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PSYX 100S.07: Introduction to Psychology

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Psyx 100: Introduction to Psychology

Fall 2014

Course Location and Time

McGill Hall 210
Monday and Wednesday 6:10 – 8:00pm

Instructor Information

Instructor: Marina Leigh Costanzo, M.A.
Email: marina.costanzo@umontana.edu
Office: Skaggs Building 053
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, I want you to learn how to interpret and think about these data. Finally, I 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 Text

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

Optional Material

PsykTrek CD-ROM and/or Themes and Variations Study Guide

Course Guidelines and Policies

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](#).

Incompletes

Departmental and university policies regarding incompletes do not allow changing “incomplete” grades after one year has passed since the “I” was granted.

Disability Modifications

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [Disability Services for Students](#). If you think you have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406-243-2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

Announcements

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

Course Grading

Your final grade for the course will consist of a total of in-class activities and your 3 (out of 4) best exam scores. You are required to take all 4 exams, but your grade will be calculated from your 3 best exam scores (allowing you to drop your lowest exam score). To receive full credit for in-class activities you will need to complete 10 in-class assignments that are valued at 15 points each. In addition, there will be 5 other activities offered that can be counted as extra-credit points on your final grade. So, of the 15 activities offered, you must be present for, and complete, 10 to receive full in-class assignment credit. In-class assignments are not announced ahead of time and thus you benefit from attending class regularly. In general, you can expect there to be an activity for each chapter. Please also note that in order to receive credit and a grade for this course you must complete 8 research credits through SONA (see page 3 for details).

Exam 1: 50 points possible

Exam 2: 50 points possible

Exam 3: 50 points possible

Exam 4: ---

In-class assignments (10 x 15 points): 150 points possible

Research Credits (8): Required for a Grade

Total Points: 300 points possible

(5 extra credit points will be offered in class over the semester)

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	Number of Points	Percentage
A	270 - 300	90 - 100%
B	240 - 269	80 - 89%

Final Grade	Number of Points	Percentage
C	210 - 239	70 - 79%
D	180 - 209	60 - 69%
F	0 - 179	< 60%

Course Structure

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 3-4 chapter cycles. At the end of each cycle you will have an exam on those 3 to 4 chapters. The benefit of this system is that you will not have to take a cumulative midterm and a final at the end of the semester. Instead you will be able to focus just on the chapters of that cycle for each exam. I hope this will alleviate some stress for you as well as allow you to explore the material more.

In addition to exams, you will complete in-class activities that will comprise the rest of your grade. Since this is a large course, I intend for these activities to give you time to discuss the material and apply your knowledge (research suggests you will remember better in the long term if you are taught in this way).

Exams

You are required to take ALL 4 EXAMS. Exams 1-3 will be administered during your regular class time in your regular lecture room. Exam 4 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 all Exams 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.

- Study guides are 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.
- **Exam 4: Tuesday of Finals week @ 7:00 – 9:00 PM**

Since only 3 exams count towards my grade, can I just take 3 of the 4?

No. If you do not take all 4 exams you will not be eligible for the 3 best grade policy and will receive a 0 on an exam. **YOU MUST TAKE ALL 4 EXAMS.**

What can I expect on the 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 14) as well as address some additional topics. Exams will include material covered in lecture and in the text. In general, you can expect exams to come 75% from in-class material and 25% from the textbook. **Note: Please remember to turn in all exam copies after you complete an exam. If you fail to return your copy of the exams, you will forfeit the exam points, in addition to facing other penalties!**

Make-Up Policy

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

1. Notify me **before** the time of the exam and bring proper documentation.

2. 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 is 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. Signing up for studies occurs via an online sign-up system. **To sign up, you will need to create an account online. When doing so, please be sure you enter the right course section number, or else you may not be properly credited.** Signing up and checking studies is easy; Department of Psychology's [SONA Research Participation](#) page.

Each experiment has a different name. Once you have participated in a specific experiment, you may not sign up for any other experiment with the same name. 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.

Your credit will be tracked via the online system – you will be awarded credit for participation within 72 hours of participating by the researcher who was in charge of the study. If you check your credit and it has not been awarded in a timely fashion, **contact the experimenter listed as the contact on the study** to resolve this conflict.

Further, in case it is needed for verification, you will also keep track of your hours on an experiment tracking sheet. Do not lose your tracking sheet. This is your own verification of your participation should any error in tracking occur on the online system.

At the end of the term, your instructor will automatically get your credits from the online system. Note that if you participate in screening day (described below), you will only need to get 6 credits via the SONA system (screening day credits are tracked separately).

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 (or upon request from your instructor) with details. To get credit,

you need to turn the assignment in to your instructor, who will review it and assign credit.
 (Note: This does not happen on the online system, which is only used for option 1).

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 (option 2). 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 always 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. Screening day credits are awarded separately from the SONA system and will be incorporated by your instructor automatically if you attend.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Chapters Covered*	Notes
Week 1	Monday (M) –Aug 25	Syllabus	Welcome!
	Wednesday (W) –Aug 27	1	
Week 2	M –Sept 1	NO CLASS	Enjoy your day off
	W –Sept 3	2	
Week 3	M –Sept 8	2	
	W –Sept 10	-	Screening Day (optional)
Week 4	M –Sept 15	3	
	W –Sept 17	3	
Week 5	M –Sept 22	-	EXAM 1—chapters 1, 2, 3 Bring scantron & pencil
	W –Sept 24	4	
Week 6	M –Sept 29	4/5	
	W –Oct 1	5	
Week 7	M –Oct 6	6	
	W –Oct 8	6/7	
Week 8	M –Oct 13	7	
	W –Oct 15	-	EXAM 2 on chapters 4, 5, 6, 7 Bring scantron & pencil
Week 9	M –Oct 20	8	
	W –Oct 22	8/10	
Week 10	M –Oct 27	10	
	W –Oct 29	11	
Week 11	M –Nov 3	11/12	

Week	Date	Chapters Covered*	Notes
	W—Nov 5	12	
Week 12	M—Nov 10	-	EXAM 3 on chapters 8, 10, 11, 12 Bring scantron & pencil
Week 13	M—Nov 17	15	
	W—Nov 19	16	
Week 14	M—Nov 24	16	
	W—Nov 26	NO CLASS	Enjoy your day off!
Week 15	M—Dec 1	13	
	W—Dec 3	13	
Final	Tuesday, December 9	-	EXAM 4 on chapters 15, 16, 13 Location TBA, 7-9pm Bring scantron & pencil

*Homework for this class includes the outside reading in the textbook that corresponds to the chapters we are covering in class (for example, if we are covering chapter 3 in class, you should also be reading chapter 3 outside of class).

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 student that you have read and understand the policies and guidelines of this course.

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

SIGNATURE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I, _____ (PRINT YOUR NAME) hereby acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Introductory Psychology (Psyx. 100) syllabus for Fall 2014. 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).

Code Name: _____

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: _____

Enrollment Information

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