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Spring 2-1-2019

### PSYX 100S.02: Introduction to Psychology

James D. McFarland

*University of Montana, Missoula*

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# Psychology 100 Syllabus

## PSYX 100S, Sec 02 - Intro to Psychology: Spring 2019

### Course Information

Scheduled Time: 2:00 – 2:50pm Mon, Wed, and Fri in Social Science Building 256

Instructor: James McFarland

Office: Skaggs Building 236

Office hours: 3-5pm Monday's and Friday's, and by appointment

Email: [james.mcfarland@umontana.edu](mailto:james.mcfarland@umontana.edu)

Readings: listed below

### Required Textbook\*

R. Biswas-Diener & E. Diener (Eds), Noba Textbook Series: Psychology. Champaign, IL: DEF Publishers.  
DOI: nobaproject.com

\*This is a free textbook (pdf file) available through the class's Moodle page.

### My Goals

- A. Provide an overview of the field's major theories and research areas.** I want you to have a working knowledge of past psychology research and theories and recognize the contributions and impact they have on current research and the modern day field of psychology.
- B. Hone thinking/analysis skills through discussion and small in-class activities.** Psychology is all about the mind's interaction with the world. I want you to learn how to engage critical thinking skills when evaluating new information and be able to identify how it interacts with information learned prior.
- C. Gain in-depth knowledge of a few select topics.** While I want you to get a sweeping feel for the field in general, I'd also like to get really deep into a few topics that are relevant to our day-to-day lives.

### What I Expect of You

There are a total of 200 points possible in this course. There is also a research participation requirement that needs to be met in order to complete the class. Everything you need to know is explained below with the number of points available (when relevant) and their possible grade percentage is indicated in parentheses:

#### A. Attendance/Class Participation (20 points available; 10% of total grade)

The exams will focus primarily on what we go over in class, the best way to get a good grade is to come to class and take good notes (and study, studying is good too).

I will not be posting my notes or slides from lecture, so if you have to miss a lecture please try to plan ahead to get notes from a classmate.

- I. While I will not be taking regular attendance, we will be doing a number of in-class activities that will count towards your attendance/participation grade. These in-class activities are not posted or scheduled in advance, so coming to class regularly will help ensure you do not miss out on these points.

## B. Participation in Research

In order to complete this course, all students are required to complete 8 research credits by participating in psychology research using SONA (more about SONA below). What this means is you will have an opportunity to participate in ongoing psychology research taking place here at the University of Montana. This is great for the researchers who are looking for a wide pool of participants, and it is great for you as it will provide a firsthand look at some of the methods and types of research taking place in the field of psychology today.

**SONA** is the University of Montana's website for informing you what research is available for you to sign up for, as well as keeping track of how many research credits you have completed. There is a link to the SONA website on our Moodle page. If you follow it there will be more information about the program, instructions for how to sign up (**use your university email**), and a link to sign into SONA itself. Generally there is 1 research credit awarded per 1/2 hour of participation, but this will vary from experiment to experiment.

**It's Required!** You need 8 research credits in order to complete this course. No matter what your grade is, it cannot be assigned and the course will not be considered complete unless the research requirement is fulfilled. If the 8 research credits are not completed you will be issued an incomplete for the class until the remaining research credits are fulfilled.

**Alternative Research Option-** If you would prefer not to participate in the research, there is an alternative way to get those 8 credits needed to finish the course. This involves finding an article from a peer reviewed psychology journal and writing a brief essay (one to two pages) summarizing it. This way you can earn up to 2 credits per essay (subject to grading). Further details are available upon request.

## C. 3 Midterm Exams and 1 Final Exam (180 points available total; 90% of total grade)

There will be a total of three regular exams throughout the semester. Individually each one of these exams is worth up to 60 points and makes up 30% of your total grade. These midterm exams are not cumulative and will only cover the material from class between each exam. You will have the option of replacing your lowest exam score with the score from the final exam (details next).

The final exam is cumulative and will cover everything we've gone over in class during the semester. However, the final exam can be used to replace your lowest score from any of the three prior exams. This means if you score higher on the final than on your previous lowest exam score, the final's grade will replace your lowest score. So at the end of the semester you will have taken four exams, but only the three highest scores will count towards your final grade.

## Course Grading

Letter Grade	Points	Percentage
A	180-200	90% or higher
B	160-179	80 – 89%
C	140-159	70 – 79%

Letter Grade	Points	Percentage
D	120-139	60 – 69%
F	<120	59% and below

## Notes

### Disability Accommodations

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 may 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.

### Academic Misconduct

You are expected to adhere to the university's student conduct code with regard to academic integrity. Academic misconduct in this course will result in an academic penalty commensurate with the offense as well as possible disciplinary action by the university.

### Dropping/Adding/Changing grade option

Please refer to the Registrar's [Drop/Add Policy](#) and the [Official Dates & Deadlines Calendar](#) all questions related to dropping or adding or changing grade option for a course.

### Credit/No Credit

For students taking this course Cr/NCr, "Credit" is a grade of A, B, or C. "No Credit" is a grade of D or F. Note: I do not allow students to change from traditional grading to credit/no credit once the deadline for doing so has passed.

### Incompletes

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

### Academic Honesty

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](#).

### Tentative Course Schedule (subject to change)

Note: These modules (chapters) are all in the required pdf textbook available on Moodle. The lectures will also be supplemented with material outside of the required text and questions from this additional material will also be included on the exams.

Date	Description
Friday, January 11th	Syllabus review

Date	Description
January 14th, 16th, and 18th (M, W, F)	Modules 1-8 (Intro, Research, and Biology).
Monday, January 21st	Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No Classes, Offices Closed
January 23rd and 25th (W, F)	Modules 9-12 (Developmental Psychology).
Monday, January 28th	Modules 13-15 (Sensation and Perception).
Wednesday, January 30th	Screening Day.
Friday, February 1st	Modules 13-15 (Sensation and Perception).
Monday, February 4th	<b><u>Exam 1</u></b> (covering modules 1-15 and lecture material).
February 6th, and 8th (W,F)	Modules 16-18 (Consciousness and Learning).
February 11th, 13th and 15th (M,W,F)	Modules 19-24 (Cognition, Language and Intelligence).
Monday February 18th	President’s Day – No Classes, Offices Closed
February 20th and 22nd (W,F)	Modules 19-24 (Cognition, Language and Intelligence).

Date	Description
February 25th, 27th, and March 1st (M,W,F)	Modules 25-27 (Emotion and Motivation).
Monday, March 4th	<b><u>Exam 2</u></b> (covering modules 16-27 and lecture material).
March 6th, and 8th (W,F)	Modules 28-31 (Personality).
March 11th, 13th, and 15th (M,W,F)	Modules 32-37 (Psychological Disorders and Therapies).
March 18th, 20th, and 22nd (M,W,F)	Modules 32-37 (Mental Disorders and Therapies).
March 25th-29th (M-F)	Spring Break
April 1st, 3rd, and 5th (M,W,F)	Modules 32-37 (Mental Disorders and Therapies).
April 8th, 10th, and 12th (M,W,F)	Modules 38-41 (Social Psychology).
April 15th, 17th, and 19th (M,W,F)	Other fields of psychology (positive, health, etc.).
Monday, April 22nd	Catch up and review.
Wednesday, April 24th	<b><u>Exam 3</u></b> (covering modules 28-41 and lecture material).
Friday, April 26th	Review for final

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
Monday, April 29th (Finals week)	<b><u>Final Exam</u></b> : Social Science Building 356, 3:20-5:20pm.

## Syllabus Signature Form

Name of student: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand the class syllabus and expectations for the Intro to Psychology class indicated below.

**Class:** PSYX 100S, Sec 02, Intro to Psychology: Spring 2019

**Instructor:** James McFarland

Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date