

Introductory Psychology

Instructor: Todd C. Baird, Ph.D. **Contact:** Office - (626-7724) Cell - (920-4215)
Email- (tbaird@weber.edu) **Course Website:** <http://faculty.weber.edu/tbaird>
Office Hrs: M,W, F (9:00-10:00 a.m.) T, TH (11:15-12:00) or by appointment

Required Text: Wade, Carole & Tavris, Carol (2007). Psychology (9th Ed.), Upper Saddle River, New Jersey, Prentice Hall.

Aspects of the syllabus are subject to change. These will be announced in class if they occur.

Course Objectives:

1. Learn the basic theories associated with the science of psychology.
2. Gain an understanding of how psychologists have sought to better understand the human condition.
3. Think critically. Explore ideas while recognizing scientifically based information as opposed to folk psychology beliefs.
4. Apply psychological theories to basic problems within our environment.

Requirements:

1. Class Attendance and Participation.

Attendance will be taken at random during five class periods over the course of the semester. Each attendance will be worth 10 points. These attendance days have been predetermined and will be unannounced. A roll will be passed out in class and you will be asked to mark your attendance.

Each individual is invited and encouraged to participate in class discussions. Please do not either remain disconnected from discussions or monopolize class time. In order for you to participate and contribute effectively, please come to each lecture having read the associated materials in the text. You should come to class with at least one question about the material.

Mutual respect for each other is expected. With the advances in technology some students have spent class time on their laptops playing games or using their cell phone to text-message their friends. I have zero tolerance for this behavior and will invite you to leave the class should I observe any occurrence. Please turn off your phones as you come into class. If you have employment that requires you to be on-call please inform me of this so accommodations can be made. If a student continues to disrupt or disrespect others in the class he/she will be asked to withdraw from the course.

For issues related to student rights and responsibilities see the Student Rights and Responsibilities section on the Weber State University website <http://documents.weber.edu/ppm/6-22.htm>.

Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) is located in room 181 of the Student Service Center. Any student requiring accommodations for this course must contact SSD. The following link will provide you with contact information <http://weber.edu/ssd>.

2. **Research Participation.** An important part of taking an introduction to psychology class is to understand and experience how knowledge in psychology is acquired. Therefore, part of your grade will be based on research participation. You will need to complete 8 research credits. More detailed and specific information is contained in the research participation link associated with this course. Each credit is worth 10 points. Research participation must be completed one week *Before* the last day of class for the semester.

3. **Examinations.** The exams will be available in the Social Science Testing Center, Lampros Hall Testing Center, Ogden- West Testing Center and Davis Campus Testing Center. The calendar (below) provides you with the dates of the exams. You will note that each exam is open for 3 days. Do not wait until the last day to take the exam. Do not ask for an extension unless you can validate an emergency, death of a loved one, or a similar event in your life. If you plan on being away on school or personal business during an exam you must arrange with me to take the exam prior to your departure You are responsible for checking the hours of operation of the testing center for each exam date as they may vary. You may check the hours of operation by going to (<http://weber.edu/testingcenter.xml>). The exams consist of 50-70 multiple-choice questions. The majority of questions will be drawn from the text with the remaining coming from class lectures. The final exam is not comprehensive.

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. If you are involved in either of these behaviors you will be referred to appropriate Weber State University authorities. As a *minimal* consequence, you will receive 0 points on that assignment or exam. For more information on student ethics please go to <http://documents.weber.edu/ppm16-22.htm>.

Grading: Your grade will be based on a percentage of all points possible. The total points possible and grade assignments will be as follows:

Exam #1: 100 Points
Exam #2: 100 Points
Exam #3: 100 Points
Exam #4: 100 Points
Attend: 50 Points
Research: 80 Points
Total = 580 Points

To calculate your grade use the following formula:

$$\text{Percentage} = (\text{your total points}) / (\text{total points possible}) \times 100$$

94-100 % = A	73-76% = C
90-93 % = A-	70-72% = C-
87-89 % = B+	67-69% = D+
83-86 % = B	63-66% = D
80-82 % = B-	60-62% = D-
77-79 % = C+	Below 59 % F

Class Schedule. The dates below indicate the day we will begin each topic. For example, September 3rd we will begin discussing “How Psychologists do Research”. We will discuss this topic until September 10th when we will begin discussing “The Brain”. The assigned readings are indicated. Please read the chapters in advance.

Class Schedule	Topic of Discussion	Readings
August 25 th	Intro to Class / What is Psychology?	Chpt 1
September 3 rd	How Psychologists do Research	Chpt 2
September 10 th	The Brain: Source of Mind and Self	Chpt 4
September 17 th	Body Rhythms and Mental States	Chpt 5
Sept 22-24	<u>Take Exam #1 Testing Center</u>	
September 24 th	Sensation and Perception	Chpt 6
October 1 st	Learning and Conditioning	Chpt 7
October 8 th	Behavior in Social and Cultural Context	Chpt 8
October 15 th	Motivation	Chpt 12
Oct 20-22	<u>Take Exam #2 in Testing Center</u>	
October 22 nd	Theories of Personality	Chpt 13
October 29 th	Psychological Disorders	Chpt 16
November 5 th	Approaches to Treatment and Therapy	Chpt 17
November 12 th	Health, Stress, and Coping	Chpt 15
Nov 17-19	<u>Take Exam # 3 in Testing Center</u>	
November 21 st	Development over the Life Span	Chpt 14
November 25 th	Emotion	Chpt 11
November 28 th	Memory	Chpt 10
Dec 6-10	<u>Take Exam #4 in Testing Center</u>	