts, etc.). *A visual will be part of your grade.
- c. Do make your presentation interesting. If possible, have fun with it.

Don't:

- a. Don't read directly off note cards or paper. It is boring and points will be taken off your grade. Make sure you explain things in your own words. Ask yourself, "What did I find interesting in my research?"
- b. Don't slack off on your project and expect your teammates to do all work. They will get a chance to grade you on your participation in the group.
- c. Don't wait until the night before your presentation to call me and ask questions. Get started soon! Ask questions early. I am willing to meet individually with groups, go over expectation, even make suggestions. All you need to do is ask.

Please talk with me if you have any questions. I am more than happy to look at your references or a rough outline ahead of time to let you know if you are on the right track.