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PSYX 100S.00: Introduction to Psychology

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PSYC 100: Introduction to Psychology

Fall 2013

Instructor: TBA

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Office Phone: (406) 243-6347

Office Hours: TBA

Course Description:

Psychology is the science of human and animal behavior and mental processes. You will learn to understand the nature, structure and historical development of human organizations and/or relationships in multiple ways. In this course, you will be taught the role of historical events in shaping human organization, including how these events shaped our own field. From multiple angles (behavioral, physiological, social, cognitive), you will be taught how the human mind – the basic building block of all human organizations and relationships – functions. And you will be taught this through the eyes of multiple psychological theories, ranging from behavioral, physiological, social, and cognitive approaches. Further, by being exposed to actual research results throughout the term, and discussing the meaning of those results, we want you to learn how to interpret and think about these data. Finally, we want you to see directly the significance of social phenomena through relevant examples and through classroom demonstrations of psychological research.

As a survey course, Introduction to Psychology provides an overview of the methods, terms, theories, and findings in the field. By understanding principles of psychology, you will learn more about yourself, others, non-human animals, and relationships. The course primarily employs a lecture format, although your comments, questions, and discussions are strongly encouraged. Throughout the semester, visiting guest lecturers and/or films may be presented in class as well.

Required Texts: Weiten's Psychology: Themes and Variations, 9th Ed.

Optional Material: PsykTrek CD-ROM and/or Themes and Variations Study Guide

NOTES:

A. Academic misconduct. All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php.

B. Incompletes: Departmental and university policies regarding incompletes do not allow changing "incomplete" grades after one year has passed since the "I" was granted.

C. Disabilities And Special Learning Needs:

It is your responsibility to inform your Instructor, at the outset of this course, of any disability and the ways that you and the DSS have determined are necessary to accommodate your needs.

D. Announcements:

Students are responsible for any announcements made in class. These may include changes in policy, due dates, or assignment requirements.

Course Grade:

Your final grade for the course will consist of a total of all quiz scores, Midterm Exam score, Final Exam score, and participation points earned in the lab.

Quizzes	120 points possible
Midterm Exam	60 points possible
Final Exam	60 points possible
Lab Participation Points	60 points possible
Research Credits (8)	Required for a Grade
Total Points	300 points possible

Your final grade is based on the percentage of the total possible points that you earn. Because we do not curve grades, every student has the opportunity to earn an A in this course. Alternatively, every student can fail this course if they fail to meet criteria.

Final Grade	# Points	Percentage
A	270 - 300	90%-100%
B	240 - 269	80-89%
C	210 - 239	70-79%
D	180 - 209	60-69%
F	0 - 179	<60%

Structure of the Course:

This course is designed to help you learn a large amount of material at a manageable pace. To achieve this goal, the semester is broken up into 2-week cycles. In the first week of each cycle, you will attend lecture Monday through Thursday. In the second week of each cycle, you will attend lecture Monday and Tuesday only. On Wednesday of the second week, you will participate in a Lab Section (which occurs in a different room than normal lecture), which includes an active learning task and quizzes on that cycle's material. On Thursday of the second week, you will have the opportunity to retake the quiz (more on that below).

Here is an example of a two-week period:

A & B Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Week A	Lecture	Lecture	Lecture	Lecture
Week B	Lecture	Lecture	Quiz & Lab Activity (Lab room)	Quiz Retake (Lecture room)

What is a Lab Section?

The Lab Section is run by an undergraduate proctor, who has excelled in Introductory Psychology. Two things happen in Lab Section. First, you will participate in a laboratory activity designed to highlight a *small subset* of the course content from the current unit. Second, you will take 2 multiple-choice quizzes on that week's two chapters.

What's the lab activity? And why do I need to do it?

Lab activities are designed to highlight material covered in lecture and the text. The lab activities are NOT designed to be a comprehensive review for the quizzes. Proctors are instructed to demonstrate an activity that highlights a **small subset** of something (sometimes, just one thing) you were taught in lecture or in the book. The goal of the lab is NOT quiz preparation but rather demonstration of a narrow piece of knowledge. (Research suggests you will remember better in the long term if you are taught in this way). Proctors may occasionally do a short review game, but they are allowed by the Director of the entire psych 100 program only 1-2 of these per term. So do not expect something from your proctors that they are not allowed to do!

Please note that you are **required** to be present for the 20-minute lab activity led by your proctor. The lab sessions are worth 10 participation points, 5 points for attendance and 5 points for participation. Students will lose these points for the lab activity if they: 1) do not show up (loss of 10 points); 2) arrive late or leave early (loss of 5 points); or 3) do not participate in the activity (loss of 5 points).

Misbehavior during the lab sessions will NOT be tolerated under ANY circumstance. Such misbehavior will result not only in loss of your lab points, but also in talking with your instructor, and (if the behavior persists) having an unpleasant discussion with the Director of the whole psychology 100 program (with severe accompanying penalties).

What can I expect on the quizzes and exams?

Lectures will follow the chapters in the book but may contain extra material. We will cover all chapters in the book (except chapter 9 and 13) as well as address some additional topics. Quizzes and exams will include material covered in lecture and in the text. **Note: If you fail to return your quizzes or exams, you will forfeit the quiz or exam points, in addition to facing other penalties!**

Who has to take the Thursday Retake Quiz?

If you have scored a 7 or higher for both units (70%), you do not need to take the Thursday Retake Quiz. However, if you fail to meet the 70% criteria, **you are required to show up on Thursday** to take a new quiz on that unit. No make-ups are given for Thursday Retake Quizzes.

What happens if I don't get a 7 on Wednesday and don't take the Thursday retake?

You get a zero for that chapter, even if you scored a 6 on Wednesday.

What if I got a 7 or higher but want to improve my grade?

We encourage you to come to every Thursday retake unless you earned perfect scores on Wednesday. Your highest score will be used, so there is no penalty for trying.

What if I earn a 5 on Wednesday and a 6 on Thursday, will I receive a 0?

You will earn a 6, the higher score for the two quizzes; however, since you earned a 5 on Wednesday, YOU MUST attend the Thursday make-up in order to earn a score for that quiz.

If I skip the Wednesday quizzes and only take the Thursday quizzes, will my Thursday grades count?

No. If you skip the Wednesday quizzes, you will not only lose your participation points for the lab, you will also earn zeroes on both quizzes, *even if you take the make-up quizzes on Thursday.*

Am I able to keep my quizzes?

No. Failure to return **any** portion of your quizzes in lab will result in a zero for that quiz.

Midterm and Final:

You are required to take the multiple choice Midterm and a Final Exam. The Midterm will be administered during your regular class time in your regular lecture room. The Final Exam will be on Tuesday evening during finals week from 7-9 PM. **Please note that this time is different than the time noted in the UM wide class schedule.**

For the Midterm and Final Exam you will need to bring a #2 pencil and an NCS Test Sheet 50/50, form No. 95142, you can purchase this **BLUE** Scantron form in the UC for 15 cents. Please note that no student will be allowed to start the mid-term or final once another student has completed the exam and left the room.

- ★ **NOTE:** Study guides are typically not provided for quizzes and tests; you are expected to know all the material from the textbook and lecture (unless otherwise indicated).

Plan to be on time for exams.

Final Exam: Tuesday of Finals week @ 7:00 – 9:00 PM	
Sections 1, 2, 3, 4	Location TBA
Sections 5, 6	Location TBA

Make Up Policy:

To make up a missed quiz or exam, you must meet the following criteria:

- Notify your Instructor **before** the time of the quiz/exam and bring proper documentation.
- You must have legitimate documentation verifying the reason for your absence. Examples of documented circumstances that may merit approval include the following:
 - illness or accident
 - death or family emergency
 - University-sanctioned activity
- Remember, prior notification and documentation are mandatory!

Research Experience:

Psychology is a science built on systematic research of both human and non-human animals. A critical aspect of this course is becoming familiar with how that information is obtained. There are two ways to meet this course requirement and they may be combined in any manner to meet the 8-credit research experience requirement.

The research experience portion of this class is not graded but it is required for a grade in the course. You may choose either or both of these options (e.g., 4 credits of research participation with 4 credits for reading about research for 8 total credits) but this requirement must be met by the end of the semester.

- 1) Participation in original research. In this option, you will sign up to participate in actual psychology experiments. Individual experiments may range from 1 to 8 credits. Typically, each credit takes about 30 minutes. **Sign-up sheets will be posted on the tables on the second floor lobby of the Skaggs Bldg near room 246.**

Each experiment will be assigned a letter code and you must sign up for experiments designated by DIFFERENT letters. Once you have participated in an experiment assigned a letter (e.g., B), you may not sign up for any other experiment with the same code (again, B). If you do, you will only receive credit for the first experiment. Some psychological research

projects require participants who possess special characteristics. You may have the opportunity to participate in an in-class screening/testing day to be eligible for those experiments. The results of the assessments are confidential, and participation in the screening/testing day is optional.

You will keep track of your hours on an experiment tracking sheet. Do not lose your tracking sheet. This is your record of your participation and you are responsible for it as you would be for any other required assignment.

Once you have completed your research experience credits, hand in the experimental tracking sheet (the last page of the syllabus) to **your instructor, in person.** Do not give your tracking sheet to your proctor and do not slide it under the office door as these could lead to your tracking sheet being misplaced.

- 2) Reading about original research. In this option, you will find, read, and briefly summarize an original 1-2 page article. Each summary is worth 2 research credits. A separate handout is available outside Skaggs 053 with details.

What happens if I don't finish the research experience requirement?

Students who do not complete their research experience credits will receive an Incomplete for the class. Students with Incompletes will be allowed to finish their research experience requirement only through the reading about research option. Consistent with university policy if you do not resolve your Incomplete within one year, your grade will revert to one letter grade lower than what you would have received otherwise. **Be aware** that if you earn an "Incomplete" in any course at UM, an "I" remains on your record permanently, even if you eventually complete the work.

Screening/Testing Day

Screening/Testing day is designated to provide you an opportunity to earn research credit (2 credits) and to provide researchers an opportunity to screen Psychology 100 students for other studies later in the semester or hand out short questionnaires. Screening/Testing day is in place of lecture for that day only and **is not in your normal lecture room;** therefore (if you wish to attend screening/testing day) you will need to attend class in order to hear the announcement about its exact location. **You are NOT required to attend screening/testing day.** If you do not attend, you will not receive the 2 credit points, but no penalty will be assessed. If you do attend Screening/Testing Day you must go to the correct section and time to get your points.

COURSE CALENDAR

Week Day		Week Day	
Week 1-A M Aug 26 th T Aug 27 th W Aug 28 th R Aug 29 th	Chapters 1+2 -Lecture -Lecture -Lecture -Lecture	Week 9-B M Oct 21 st T Oct 22 nd W Oct 23 rd R Oct 24 th	Chapters 8+10 (Skip 9) -Lectures -Lectures -Lab & Quizzes (Ch. 8+10) -Quiz Retakes (Ch. 8+10)
Week 2-B M Sep 2nd T Sep 3 rd W Sep 4 th R Sep 5 th	Chapters 1+2 -NO CLASS -Lecture -Lab & Quizzes (Ch. 1+2) -Quiz Retakes (Ch. 1+2)	Week 10-A M Oct 28 th T Oct 29 th W Oct 30 th R Oct 31 st	Chapters 11+12 -Lectures -Lectures -Lectures -Lectures
Week 3-A M Sep 9 th T Sep 10 th W Sep 11th R Sep 12 th	Chapters 3+4 -Lecture -Lecture -SCREENING DAY -Lecture	Week 11-B M Nov 4 th T Nov 5 th W Nov 6 th R Nov 7 th	Chapters 11+12 -Lectures -Lectures - Lab & Quizzes (Ch. 11+12) - Quiz Retakes (Ch. 11+12)
Week 4-B M Sep 16 th T Sep 17 th W Sep 18 th R Sep 19 th	Chapters 3+4 -Lectures -Lectures -Lab & Quizzes (Ch. 3+4) -Quiz Retakes (Ch. 3+4)	Week 12-A M Nov 11th T Nov 12 th W Nov 13 th R Nov 14 th	Chapters 15+16 (SKIP 14) - NO CLASS -Lectures -Lectures -Lectures
Week 5-A M Sep 23 rd T Sep 24 th W Sep 25 th R Sep 26 th	Chapters 5+6 -Lectures -Lectures -Lectures -Lectures	Week 13-B M Nov 18 th T Nov 19 th W Nov 20 th R Nov 21 st	Chapters 15+16 (SKIP 14) -Lectures -Lectures - Lab & Quizzes (Ch. 15+16) - Quiz Retakes (CH. 15+16)
Week 6-B M Sep 30 th T Oct 1 st W Oct 2 nd R Oct 3 rd	Chapters 5+6 -Lectures -Lectures -Lab & Quizzes (Ch. 5+6) -Quiz Retakes (Ch. 5+6)	Week 14-A M Nov 25 th T Nov 26 th W Nov 27th R Nov 28th	Chapters 15-16 -Lectures (Ch. 15 + 16) -Lectures (Ch. 13) -NO CLASS -NO CLASS
Week 7 M Oct 7 th T Oct 8 th W Oct 9 th R Oct 10th	Chapter 7 + MIDTERM -Lectures -Lectures -Lectures -MIDTERM	Week 15 M Dec 2 nd T Dec 3 rd W Dec 4 th R Dec 5 th	Chapter 13 -Lectures -Lectures -Lectures -Lectures
Week 8-A M Oct 14 th T Oct 15 th W Oct 16 th R Oct 17 th	Chapters 8+10 (Skip 9) -Lectures -Lectures -Lectures -Lectures	Week 16 T Dec 10th	FINALS WEEK -FINAL 7:00 – 9:00 pm, Location TBA

RESEARCH REQUIREMENT RECORD SHEET

Name: _____

Instructor: _____

You are expected to participate in 8 credits (2 credits/hour of participation) of research credit to successfully complete Psychology 100. Failure to complete all 8 credits will result in an "incomplete" for the course (there is no benefit to earning more than 8 credits of research credit). The top row is for you to record the time, location and contact information for earning research credits. The bottom row is for the researcher to fill-out. Hand in this sheet to your instructor when you have completed all 8 credits of research credit. Please contact your instructor if you have any questions.

1.

Experiment Code	Date	Location	Contact	Points
Researcher Signature		Lab Stamp		Date

2.

Experiment Code	Date	Location	Contact	Points
Researcher Signature		Lab Stamp		Date

3.

Experiment Code	Date	Location	Contact	Points
Researcher Signature		Lab Stamp		Date

4.

Experiment Code	Date	Location	Contact	Points
Researcher Signature		Lab Stamp		Date

5.

Experiment Code	Date	Location	Contact	Points
Researcher Signature		Lab Stamp		Date

6.

Experiment Code	Date	Location	Contact	Points
Researcher Signature		Lab Stamp		Date

Please Remove this Page from Your Syllabus

This is not a legally binding document; it is a written acknowledgement on the part of the responsible college student that you have read and understand the policies and guidelines of this course.

SIGNATURE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I, _____ (PRINT YOUR NAME) hereby acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Introductory Psychology (Psyx. 100) syllabus for Fall 2013. I have read the syllabus and understand **all of the course policies and requirements**. I recognize that it is my responsibility to seek clarification regarding any aspect of the syllabus, the course requirements, or the grading policies if they are unclear to me.

Signature

Date

CODE NAME INFORMATION

I do not post grades with student identification numbers, therefore you will need to provide me with a "code name" if you would like your grades posted following tests or deadlines. Please be certain that you choose a code name that is familiar to you, so that you remember it when it comes time to look up your scores. Words of caution: I will not accept code names that are inappropriate (racist, sexist, general bad taste).

Codename: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please provide your UM student email address for your lab proctor and myself to contact you if we have questions concerning your quizzes or participation in this class.

Email Address: _____

Enrolment Information

In the space below, please tell me why you are taking this class.

Please return this sheet to your instructor on or before the second day of class.