

Introduction to Psychology

Psychology 100

Term I/Fall, 2003—2004

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Office Hours: Mon. 12:00—12:50, Wed. 12:00—12:50 and 2:30—3:30, or by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Mr. Matthew McCormick

Required Text

Myers, D.R. (2004). Psychology (7th Ed.), New York: Worth Publishers.

It is also suggested, but not required, that students purchase the study guide Discovering Psychology which is designed to accompany your text.

Course Objectives:

This course will present you with an overview of the entire field of psychology, which is an ambitious task at best! During the semester, you will be introduced to the central concepts, theories, and research findings in the main areas of, psychology. Although no area will be covered in great detail, this course is designed to give each student a basic groundwork in the field, and to wet your appetite for more knowledge of psychology.

Evaluation Procedure:

Five noncumulative, multiple choice examinations will be given during the semester. Each examination will be worth 100 points towards, the final grade. The examinations will be based on both the assigned readings and material presented in the class lectures.

Each student will be allowed to drop one of their five test scores at the end of the semester. Thus, if you must miss one test, there is no penalty, since that test automatically becomes the one that is dropped. If you are present for all five tests, the lowest of the five scores will be dropped, from your overall grade. It is therefore to your advantage to 'take all five of the examinations. Since students are allowed to drop one test score, make—up tests will be given only to students who have experienced dire illness or family emergency. Students who request a make-up test' may be asked to provide appropriate documentation of their illness or emergency.

Two original papers are also required. The first paper will be worth 50 points, and the second paper will be worth 100 points. A description of these assignments is included at the end of this syllabus. The papers will be due at the beginning of class on February 23rd and March 24th.

Late papers will be subject to a penalty of up to five points a day. If for some reason you are unable to complete a paper on time, you may request an extension of several days, as long as you speak with the instructor well in advance of the scheduled due date.

## General Guidelines

1. **Class Attendance:** While you are not required to come to class, regular attendance and thoughtful class participation are both strongly encouraged. A pattern of consistently excellent attendance and class participation throughout the entire term, can raise a student's final letter grade by as much as one increment (for example, from a B+ to an A-).

If you are absent from class for any reason, it is your responsibility to check on the material covered and class announcements.

2. **University Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:** Among the most serious academic offenses is plagiarism, submitting the words or style of another author Or source without acknowledgement or formal documentation. Plagiarism occurs when specific phrases or entire passages, whether a sentence., paragraph or longer excerpt, are incorporated into one's own writing without quotation marks or documentation.

Students are advised to always set off another writer's exact words by quotation it with appropriate references. Students avoid plagiarism by concentrating on their own words and ideas and by fully crediting other's work and ideas when they find their way into the writing.

Whenever in doubt, cite the reference. . . .

Students who purchase essays from others, or who copy essays from the internet or other prohibited sources, commit the most serious type of academic dishonesty. The consequences of plagiarism, or any other act of academic dishonesty such as cheating on a test, may range from failure of the course to dismissal from the university.

3. **Schedule Changes:** We will do our best to follow the attached schedule. If schedule changes are necessary (such as changing the date of an exam), these changes will be announced in class. It is therefore necessary that students keep up with class news or announcements, if they are absent. .

4. **Special Challenges:** Students with a previously identified disability (such as dyslexia, a hearing impairment, etc...), which may impede their academic progress, are asked to speak after class with the instructor, so that appropriate individual accommodations can be made.

If you have questions about the structure or content of this course, feel free to ask the instructor or the teaching assistant. Don't be bashful!

### Class Schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>
1-5	Introduction and Course Overview	
1-7	Thinking Critically with Psychological Science.	Prologue and Chapter 1
1-12	Neuroscience and Behavior (last day to add a class, and last day for 100% refund)	Chapter 2
1-14	The Nature and Nurture of Behavior (1-16—04 is the last day to declare audit or pass/fail options)	Chapter 3
1-19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - no class!	
1-21	The Developing Person	Chapter 4
1-26	Examination #1	
1-28	Sensation (1-30-04 is the last day to drop a course with a "W")	Chapter 5
2-2	Perception	Chapter 6
2-4	States of Consciousness	Chapter 7
2-9	Learning	Chapter 8
2-11	Examination #2	
2-16	Memory	Chapter 9
2-18	Thinking and Language	Chapter 10
2-23	Intelligence and Paper #1 Due	Chapter 1
2-25	Examination #3	
3-1	Spring Break - no class!	
3-3	Spring Break - no class!	
3-8	Motivation and Work	Chapter 12
3-10	Emotion	Chapter 13
3-15	Personality	Chapter 15
3-17	continue with above	
3-22	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 16
3-24	continue with above and Paper #2 Due	
3-29	Examination #4	
4-31	Therapy	Chapter 17
4-5	continue with above	
4-7	Stress and Health	Chapter 14
4-12	Social Psychology	Chapter 18
4-14	continue with above	
TBD	Examination #5 (non-cumulative)	

## WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

It, makes little difference how many university courses or degrees people may own. 'If they cannot use words to move an idea from one point to another their education is incomplete.

—Norman Cousins

### **Paper #1**

The first of the two written assignments is to be four, double- spaced, typed pages, and is due at the beginning of class on February 23rd. No title page is required. Please do not use plastic covers or folders of any kind. Plain typed sheets with one' staple in the upper left corner is sufficient. Since these two assignments require only your textbook as a reference, there is no need for a separate bibliography page. (Do put page numbers for direct quotes, however.) If, however, you wish to use additional resources, 'please list a bibliography 'at the bottom of your final page. . All direct quotes or paraphrases must be referenced. Students are asked to make and keep a copy of their papers before turning in the originals.

For each paper, choose a topic that interests you Skim your textbook for ideas, or speak with your instructor Some suggested paper topics are listed below, but you may also develop your own idea, in consultation with your professors Once you have made a selection, 'review your topic, using your text plus outside references if you wish. Next, involve at least one other person in your work--through interview, or with 'infants and toddlers, through observation. for example, if your topic is:

Sleep disorders	Interview someone who has been to a sleep clinic
ESP	Interviews someone you know who claims to be psychic
heredity/environment	Talk with some parents about how their children are like or not like them
Death/dying	Talk with someone who has experienced the terminal illness of a family member
Sensory changes	Interview someone over 75 about how their senses of hearing, vision, and balance have changed
Memory	Interview several classmates about how they prepare for a test
Memory	To examine the concepts of very long- term memory or permastore, interview an older adult about something they learned more than 50 years ago
Language development	Observe or play with a toddler to learn about their language skills
Motivation	Interview a highly successful person about the origins of their motivation to succeed
Hypnosis	Interview someone who has been to hypnotist for habit control
Psychotherapy	Talk with a psychologist about what he or she feels are the most effective therapeutic techniques

Cultural diversity

Interview someone from a markedly different cultural or ethnic background about their family traditions or upbringing

After this, write about your interview and or observations, noting any relationship with the reading you have done. Finally, write your own reflections on the topic. Thus, each paper will include:

A. research review

B. interview/observations and c. personal reflections

When writing up your interview, use narrative form. DO NOT write up the interview using a question/answer format.. Please refer to your interviewee(s) only by first name or initials. If you have any questions about your written assignments, please speak with the instructor.

## **Paper #2**

The second of the two written assignments should be approximately eight double-spaced, typed pages, and is due at the beginning of class on March 24th. Again, plastic folders or covers are unnecessary. . This paper will be worth 100 points towards the final grade.

For this assignment, you are asked to write a critical review of a book, by an eminent psychologist. After you have read the book, your paper should be a thoughtful analysis of the author's work, rather than a simple summary of what the author had to say. The instructor will pass out a list of appropriate books sometime during the first two weeks of class. It is your responsibility to obtain the book. you wish to read in a timely fashion. . This should not be a problem if you plan in advance Most of the recommended books are available either at the University of Detroit Mercy's library, other area libraries, or can easily be ordered at local bookstores.

The purpose of this paper assignment is twofold.. This paper should give you a chance to learn about an area of psychology that interests you in much greater detail than class time or your text will permit. The paper should also encourage you to think critically about the ideas of an important psychologist. You may write about a book that is not on the list of reconunended titles, but you must obtain the instructors approval of the book you have selected. All students are required to notify the instructor of their book selection by March 10, 2004.

As you discuss the author's work, please be careful to include page numbers with any direct quotations that you make from the book. It is not required that you use other sources besides the book you .are analyzing, but you may do so if you wish. If you do use additional resources, please be sure that you also reference all direct quotations and paraphrases from these sources, and include a bibliography at the end of you paper. Since this paper should be a critical analysis rather than a summary of the book you have read, you might wish to consider the following questions in your paper (though these are merely suggestions):

1. Does the author cite adequate evidence to support his or her ideas? How convincing are the arguments of the author?
2. Does the author seem to approach the topic in an unbiased fashion? How scientific is he or she in their approach to the material? What types of methods does the author use to discover new information? Are these methods the most appropriate way of studying the topic at hand? How else might a psychologist approach the author's field of inquiry?

3. What is the applied value of the book's central ideas or contribution to the knowledge base? In other words, should people outside of a university setting be concerned with what the author has to say? Why or why not?
4. Are the ideas in the book dated in any way? How relevant in the book to the contemporary world in which we live?
5. If you become a professor of psychology, would you recommend that students read this book? If yes, why should students devote time to the author's ideas? If no, how is the book flawed?

If you have any questions about either of the paper assignments, please do not hesitate to speak with the instructor!