
Psychology 1010: Introductory Psychology
Fall 2008
MWF 9:00 – 9:50
SS 394

Professor: Dr. Aaron Ashley
Office: SS 360
Office Hours: MWF: 10:00 – 11:00
 TR: 11:00 – 12:00
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Text: Myers, D. G. (2007). *Exploring Psychology 7th Ed.* NY: Worth

Myers, D. G. (2007). *Psychology Reader to accompany INTRODUCTORY PSYCHOLOGY TEXTS* by David G. Myers. NY: Worth

Course Description and Goal: This course will be an introduction to the scientific discipline of psychology. The goal of this course is to present a broad overview of (a) the goals and methods of science and how psychology fits within this framework (b) the important phenomena and concepts in psychology, (c) the types of data that relate to these phenomena and concepts, and (d) the basic experimental procedures commonly used in the study of psychological phenomena. In addition, students should learn the important conceptual issues associated with the various topics covered, and how the existing body of research data relates to these conceptual issues. Attention will be given to practical applications of the material covered, in the hopes that students will appreciate the many possibilities for generalizing psychological principles to everyday life.

Of course, no area will receive detailed coverage and no attempt will be made to survey the research literature or theoretical literature related to any of the topics covered. Specific experiments will be covered only as representatives of a particular methodology or approach, or, in a few cases, simply because they are “classics” in the field.

Grades: There are 1000 possible points this semester. Grades will be based on the percentage of total points received from the total points available.

90-100	A	77-79	C+	67-69	D+
87-89	B+	73-76	C	60-66	D
83-86	B	70-72	C-	Below 60	E
80-82	B-				

Sources of Points:

Exams (500 pts): There will be 5 exams of multiple-choice and essay (100 pts each). All questions will be taken from material covered in the text, the Scientific American reader, and class discussion. The dates of each exam is listed below. You will have from 8:00 until noon on the dates listed below to take the exam. These dates will not change. Therefore, you know at this moment the dates and times for each of your exams in this

class. Prepare your schedule accordingly for each exam, because make-up exams will be given only in extreme circumstances.

Testing Center Hours: All exams will be taken in the Social Science Testing Center, located in the basement of the Social Science Building (SS 036). In order to take an exam, you must show up at the center on the correct day(s), during testing center hours, and with a picture ID. You will not be allowed to take the exam without a picture ID, or if you come after the hours specified. You will also need a #2 pencil and 10¢ to purchase a scantron form.

Make-up Exams: As you will have a free class period in which to complete each exam **make-up exams will be subject to a penalty of 20 points per day (including weekends and holidays). There are NO EXCEPTIONS to this policy!**

Quizzes (200 pts): There will be ten short quizzes (20 pts each) occurring during the course of the semester. Quizzes will come directly from the required readings and will be given at random times during the class period. As quizzes are given during class, there will be no make-up quizzes given. Quizzes will come from the assigned readings, class materials and class discussion.

Writing Assignments (200 pts): During the course of the semester you are required to write 4 (500 word) reflection essays (50 pts each). These essays will be based on your reading of the Scientific American articles covered in class. As we will be covering about 14 articles you do have a choice in those that you choose to write about; however, the material covered in each article will be included on the exams so you should read every article. Additionally, you cannot write all of your essays the last week of the semester, half of the assignments must be completed before fall break (10/16). Writing assignments are to be submitted during the time the materials are covered in class. For example, you have between September 24 and September 29 to turn in the essay associated with the neuroscience and behavior section. Late assignments will not be accepted for any reason. Both a hard copy of your essay, due in class, and an electronic copy (submitted via WSU Online) are required for credit.

Research Participation (50 pts): A primary goal in our Introductory Psychology classes is to foster an appreciation and understanding of psychological research. ALL students enrolled in Psychology 1010 are required to participate in a minimum of two hours (8 Credits) of research experiments.

If you have any questions concerning these requirements, it is best to ask your instructor for specifications as experimenters may not know how your instructor will tally the points for grading.

The primary means for satisfying this requirement will be for each student to serve as a participant in department research projects. Students can choose the projects they wish to

participate in by signing up on the sheets provided on the 3rd floor Bulletin Board outside of the Psychology Department Main Office.

IMPORTANT! Be sure to make a note of the **TIME, ROOM NUMBER,** and **EXPERIMENTER'S NAME** when you sign up for the experiment. Do Not go to the main office and ask when or where your experiment is scheduled. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to obtain this information when you sign up for the experiment, and it is your responsibility to maintain this information after you sign up for an experiment. You may also satisfy the research participation requirement by writing a summary of a research article. A list of possible articles will be presented in class. Article summaries must be three pages in length and adhere to APA style formatting.

The research participation requirement must be completed by November 30th.

Class Participation (50 pts): As a student in this class, it is your responsibility to be an active participant. By active participant, I mean that it is your responsibility to be in class (on-time), prepared (i.e., you have read the assigned materials), ready to participate in class discussion (and to do so), and you behave in a manner representative of an academic environment (see Course Policies and Expectations below).

Course Policies and Expectations:

Attendance: Attendance is not required for this class; it is, however, highly encouraged that you attend all classes. The student is responsible for all lecture materials and announcements made in class whether you are present or not. Because this course covers a broad overview of concepts and theories in psychology, attendance is very important and may determine final grades in borderline cases. Additionally, you are expected to be present, attentive, and participate during the entire class period. **I do not expect you to arrive late, nor do I expect you to leave early. Both of these are disruptive to the class, and will not be tolerated.**

If you must miss class, **do not** contact me with questions about what was covered in class. At this point, you are to obtain the names, email addresses, and phone numbers of four of your class mates. These are the people that you should contact in case of a class absence. Only after contacting these individuals, obtaining class notes, and preparing the assigned materials are you to contact me. I'm happy to help you learn the material, but only after you have taken the time to prepare and review what you have missed.

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Classroom Courtesy:

Cell phones/beepers/laptops: Leave all electronic devices turned off during class. I do not want to see any cell phones, laptops, or electronic devices of any type out during the class period. You can text message and email your friends during the other twenty-three hours and ten minutes of the day, but not during this class. This behavior is not only rude, but is also extremely disruptive. A first warning is forgetfulness. After a warning, I will simply remove five points from your final total points for each occurrence.

Discriminatory Harassment: Weber State University is committed to providing an environment free from harassment and other forms of discrimination based upon race, color, ethnic background, national origin, religion, creed, age, lack of American citizenship, disability, status of veteran of the Vietnam era, sexual orientation or preference or gender, including sexual/gender harassment. Such an environment is a necessary part of a healthy learning and working atmosphere because such discrimination undermines the sense of human dignity and sense of belonging of all people in the environment. Thus, students in this class should practice professional deportment, and avoid treating others in a manner that is demeaning or derisive in any respect.

While diverse viewpoints and opinions are welcome in this class, in expressing them, we will practice mutual deference so important in the world of work. Thus, while I encourage you to share your opinions, when appropriate, you will be expected to do so in a manner that is respectful towards others, even when you disagree with them.

If you have questions regarding the university's policy against discrimination and harassment you may contact the university's AA/EO office (626-6239) or visit its website: <http://departments.weber.edu/aaceo/>.

Academic dishonesty policy: Weber State University imposes specific disciplinary actions in response to incidents of academic misconduct (cheating, plagiarism, etc.). These actions may include admonition, failing grade, failure of course, disciplinary probation, suspension, and dismissal. The specified policies can be found in the WSU Student Code at <http://documents.weber.edu/ppm/6-22.htm>. Cheating will not be tolerated in this or any class at WSU. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing on any assignment will result in a grade of E. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes plagiarism, if you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism please contact me.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in room 181 of the Student Service Center. SSD can also arrange to provide course materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats if necessary. Weber State University policies regarding Services for Students with Disabilities are available on the <http://weber.edu/ssd> website.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Monday Aug. 25		
Wednesday Aug. 27	Overview	Syllabus
Friday Aug. 29	Introduction to Psychology	Ch. 1 (SciAm 2-10)
Monday Sept. 1	NO CLASS (Labor Day)	
Wednesday Sept. 3		
Friday Sept. 5	Research Methods	
Monday Sept. 8		
Wednesday Sept. 10		
Friday Sept. 12	Statistical Reasoning	A1-A9
Monday Sept. 15		
Wednesday Sept. 17		
Friday Sept. 19		
Monday Sept. 22	EXAM 1	8:00 – 12:00
Wednesday Sept. 24	Neuroscience & Behavior	Ch. 2 (SciAm 11-17)
Friday Sept. 26		
Monday Sept. 29		
Wednesday Oct. 1	Nature & Nurture & Development	Ch. 3-4 (SciAm 18-23)
Friday Oct. 3		
Monday Oct. 6	Sensation & Perception	Ch. 5 (SciAm 24-31)
Wednesday Oct. 8	EXAM 2	8:00 – 12:00
Friday Oct. 10	Learning	Ch. 7
Monday Oct. 13		
Wednesday Oct. 15	Memory	Ch. 8
Friday Oct. 17	NO CLASS (Fall Break)	
Monday Oct. 20		
Wednesday Oct. 22		
Friday Oct. 24	EXAM 3	8:00 – 12:00
Monday Oct. 27	Thinking & Language	Ch. 9 (SciAm 32-39; 48-57)
Wednesday Oct. 29		
Friday Oct. 31	Emotion	Ch. 11 (SciAm 58-67; 68-73)
Monday Nov. 3		
Wednesday Nov. 5		
Friday Nov. 7	Consciousness	Ch. 6 (SciAm 40-47)
Monday Nov. 10		
Wednesday Nov. 12		
Friday Nov. 14	EXAM 4	8:00 – 12:00
Monday Nov. 17	Personality	Ch. 12 (SciAm 82-89)
Wednesday Nov. 19		
Friday Nov. 21	Psychological Disorders	Ch. 13 (SciAm 90-95)
Monday Nov. 24		
Wednesday Nov. 26	Social Psychology	Ch. 15 (SciAm 96-103; 104-111)

Friday Nov. 28	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)	
Monday Dec. 1		
Wednesday Dec. 3		
Friday Dec. 5		
Tuesday Dec. 9	FINAL EXAM	8:00 – 12:00

*Please remember, this schedule is tentative and subject to change at the Instructors discretion.

Class Syllabus Acceptance Page

I have read the accompanying class syllabus. I have had all my questions relating to the syllabus (i.e., the class and class schedule) answered. I fully understand and am willing to follow all of the expectations, rules, and assignment dates associated with the class.

Printed Name

Signature

Date