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PSYX 100S.50: Introduction to Psychology

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PSYX 100: INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

University of Montana – Spring 2022 (CRN 30117)

COURSE INFORMATION

- Instructor: Genna Mashinchi
- Email: genna.mashinchi@umontana.edu
- [Class Moodle Website](#)
- [Psychology Department Website](#)
- Office: TBA
- Office Hours: By request – via video chat. Please contact me via e-mail.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Psychology is the scientific study of human and animal behavior and mental processes. You will learn to understand the nature, structure and historical development of human organizations and relationships, including how these events shaped the field of contemporary psychology.

Utilizing multiple psychological theories (i.e., psychodynamic, behavioral, physiological, social, cognitive), you will be taught how the human mind—the basic building block of all human organizations and relationships—functions. Further, by being exposed to actual research results throughout the term, and discussing the meaning of those results, you will learn how to interpret and think about psychological research data.

As a survey course, Introduction to Psychology provides an overview of the methods, terms, theories, and findings in the field of psychology. By understanding principles of psychology, you will learn

more about yourself, others, non-human animals, and relationships.

Psychology can be used for so many things: law, forensics, counseling, business, marketing... the list goes on and on!

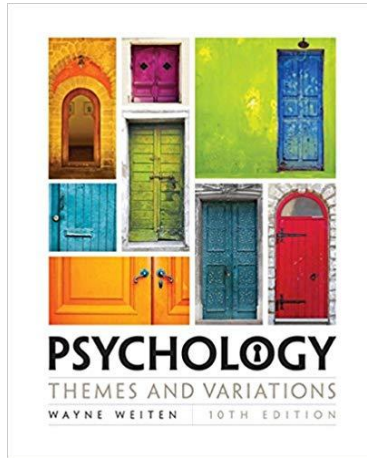
COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of theory and research in the general domains of psychology
- Understand the overarching themes, questions, and conflicts in psychology
- Compare and contrast the major perspectives in psychology
- Understand and evaluate basic research methods used by psychologists to address different hypotheses
- Evaluate the validity of conclusions derived from psychological research

REQUIRED TEXT

Weiten, W. (2017). *Psychology: Themes and Variations*. Boston: Cengage Learning. ISBN: 978-1305498204.



COURSE EVALUATION

Your final grade for the course will consist of scores on quizzes, discussion posts, and lab exercises. Your final grade is the percentage of the total points earned divided by total possible points. There is no course curve in this class. See the following charts for a further breakdown.

The following chart breaks down the points for each assignment type:

Requirement	Points
Quizzes (15 @ 20 points each)	300 possible points
Lab Assignments (3 @ 50 points each)	150 possible points
Discussion Posts (3 @ 40 points each; 1 @ 20 points)	140 possible points
Total Points	590 possible points

The following chart shows the grade scale for the final course grade:

Final Course Grade	# of Points	Percentage
A	528 - 590	89.5% - 100%
B	468 - 527	79.5% – 89.4%
C	410 - 467	69.5% – 79.4%
D	351 - 409	59.5% – 69.4%
F	0 - 350	< 59.5%

QUIZZES

- **General Information:**
 - There will be a total of 15 quizzes throughout the semester, which means roughly one quiz per week (see the course schedule for exceptions).
 - These quizzes test your knowledge of the reading material for each week.
 - Each quiz will have 20 questions.
 - Each quiz is worth 20 points.
 - You will be allowed 30 minutes to complete each quiz. *You are only allowed one attempt for each quiz.* 30 minutes is not enough time to look-up answers to all of the questions. So, please read the assigned readings before attempting to complete the quizzes. It is also highly recommended that you study prior to each quiz.
 - You are allowed to use your book and any notes **you** have prepared during the quiz. However, you are expected to take the quizzes alone, without the assistance of others.
 - **Quizzes are expected to be completed by 11:55 PM (MST) on Fridays.**
- **How to take the quiz:** Log on to Moodle and locate our course. On the course homepage, there will be a folder for each week of the course. Locate the folder for the week. Open the folder and locate the quiz for the week. If technical issues arise, contact the [UM IT Solutions Center](#) for assistance at (406) 243-4357.
- **If issues arise while you are taking the quiz:** It is your responsibility to choose a time and place in which you will be able to complete the quiz in one sitting. You are not able to start the quiz and pause it. The on-campus computer labs or library are available for you to take these quizzes.
 - **Technical issues:** Although I realize that technical issues happen, and that they are very frustrating, there will not be accommodations for quizzes that cannot be completed due to technical difficulties. It is your responsibility to make sure that you take the quiz at a computer that will work for the duration of the quiz. If your laptop is unreliable, then it might be best to take the quizzes at the on-campus computer labs or library. If issues arise, contact the [UM IT Solutions Center](#) for assistance at (406) 243-4357.
 - **Late quizzes:** Late quizzes will not be accepted, unless extenuating circumstances occur (see course expectations section).

LABS ASSIGNMENTS

- **General Information:** Lab assignments are supplemental to the required readings, quizzes, and discussion posts.
 - Each lab assignment will be described in full detail under “Lab Assignments” section on Moodle, and will be individually introduced throughout the semester.
 - There are three lab assignments across the semester.
 - They are worth 50 points each.
 - **Lab assignments are expected to be completed by 11:55 PM (MST) on the Friday of the week that they are due.**

- **How to access the lab assignments:** Log on to Moodle and locate our course. On the course homepage, there will be a folder for each week of the course. Locate the folder for the week. Open the folder and locate the lab assignment for the week. If technical issues arise, contact the [UM IT Solutions Center](#) for assistance at (406) 243-4357.

DISCUSSION POSTS

- **General Information:**
 - There are 4 discussion posts across the semester, with the first introductory post being worth 20 points and the remainder worth 40 points each.
 - The Discussion Board assignments are the “participation” and “essay” portions of the course.
 - Doing well on these assignments requires consistent and detailed participation.
 - Grades are based on (1) timeliness of the posts (2) amount of posts made and (3) quality of your posts.
 - Discussion Board assignments do not include any posts made in the “Q & A” or “Welcome” boards.
 - Full credit requires high quality and maximum frequency posts.
- **How to access the discussion posts:** Log on to Moodle and locate our course. On the course homepage, there will be a folder for each week of the course. Locate the folder for the week. Open the folder and locate the discussion post for the week. If technical issues arise, contact the [UM IT Solutions Center](#) for assistance at (406) 243-4357.

DISCUSSION GRADING

The following points are **deducted, not added**, to yield a final discussion score per discussion requirement. Students cannot earn negative points - the lowest score is a zero.

TIMELINESS

Criteria	Days Late	Points Lost
Students must first generate an original discussion question/reflection to the forum. This original post will be due by 11:55 PM (MST) on Monday of the week that requires a discussion. <i>You will not be able to post anything else until this is submitted.</i>	Each day late	2 points lost
Students are then required to engage in discussion with their peers. A student’s posting activity on Moodle must spread across a <u>minimum of 3 separate days per discussion requirement</u> (Monday can count toward one of your posting days). You can post more than three days, and post more than three times, but at a minimum, you must post on three separate days. All responses must be posted by 11:55 PM (MST) on Friday of the week that requires a discussion.	3 days	0 points lost
	2 days	13 points lost
	1 day	26 points lost
	0 days	40 points lost

AMOUNT

Criteria	Number of Peers	Points Lost
Students must generate an original response post to a <i>minimum of three of their peers.</i> You can post to more than three, but at a minimum, you must reply to three of your peers. Your response can be to a peer’s original question, or to other questions/responses that are generated over time (i.e., a thread that develops).	3 peers	0 points lost
	2 peers	3 points lost
	1 peer	6 points lost
	0 peers	9 points lost

QUALITY

Criteria	Quality	Points Lost
Students are expected to make detailed and thoughtful posts that reflect an appropriate application of emerging knowledge and vocabulary in the topic area. Each post must add value to the discussion and be related to the required readings associated with the assignment. <i>Below are additional details of how the quality of your posts are graded.</i>	Excellent	0 points lost
	Good	13 points lost
	Fair	26 points lost
	Poor	40 points lost

Quality Details:

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Your response might: (-0 pts)	Your response might: (-7 pts)	Your response might: (-13 pts)	Your response might: (-20 pts)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate that you have read the chapters and peer’s posts • Analyze the topics • Critique the material or provide unique interpretations • Apply the concepts to real life scenarios • Incorporate peer question/responses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include qualities required for full points, but may fall short with thoroughness, elaboration, and conciseness • Reflects cursory understanding of both chapters • Writing is good, but may be tangential or without a point 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include qualities required for full points, but is significantly lacking in thoroughness, elaboration, and conciseness • Does not reflect understanding or reading of both chapters • Writing is “clunky” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack demonstration regarding understanding the material • Include “I agree” or “I disagree” statements without elaboration • Appear that you have not fully read the chapters or peer posts
Discussion fully covers <i>two</i> chapters (-0 pts)	Discussion partially covers <i>two</i> chapters (-2.25 pts)	Discussion fully covers <i>one</i> chapter (-5 pts)	Discussion partially covers <i>one</i> chapter (-7.5 pts)
350 – 400 words for each post (-0 pts)	250 – 349 words for each post (-2.25 pts)	150 – 249 words for each post (-5 pts)	0 – 149 words for each post (-7.5 pts)
1 – 2 grammatical errors for each post (-0 pts)	3 – 4 grammatical errors for each post (-1.5 pts)	5 - 6 grammatical errors for each post (-3 pts)	> 6 grammatical errors for each post (-5 pts)

Example breakdown for full credit:

Day	Student Output
Monday	Original post is submitted prior to 11:55 PM (MST)
Tuesday	1 st response to a unique peer’s original post 2 nd response to a unique peer’s original post
Wednesday	
Thursday	3 rd response to a unique peer whom wrote a question as a part of a thread that developed over the week
Friday	Weekly quiz completed prior to 11:55 PM (MST)

- Original post on time (prior to 11:55 PM (MST) on Monday)
- Had thorough, detailed, and thoughtful questions/responses without grammatical errors
- Responses clearly covered both chapters
- Posted across 3 days (Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday)
- Responded to 3 unique peers

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. **The research experience portion of this class is not graded but it is required for a grade in the course.**
- **Currently, the department is requiring two research credits for this course. These research credits must be completed by Friday, April 29th at 11:55pm.** Your research credits are due at the end of the semester (a date will be announced). In order to fulfill this requirement, you may choose either or both of these options: (1) participate in original research; (2) read and write about original research.
 - 1. You can participate in original research on SONA, which is an online survey software UM uses. To register for SONA, see the “[SONA GUIDE FOR UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA](#)”.
 - 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, (1) be sure you use your umontana email address as your username (so if your umontana email address is jane.doe@umontana.edu, you would enter jane.doe, not your NetID); if you don’t do this properly, you will not get the account

- information. Also, (2) be sure you enter the right course section number, or else you may not be properly credited.
- Some psychological research projects require participants who possess special characteristics. If there is research that requires specific characteristics, you will 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.
 - 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.
 - Your credit will be tracked via the online system – you will be awarded credit for participation within 48 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.
 - At the end of the term, I will get your credits from the online system.
- 2. You can write a 2-3 page paper about original research.
- In this option, you will find, read, and summarize an original research article. An example article and a template you can use are provided on Moodle under “Research Credits”. Each summary should be 2-3 pages long. Each summary is worth 2 research credits. To get credit, you need to turn the assignment in to your instructor via email, who will review it and assign credit. (Note: This does not happen on the online system, which is only used for option 1).

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS

The assignment due dates in this syllabus are non-negotiable. If you have a conflict with one or more of the due dates as a result of personal commitments, you should consider taking the class a different semester. A make-up assignment or deadline extension (e.g., discussion post, quiz, lab assignment) may be offered **ONLY** for UNIVERSITY-APPROVED REASONS:

- Medical emergency (verified by a medical professional)
- Family emergency (verified by the Dean of Students Office)
- Participation in University-sponsored activities (verified in advance)

Other reasons for a missed assignment – family holiday, friend/relative wedding, etc. – are **NOT** approved excuses.

An assignment missed for reasons other than the university-approved reasons will result in an exam grade of zero.

All decisions regarding make-up assignments or deadline extensions are at the discretion of the professor. Quizzes will be automatically graded, and discussion posts and lab assignments will be graded within one week following the deadline. Students will receive a zero on any assignment that they do not complete, and should contact the professor immediately if they feel as if there is a grading error.

Therefore, you should contact me as soon as possible – **BEFORE** the assignment due date – if you will miss an assignment due to the university-approved reasons.

ETHICAL CONDUCT

Don't Cheat. Don't Plagiarize. It's Not Worth It.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT is taken seriously and is unacceptable. Please review the UM [Student Conduct Code](#). This code and procedures apply to this course. All work for this class must reflect your own work, and must follow APA formatting guidelines when citing, paraphrasing, or referencing sources. As specified in the Student Conduct Code, academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to:

- *Plagiarism*: representing someone else's work (words, ideas, data, materials) as your own.
- *Misconduct during an examination or academic exercise*: Copying from another student's quiz/lab/discussion, giving information to another student, consulting unauthorized materials.
- *Submitting false information*: Knowingly submitting false, altered, or invented information, data, quotations, citations, or documentation in connection with an academic exercise.

THE CONSEQUENCES of academic misconduct will result in a zero for that exam or assignment and the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students and the Dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences to be dealt with in accordance with UM Student Conduct Code. *It is your responsibility to know the Student Conduct Code.*

BOTTOM LINE: You do not learn anything from cheating, so seek additional resources if you are struggling and need extra help!

COURSE FORMAT

MOODLE

Announcements, discussion boards, quizzes, lab assignments, and grades can all be found on the course Moodle site. Students are responsible for checking the Moodle site and their e-mail *multiple* times a week. Weekly assignments will open every Sunday morning and are due the following Friday by 11:55 PM (MST). Please be sure to start your assignments early enough to complete them by the time the week closes.

NETIQUETTE

Netiquette, or “network etiquette,” is a professional and mannerly way of communicating with others in the online medium. If the professor deems your posts are inappropriate you will be given a detailed

warning. Following this, you will receive a zero on your discussion posts if you continue to engage in an inappropriate manner. Please be respectful to your fellow peers.

EMAIL

In keeping with The University of Montana's email policy, you *must* use your University account. I cannot reply to any emails that do not come from your *UMConnect* account. I also cannot communicate information regarding your grade via e-mail, so plan to schedule a meeting with me if you desire to discuss this.

Emails will be replied to within 48 hours of receiving them. I encourage you to email me whenever you have questions, however questions about assignments need to be sent at least 24 hours before an assignment is due to make sure you get an answer back in time for help. *Any questions that can be answered by the syllabus will receive a “please refer to the syllabus.” Also, refer to the Q & A board for frequently asked questions.*

GRADES OF INCOMPLETE

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

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Given the online nature of this course, always have a back-up plan in mind if a technological issue arises so you can complete the required work each week. If you have technical difficulties, please contact UM Online at umonline-help@umontana.edu or 406-243-4999. Though I would love to be able to help, I am not qualified to do so. ***Critical Note: I do not allow technical issues or not having the proper software as reasons for late or incomplete work.***

To ensure your own protection, physically write down the technical support contact information, do not wait until the last minute to complete your work each week, and back up your written work. It is highly advised that you write your work offline and then copy and paste your answers onto Moodle. This gives you the ability to back up your work on a thumb drive or an online document saver (e.g., google docs, dropbox). That way if you have an electronic emergency (e.g., computer crashing, poor Wi-Fi connection) you can seek out technical alternatives, such as a campus computer, the public library, an internet café, a computer at work, or a friend or family member’s computer.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

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

DROP/ADD/CHANGE

Please refer to the [Registrar's website](#) on these policies.

COURSE SCHEDULE

UNIT	READINGS	QUIZZES & DISCUSSION	LAB ASSIGNMENTS
WEEK 1: 1/17 – 1/21 No Class 1/17 – MLK Jr. Day	<i>Syllabus</i>	Introduction Discussion <i>*See specific instructions on Moodle</i>	
WEEK 2: 1/24 – 1/28	<i>Chapter 1: The Evolution of Psychology</i>	Ch. 1 Quiz	
WEEK 3: 1/31 – 2/4	<i>Chapter 2: The Research Enterprise in Psychology</i>	Ch. 2 Quiz	Lab #1 Assigned
WEEK 4: 2/7 – 2/11	<i>Chapter 3: The Biological Bases of Behavior</i>	Ch. 3 Quiz Ch. 1, 2, and 3 Discussion	
WEEK 5: 2/14 – 2/18	<i>Chapter 4: Sensation and Perception</i>	Ch. 4 Quiz	
WEEK 6: 2/21 – 2/25 No Class 2/21 – President’s Day	<i>Chapter 5: Variations in Consciousness</i>	Ch. 5 Quiz	Lab #1 Due
WEEK 7: 2/28 – 3/4	<i>Chapter 6: Learning</i>	Ch. 3, 4, and 5 Discussion Ch. 6 Quiz	
WEEK 8: 3/7 – 3/11	<i>Chapter 7: Human Memory</i>	Ch. 7 Quiz	Lab #2 Assigned
WEEK 9: 3/14 – 3/18	<i>Chapter 8: Cognition and Intelligence</i>	Ch. 8 Quiz	Extra Credit #1 Due
WEEK 10: 3/21 – 3/25 No Classes - Spring Break!			
WEEK 11: 3/28 – 4/1	<i>Chapter 9: Motivation and Emotion</i>	Ch. 9 Quiz Ch. 6, 7, and 8 Discussion	
WEEK 12: 4/4 – 4/8	<i>Chapter 10: Human Development Across the Lifespan</i>	Ch. 10 Quiz	
WEEK 13: 4/11 – 4/15	<i>Chapter 11: Personality</i>	Ch. 11 Quiz	Lab #2 Due

UNIT	READINGS	QUIZZES & DISCUSSION	LAB ASSIGNMENTS
WEEK 14: 4/18 – 4/22	<i>Chapter 12: Social Behavior</i>	Ch. 12 Quiz	Lab #3 Assigned
WEEK 15: 4/25 – 4/29	<i>Chapter 13: Stress, Coping, and Health</i>	Ch. 13 Quiz <i>*No discussion</i>	Research Credits Due
WEEK 15: 5/2 – 5/6 Last Day of Regular Classes – 5/6	<i>Chapter 14: Psychological Disorders</i>	Ch. 14 Quiz	
FINALS WEEK: 5/9 – 5/13	<i>Chapter 15: Treatment of Psychological Disorders</i>	Ch. 15 Quiz	Lab #3 Due Extra Credit #2 Due

**The course schedule is subject to change per the professor's discretion*

****Remember:**

- *Quizzes are due Friday by 11:55pm of the week they are assigned*
- *Initial discussion questions are due Monday by 11:55pm of the week they are assigned and all discussion responses (at least 3, on 3 separate days, addressed to 3 separate peers) are due by 11:55pm Friday of the discussion week*
- *Lab assignments are due by 11:55pm Friday*