

**Psychology 1010: Introduction to Psychology**  
**Weber State University - Fall, 2008**  
**Syllabus and Course Outline**

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**Office Hours:** M-W-F: Noon to 12:30  
T-Th: 9:00 to 10:00

**SPECIAL NOTE TO THE STUDENT:**

Please note that this syllabus is a contract between you and the instructor of this course. Your decision to stay in this course is a statement that you are agreeing to abide by the policies described in this syllabus. If you don't agree with these policies, or you think that you cannot conduct yourself according to them, you are strongly encouraged to take this course from another professor.

**TEXTBOOK:**

**Required:** Myers. *Exploring Psychology*. 7<sup>th</sup> Edition

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this course is to provide a survey of the discipline of psychology. This course also may fulfill general education and/or lower division requirements.

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. **Knowledge of the Various Areas of Psychology**  
You will find that the field of psychology is diverse and constantly growing. It is expected that you will leave this course with a general knowledge of the field.
2. **Development of Critical Thinking Skills**  
The ability to think and evaluate incoming information critically is a highly valuable skill. There will be many opportunities over the course of this class to begin or continue developing this ability.
3. **Personal Development**  
Here is where we hope that the knowledge learned and critical thinking will carry over into your everyday life. It is difficult, if not impossible, for the principles learned in this course not to affect and enhance your daily functioning.

## GRADING:

All students have the potential to earn an "A" in this course. There is no effort by the instructor to grade according to a "bell curve." All students will be graded according to the following point system:

Modality	Point Value	Percent of Total Grade
Exam I	200	20
Exam II	200	20
Exam III	200	20
Exam IV	200	20
Research Participation	100	10
<u>10 Chapter Assignments</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>10</u>
Total	1000	100

A 920+, A- 900-919, B+ 880-899, B 820-879, B- 800-819, C+ 780-799, C 720-779, C- 700-719, D+ 680-699, D 620-679, D- 600-619, E 0-599

### Exams:

The exams will consist of multiple choice questions. They are not comprehensive, and will be designed to last approximately 50 minutes.

You will be able to access the exams on WSU's ChiTester system in any WSU Testing Center. Each exam will be available to you for at least 3 days. Your course outline will tell you when each exam is available. Please note that you will need to bring a picture ID (e.g. drivers license, WSU ID) and arrive at least 1 hour prior to closing time in order to be allowed to take the exam. It is your responsibility to make sure that you know the hours of operation for the WSU Testing Center you intend to use. Failure to follow these guidelines does not constitute a sufficient excuse to take an exam late without penalty.

Since you will be able to access the exams from any computer for 3 days each, late exams will result in a 20% penalty unless the circumstances are extremely dire and well-documented (e.g. a doctor's note). It will be your responsibility to contact me to discuss postponing an exam, and the exam **MUST** be completed within 2 days of the closing date or you will receive a zero. The decision to allow postponement of an exam or whether to impose a penalty is at the sole discretion of the instructor.

### **Chapter Assignments:**

Assignments for each chapter will be available on WebCT. Each assignment will be available from the beginning of the semester until the date noted on the course outline. You will have unlimited time to complete each assignment, and you can repeat each assignment as many times as you need to get the score you want. Like the exams, you will be able to access the assignments from any computer that has an internet connection. Since you will have so much time to complete the assignments, and since you have tremendous flexibility in terms of where you work on them, **late assignments will not be accepted.**

### **Research Participation**

Ten percent of your grade will be based on participating in research experiments conducted by psychology faculty and students. Your instructor will circulate a handout explaining the policy for this.

### **Extra Credit:**

Various extra credit opportunities may be offered throughout the course of the semester. Some may consist of psychologically related activities on campus or in the community. Your instructor will announce these opportunities in class. **Class attendance is necessary in order to hear of these opportunities!!!** Extra credit opportunities will be offered to the entire class only. Your instructor will **NOT** extend special opportunities for extra credit only to certain people. **Late extra credit assignments will not be accepted.**

### **MISCELLANEOUS:**

While every effort will be made to adhere to the course outline, all times, topics, and subjects covered will be at the professor's discretion and could change at any time. Advance notice will be given if a change is necessary.

From time to time, your instructor may need to be absent to participate in a professional conference. Please note that such participation is part of your instructor's job. If such an absence is necessary, you will be notified of it and any changes to the course schedule as soon as possible.

Your instructor uses the online gradebook through WebCT Vista. You are strongly encouraged to check your grades on a regular basis to ensure that you are properly receiving credit for your work. It is much easier to correct errors during the semester. If you notice an error, your instructor will be happy to correct it once you provide evidence of the mistake. Please keep everything your instructor returns to you.

Technology now makes it possible for your instructor to email the entire class at once. If I need to cancel a class because of illness, or if I need to make a last-minute announcement, I will email the class as a whole. I recommend that you check your WebCT email account on a regular basis to receive these announcements.

It is the instructor's expectation that the work you submit is in fact **your work**. Cheating on exams or plagiarizing work on papers or presentations will result in **immediate failure of the course**, as well as other possible disciplinary action. Plagiarism is representing the work of someone else as your own by taking sentences, paragraphs, or sections from other sources without using quotation marks or appropriate references. Please consult the instructor if you have any questions about appropriate referencing of material.

Appropriate classroom behavior is vital to a productive learning environment. Behaviors such as a) arriving late, b) leaving early, c) holding private conversations, d) sleeping, e) reading other material, f) playing games with or communicating via cell phone or PDA, or g) doing other work are very rude and distracting to the instructor and your peers. The same principle holds true for cell phones and pagers going off in class. **The instructor will intervene with such behaviors as appropriate. If they persist, offending students will be encouraged to drop the course.**

**Disability Notice:**

Any student needing accommodations or services due to a learning disability must contact the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 801-626-6413. The office is located in Room 181 of the Student Services Center.

## *COURSE OUTLINE*

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assigned Reading</b>
<b>Week 1</b>	8/26	Intro to Class/ History of Psychology	Ch1
	8/28	Research & Psychology	Ch1
<b>Week 2</b>	9/2	Developing through the Life Span	Ch4
	9/4	Developing through the Life Span	Ch4
<b>Week 3</b>	9/9	Developing through the Life Span	Ch4
	9/11	Developing through the Life Span Ch1A, 1B, and 4 Assignments Due	Ch4
<b>Week 4</b>	9/16	Exam I: 9/12-9/16 No Class Tuesday	
	9/18	Neuroscience and Behavior	Ch2
<b>Week 5</b>	9/23	Neuroscience and Behavior	Ch2
	9/25	Emotions, Stress, and Health	Ch11
<b>Week 6</b>	9/30	Emotions, Stress, and Health Ch2 and 11 Assignments Due	Ch11
	10/2	Exam II: 10/1-10/3 No Class Thursday	
<b>Week 7</b>	10/7	Learning	Ch7
	10/9	Learning	Ch7
<b>Week 8</b>	10/14	Learning	Ch7
	10/16	Thinking, Language, and Intelligence	Ch9
<b>Week 9</b>	10/21	Thinking, Language, and Intelligence Ch7 and 9 Assignments Due	Ch9
	10/23	Exam III: 10/22-10/24 No Class Thursday	
<b>Week 10</b>	10/28	Personality	Ch12
	10/30	Personality	Ch12

<b>Week 11</b>	11/4	Personality	Ch12
	11/6	Psychological Disorders	Ch13
<b>Week 12</b>	11/11	Psychological Disorders	Ch13
	11/13	Psychological Disorders	Ch13
<b>Week 13</b>	11/18	Psychological Disorders	Ch13
	11/20	Social Psychology	Ch15
<b>Week 14</b>	11/25	Social Psychology	Ch15
	11/27	Thanksgiving Holiday - No Class	
<b>Week 15</b>	12/2	Social Psychology	Ch15
	12/4	Social Psychology	Ch15
		Ch12, 13 & 15 Assignments Due	

**\*\*Exam IV: 12/4-12/9\*\***