

**Psychology 1010: Introduction to Psychology**  
**Weber State University - Summer, 2010**  
**Syllabus and Course Outline**

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**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:**

Myers' Exploring Psychology, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition with PsychPortal Access

*\*\*PsychPortal access is essential for passing the course.*

**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:**

**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.

**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.

**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:

<u>Modality</u>	<u>Point Value</u>	<u>Percent of Total Grade</u>
Exam I	150	15
Exam II	150	15
Exam III	150	15

Exam IV	150	15
2 Response Papers	100	10
<u>9 Chapter Assignments</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>30</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 can find the deadline for each exam under the Course Assignments tab.

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 from the beginning of the term until the date noted on the Assignment Center. 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 for several 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.

### **Response Papers:**

Your instructor wants you to notice psychology in your daily lives, as well as for you to flex your writing muscles. The deadline for each response paper will be stated under the Course Assignments tab. You will notice that we will have discussed several topics/chapters prior to each deadline. I would like you to describe an experience or situation. Some examples include, but are not limited to, a movie that has psychological issues in it (e.g. A Beautiful Mind, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest), good or bad examples of parenting, or a an experience with brain injury or mental illness. If you aren't sure of what to write about, feel free to ask me for guidance. Next, you should discuss how a section in at least one of the one of the chapters connects to what you experienced.

This is NOT a research paper, so I won't expect references or a certain format. The finished product should be 2-3 double-spaced pages, and it MUST be submitted via PsychPortal email.

### **Chapter Assignments:**

Assignments for each chapter will be available on PsychPortal and due on the dates noted under the Course Assignments tab.. Each assignment will be available from the beginning of the semester until the deadline. 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. 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.

### **Extra Credit:**

Various extra credit opportunities may be offered throughout the semester. These 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 to people on an individualized basis. The deadline for extra credit assignments can be found on your course outline. 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 PsychPortal. 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, as this will be the only proof you have that you completed an assignment.

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 PsychPortal 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.