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PSYX 400.01: History and System in Psychology

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PSYX 400/500: History and Systems

Fall 2020

Course Location and Time

UC 303

Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:30 – 3:50pm*

*content is also offered remotely, as each class will be recorded and posted on Moodle after class

Instructor Information

Instructor: Laura Kirsch, Ph.D.

Email: laura.kirsch@umontana.edu

Office: Skaggs 364

Phone: 406-243-6817

Virtual office hours: Thursdays 12:00 to 2pm, or by appointment

Zoom Meeting ID: 961 7616 3131

Passcode: 044726

Teaching Assistant: Amy Violante

Email: amy.violante@umconnect.umn.edu

Virtual office hours: Tuesdays 9-11:00am, or by appointment

Zoom meeting ID to be announced

Required Readings

- Schultz, D. & Schultz, S. (2016). *A History of Modern Psychology, 11th Ed.* Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.
- Selected articles on Moodle

Recommended Readings

- American Psychological Association (2020). *Publication manual, 7th Edition.* Washington, DC: APA.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to assist students in appreciating the changes in the field of psychology over time. This includes a general overview of the philosophical origins of the field, major approaches to the field of psychology and how each has emerged and influenced another, and changes in conceptual and methodological approaches to the field over time. As a result, by the end of this course, students will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of ideas and methods that have influenced the development of psychology over time;
- Remember major contributors to psychology and schools of thought in the field, when they emerged and how they influenced each other;
- Exhibit awareness of historical trends in experimental and theoretical approaches over time;
- Critically consider historical, methodological and cultural questions in psychology's history;
- Be able to critically evaluate seminal research in the field
- Express their ideas about the history of the field of psychology and psychological research clearly and concisely, using APA Style.

Course Requirements

The course will be taught with a combination of seminar and lecture that includes content-based activities. Typically, class attendance and participation, as well as completion of the activities are a part of your course grade. ***For those students who choose to attend the course remotely, you will be expected to watch all of the lectures and complete the activities, then submit them via the Moodle site by their due date. This requires you to keep up with all of the lectures, as embedded activities will be due within a few days.***

Graduate student presentations

Since this is traditionally a 400-level UG course, graduate students are required to do additional work beyond that required for undergraduates. Accordingly, each graduate student will select a topic to research in preparation for a presentation to the entire class. ***Given COVID-19 changes to the time frame of the semester and the option for students to attend this course remotely, instead of an in-person presentation, graduate students are required to record their presentation on Zoom and it will be posted to the course Moodle site for other students to watch.*** Supplemental written materials that support the oral presentation must be submitted as well. Additional details will be provided in advance of the due dates.

Student Evaluation

Writing Assignments

Since Psychology 400 satisfies the Upper Division Writing requirement, there will be a strong emphasis on developing technical, organizational, and expressive skills that are necessary in effective writing. Substantial class time will be devoted to mastering details as specified by the American Psychological Association (APA), understanding issues related to plagiarism and reliance on primary and secondary sources of information, and receiving feedback about the clarity and effectiveness of your writing. You will be required to write several papers over the course of the semester to help practice these skills.

Research Papers

Over the course of the semester, students will submit 4 short papers based on seminal empirical research articles in the field of psychology. The assignments will build upon each other, so that students develop the skills necessary to read and critically evaluate psychological research papers using APA format. Earlier papers will require a summary of research methods and findings, while later papers will include elements of critical analysis and reflections on the importance of the research for the field. Students will be required to write a total of 20 pages over the course of the semester, which together account for 200 points toward your final grade. A list of research article options and assignment details will be posted on Moodle in advance of the assignments. Graduate students will be expected to complete graduate-level assignments, including conducting a literature search and citing multiple primary sources.

Quizzes

There will be 4 online quizzes, each covering several chapters/topics, as well as an online final exam (which is cumulative). Given that some students may not be able to attend class in person, **ALL QUIZZES AND THE FINAL EXAM WILL BE ONLINE ONLY. Please see the course schedule at the end of this document for quiz dates.** The quizzes and final exam will be based on both lecture material and the required readings, and will consist primarily of multiple-choice questions. Graduate students will also be expected to answer essay questions on each quiz/exam. For undergraduates, each quiz is worth 40 points and the final exam is worth 60 points (graduate student point allocation is outlined below). Details will be discussed in class prior to each exam.

You are expected to take the quizzes and exam by the scheduled dates. If you have an UNAVOIDABLE conflict with one of the quizzes or the Final or a University-excused absence, please speak with me prior to the deadline to schedule a make-up. Be advised that make-up quizzes will be essays. Students who miss quizzes for other reasons, or who fail to schedule a make-up within 5 days of the missed quiz, will receive a score of 0 on the quiz.

Class Activities

There will be several in-class activities throughout the semester to encourage attendance and participation and to help students interact with the course material in a more hands-on manner. These will occur randomly throughout the semester, and will be worth between 5 and 10 points each, for a total of 50 points towards your course grade. Students will have the option of completing these assignments either in class or remotely. ***Be advised, if you are taking this class remotely, you MUST keep up with the lectures so that you learn about in-class activities and complete them by their due date.***

Grading for Undergraduates (PSYX 400):

Points toward your final course grade will be counted as follows:

- Class Activities: 50 points
- Online Quizzes: 140 points (35 points each)
- Final Exam: 60 points
- Research paper assignments: 200 points

Total: 450 points

Grading for Graduate Students (PSYX 500):

Points toward your final course grade will be counted as follows:

- Class Activities: 50 points
- Quizzes: 180 points (45 points each)
- Final Exam: 70 points
- Research paper assignments: 200 points
- Oral presentation: 50 points

Total: 550 points

Course grades will be based on total points earned at the end of the semester out of the total possible points (i.e., 450 or 550 points). Your letter grade will be determined by adding all of the points you obtained on the various assignments and dividing it by the total possible points to arrive at a percentage score. The following scale will be applied:

Percentage & letter grade	Percentage & letter grade	Percentage & letter grade
93 - 100% = A	80 - 82% = B-	67 - 69% = D+
90 - 92% = A-	77 - 79% = C+	63 - 66% = D
87 - 89% = B+	73 - 76% = C	60 - 62% = D-
83 - 86% = B	70 - 72% = C-	Below 60% = F

Please note: I **will not** bump up grades that are close to the cutoff. There are no exceptions to this rule.

Course Guidelines and Policies

Course Website

Materials for the course (besides the textbooks) will be available on the internet through Moodle. Incomplete versions of the PowerPoint slides for the lectures will be posted prior to class, so that you can print them and use them in class or while watching the lecture on Zoom. Any readings for the course besides the required text will also be posted on the site well in advance of their due date. Class announcements and assignments will also be posted when necessary, so please check the website on a regular basis. In addition to checking Moodle, you are also responsible for checking your UM email regularly, as you may receive course-related emails from time to time.

Missed Classes

Because of COVID related logistics, I will not be including attendance as part of your course grade. However, since exams and assignments are based heavily on lecture material, in order to do well in this course you should attend or watch every lecture. Since all lectures will be made available on the course Moodle site, you are responsible for all of the material presented, as well as any changes or additions to the syllabus that were announced in class. Copies of handouts and announcements will be posted on Moodle.

Add/Drop

After September 9, adviser and instructor consent is required to drop classes. After October 22, a petition to drop the course or change grading options will require Dean permission.

Academic Honesty

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#).

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 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.

Email Policy

You are welcome to email me with general questions about the course, and I will typically respond within a business day. However, if you have a lot of questions, I prefer you visit my office hours.

The Learning Environment

I would like this class to have a relaxed atmosphere where students can feel free to ask questions and comment on the material being presented and discussed. Please do not hesitate to raise your hand for clarification on a topic, to ask about related material, or to raise an interesting point. However, remember that not everyone has similar viewpoints, so please try to be respectful of your classmates and their opinions.

Another way to create a respectful and productive learning environment is to ensure that it is free from distractions. Therefore, please turn off your cell phones and other personal electronic devices prior to coming to class. Repeated use of personal electronic devices during class time will result in points being deducted from your course grade. If you wish, you may use a laptop or tablet to take notes. However, if I

see that you are emailing, surfing the web, or using it for any non-class-related purposes, you will lose the privilege of using it in class.

COVID-19 Policies

This course abides by all University of Montana COVID-19 Healthy Fall Guidelines, including the following:

- Mask use is required within the classroom
- Each student is provided with a cleaning kit. The expectation is that students will clean their personal work space when they arrive for class, and before they leave the classroom
- Students are discouraged from congregating outside the classroom before and after class
- Specific seating arrangements will be used to ensure social distancing and support contact tracing efforts
- Class attendance will be recorded to support contact tracing efforts
- Drinking liquids and eating food is discouraged within the classroom (which requires mask removal)
- This class is being recorded, so this serves as your notification of such
- Stay home if you feel sick and/or if exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, and please contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330
- Up-to-Date COVID-19 Information from the University of Montana
 - [UM Coronavirus Website: https://www.umt.edu/coronavirus](https://www.umt.edu/coronavirus)
 - [UM COVID-19 Fall 2020 website: https://www.umt.edu/coronavirus/fall2020.php](https://www.umt.edu/coronavirus/fall2020.php)