

Weber State University
Introductory Psychology (PSYC 1010)
Spring 2009

Course Instructor:

Melissa Alder, Ph.D.

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Office phone: 626-6406 (Counseling & Psychological Services Center)

Office hours by appointment only

Course schedule:

Tuesday evenings, 5:30-8:20pm

5627 S 3500 W (Crossroads Plaza)
Roy, UT 84067

Required course text:

Myers, D. G. (2008). *Exploring Psychology* (7th Ed.). New York: Worth Publishers.

Course Introduction:

The purpose of this course is to provide you with an overview of the diverse and exciting field of psychology. Topics will include the history of psychology, psychological perspectives, critical thinking, research methods and statistics, human development, neuroscience and behavior, human diversity, sensation and perception, consciousness, learning and memory, thinking, language, intelligence, motivation, emotions and stress, personality, social psychology, psychological disorders and therapy, and careers within the field.

Academic Ethics:

All students are expected to observe the rights and responsibilities outlined in the WSU Student Code. Because an important part of being a college student is academic honesty, it

is the expectation in this course that you will complete all academic work without resorting to cheating, plagiarism, lying, and/or bribery. The WSU Student Code includes a more extensive list of prohibited behaviors; you should familiarize yourself with all aspects of the code. Students who commit infractions of the WSU Student Code will be dealt with according to procedures outlined in the code. Penalties could include receiving a failing grade for this course, being suspended from school, and the like. It is very important that you clearly understand this course expectation.

Any student requiring accommodations or services for a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities in the Student Service Center, room 181. This office can also arrange to provide materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats if necessary.

Attendance Policy:

It is my expectation that you will attend class; this is especially important since our class meets only once per week. You are allowed one unexcused absence for this course (more than one will affect your final course grade). Excused absences will be given for bona fide illness, death of an immediate family member, official religious holiday, etc. Please contact me as soon as possible for these special-circumstance situations.

I strongly recommend obtaining contact information from one or two classmates. In the event that you are not in class, you will be able to contact a classmate to find out what was missed. Please attempt to do this before contacting me about missed material.

Course Goals -By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- think critically about human behavior and mental processes
- become familiar with major psychological theories
- observe how psychological processes operate in everyday life and apply various psychological principles to problems in our environment
- discuss the scientific method and its importance to the study of behavior
- gain an understanding of how various forces (i.e. biology, cognition, emotions, social and cultural contexts) impact behavior
- be familiar with the technical vocabulary used in the field

Course Expectations:

Students are expected to complete assignments and read assigned material outside of class; it is important to complete assigned course readings before class in order to maximize our discussion time in class.

What follows is a list of my general course expectations; these will be discussed in more detail in class:

1. Writing and note-taking: Take notes during class sessions and complete writing assignments as indicated on course outline.
2. Oral communication: Participate in class discussions, both in small and large group settings.
3. Exams: You will have four non-cumulative exams.
4. Computer competency: If you haven't done so already, activate your Wildcat account. It is expected that you will use e-mail regularly. I may occasionally communicate with the class via e-mail about minor changes in the syllabus, etc. Due to FERPA regulations, I will only be able to communicate with you using your Weber State e-mail account. All written assignments in this course must be typed, computer edited (i.e. spell checked) and double-spaced.
5. Time management: Read the assigned material before the scheduled class session and complete the writing exercises that have been assigned. Course assignments must be completed on time; to do otherwise will jeopardize your course grade.

Class courtesy:

Please be courteous and respectful of others in the class. Try to avoid coming late or leaving early from class as much as possible; if there is a need for you to arrive late or leave early on a regular basis, please discuss this with me. Eating and drinking in class is allowed, as long as it is not disruptive to the learning environment. PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES AND PAGERS IN CLASS. Any disruptive behavior will be addressed immediately; if the behavior does not stop, you will be asked to leave class. Finally, no adult or child visitors are allowed in class without prior permission.

Assignments:

-Writing Assignments:

3 writing assignments, each focusing on different units from the course. Separate instruction pages and grading rubrics will be provided in class well in advance of the due date writing assignments. Each writing assignment should be typed and double spaced. Late assignments will not be accepted except under extreme circumstances (should be discussed with me prior to the assignment due date). Papers are due in class on the designated due date.

-Class Participation:

Includes being in class on-time, being prepared (have read assigned material), ready to participate in class discussion (and do so), and behave in a manner representative of an academic environment.

-Extra Credit Assignments:

These extra credit assignments are designed to provide an opportunity for you to boost your grade through applying concepts discussed in class to real-world examples. **These will count toward final grade only if all 4 tests and all 3 papers are completed.** Extra credit must be turned in on time to receive credit. For each extra credit assignment, identify and describe an example of course material presented in the popular media and/or your personal experience. These illustrations may come from a newspaper, popular magazine, website, academic journal, movie, television program, play, novel, or your personal experience. For each extra credit assignment, provide 1-2 page description of the psychological concept and how you saw it applied to your personal experience, popular media, etc. You may hand in up to 4 extra credit assignments by the deadline of April 21; assignments handed in earlier are accepted and appreciated!

Other Reading Assignments:

On occasion, additional articles will be provided on topics discussed in class. These articles will be assigned as early as possible, in order to ensure you have adequate time to complete the reading before class.

Exams:

There will be four non-comprehensive exams for this course. All exams will be taken at WSU testing centers designated by the instructor. Material covered on the exams include any information from class lectures discussions and activities. The format for each exam will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer items.

Make up exams are not permitted. It is your responsibility to take the exam during the period it is administered at the Testing Center. If you have a conflict with the exam schedule, you may take the exam early. In this case, please discuss your conflict with me so that we can make arrangements for you to take the exam early. Exams that are not taken by the end of the designated test period will result in a grade of 0 for that exam.

Grading:

Writing Assignments –3 papers (2 x 100 points; 1 x 200 points) = 400 possible points

Exams – 100 points each x 4 exams = 400 possible points

Class participation – 200 possible points

(Extra credit – 10 points each x up to 4 assignments = up to 40 possible points)

Total points possible (all assignments & exams) = 1000 points

A 951-1000	B+ 867-899	B- 800-832	C 733-766	D+ 667-699	D- 600-632
A- 900-950	B 833-866	C+ 767-799	C- 700-732	D 633-660	E 599 or less

Course outline:

Week	Date	Topic(s)	Reading(s)	Assignment(s) Due/Exams
1	January 6	Course Overview & Expectations; Introduction, History of Psychology & Psychological Perspectives	-	
2	January 13	Critical Thinking in Psychology	Ch 1	
3	January 20	Research Methods & Statistics in Psychology	Appendix A	
4	January 27	Development of a Person	Ch 4	
5	February 3	Neuroscience & Behavior	Ch 2	EXAM 1 (weeks 1-4; open 2/2-2/6)
6	February 10	Nature, Nurture & Human Diversity	Ch 3	PAPER 1
7	February 17	Sensation & Perception	Ch 5	
8	February 24	States of Consciousness	Ch 6	
9	March 3	Learning	Ch 7	EXAM 2 (weeks 5-8; open 3/2-3/6)
10	March 10 ***NO CLASS THIS WEEK – SPRING BREAK***			
11	March 17	Memory	Ch 8	PAPER 2
12	March 24	Thinking, Language & Intelligence; Motivation	Ch 9 & 10	
13	March 31	Emotions, Stress & Health	Ch 11	

14	April 7	Personality	Ch 12	EXAM 3 (weeks 9-13; open 4/6- 4/10)
15	April 14	Social Psychology	Ch 15	
16	April 21	Psychological Disorders; Therapy; Careers in Psychology	Ch 13 & 14	PAPER 3 *ALL EXTRA CREDIT DUE
Exam				EXAM 4 (weeks 14-16; open 4/27- 4/30)