

## SYLLABUS

**Title:** Introduction to Psychology  
**Course:** Psychology 1010  
**Instructor:** Doug R. Richards, Ph.D.  
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**Year:** Summer Semester 2012  
**Phone:** (801) 822-2289  
**Room:** Hurst Center 014; West Center – Roy – 102 (by video)  
**Times:** Wednesday 5:30-8:10 pm  
**Office Hour:** By appointment  
**Office:** Adjunct Faculty Office Behavioral & Social Science 380E (Weber campus)

**Required Text:** Exploring Psychology (8<sup>th</sup> edition) David G. Myers

### Course Objectives

#### *Objective 1: Knowledge.*

Students will understand psychology as a scientific discipline. Essential to this, students will understand a core set of statistical and methodological knowledge regarding how psychologists critically evaluate, creatively test, and scientifically defend psychological claims. They will also understand a core set of content knowledge addressing the biological, cognitive/behavioral, social/personality, and developmental aspects of behavior.

#### *Class Requirement*

Students will show their knowledge with two mid-term exams and a final.

#### Objective 2: Application

Students will be able to critically apply psychological principles and research to society (e.g., to explain social issues, inform public policy, and/or solve social problems) understand themselves, and achieve career goals.

#### *Class Requirement*

Students will show their ability to apply knowledge with the in-class assignments.

#### Objective 3: Inter-personal Relations and Communication

Students will exhibit skills to professionally communicate their understanding of terms, concepts, research, and theories of the discipline to others via written and oral formats. Students will also have interpersonal skills necessary to effectively collaborative in groups with others who hold diverse opinions, beliefs, and attitudes.

*Class Requirement*

Students will show their mastery of communication skills by preparing a slide presentation on a chosen topic.

**Objective 4: Values/Ethics**

Students will share key beliefs, attitudes, and values adopted by scientific psychologists, which include (but are not limited to) skepticism and intellectual curiosity, respect for evidence, tolerance of ambiguity, respect for human diversity, and humility regarding the limits of their psychological knowledge and skills. Students will also grasp the spirit of the APA Code of Ethics, follow its guidelines, and recognize the necessity of ethical behavior in all aspects of the science and practice of psychology.

*Class Requirement*

Students will show mastery by doing in-class assignments and class participation.

*Class Schedule*

<b>Class Date</b>	<b>Chapter Title/Topic</b>	<b>Reading/Due Dates</b>
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	Intro & Thinking Critically with Psychological Science	Chapter 1
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	The Biology of Mind	Chapter 2
May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Consciousness	Chapter 3
May 30 <sup>th</sup>	Nature and Nurture	Chapter 4
June 6 <sup>th</sup>	Developing Through the Life-Span	Chapter 5

**JUN 8<sup>th</sup> – JUN 12<sup>th</sup> First Exam in the Testing Centers** (*Chapters 1-5 using Chi-Tester*)

Jun 13 <sup>th</sup>	Sensation & Perception	Chapter 6
Jun 20 <sup>th</sup>	Learning	Chapter 7
Jun 27 <sup>th</sup>	Memory	Chapter 8
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	Thinking, Language & Intelligence	Chapter 9
July 18 <sup>th</sup>	Emotions, Stress and Health	Chapter 11

**JULY 20<sup>th</sup> – JULY 23<sup>rd</sup> Second Exam in the Testing Centers** (*Chapters 6-9, 11 using Chi-Tester*)

July 25 <sup>th</sup>	Personality	Chapter 12
August 1 <sup>st</sup>	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 13
August 8 <sup>th</sup>	Therapy	Chapter 14

**AUGUST 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> FINAL EXAMINATION** (Chapters 12-14 using Chi-Tester) in the Testing Centers

**Examinations:** This course will consist of three examinations (including the Final examination). The tests will all be of the same format and will come from lecture material, videos and material covered in the text. A study guide will be provided to help focus your study in preparation for the exam (but it does not cover all questions). An exam will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions (100 points). As you can see from the schedule, the final examination will **not** be comprehensive (on purpose anyway, sometimes material tends to build on itself). The tests will be administered through Chi-Tester ([chitester.weber.edu](http://chitester.weber.edu)) at the various Weber State University Testing Centers; namely, the Student Services Testing Center (room 262), Social and Behavioral Science Testing Center (SS building – room 38), Science Lab building (room 228), Shepard Union Building (room 323). The West Center has a testing facility as well as Davis campus. Make sure to **check** the specific hours. **EXAMS CANNOT BE MADE UP.**

**In Class Assignments/Quizzes:** This course will also have in class assignments which will be worth 6 pts each for a total of 78 points approximately. These assignments **CANNOT** be made up regardless of excuse.

**Presentations:** You will be required to prepare one presentation using power-point (.ppt or .pptx) on a relevant topic (100 pts). One of the most effective ways to learn something is to prepare a meaningful presentation. The presentation will be on an individual basis. Choose a topic that is related to one of our chapters. Be very **specific** with your subject. For example, if you choose the chapter on psychological disorders, choose a topic such as PTSD in children or dissociative disorders etc. It **doesn't** need to be in the chapter but should at least be **related** to the chapter that you have chosen. I will **SUBTRACT** points if the presentation merely summarizes the chapter present in the book. Please be creative, don't hesitate to use personal experience as well. The minimum number of slides should be 30. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask me beforehand. Please turn the presentation on or before **August 1<sup>st</sup>**. If you turn the presentation in early enough you may be able to improve the grade received with a suitable revision (last day for that option is **July 11<sup>th</sup>**). E-mail the presentation to my e-mail account at [dougrichards@weber.edu](mailto:dougrichards@weber.edu) or [doug\\_r\\_richards@hotmail.com](mailto:doug_r_richards@hotmail.com). The hotmail account may be more reliable.

I will grade the presentations as follows:

Organization	20 pts.
Knowledge of the subject	15 pts.
Specific topic chosen (related to chapter)	5 pts.
Research (psychological or scientific studies)	20 pts.
Good use of illustrations, pictures or animation	10 pts.
Has a point of view	5 pts.
Creativity	15 pts.
Statements made are clearly supported	10 pts.
Simply summarizes entire chapter	-5 pts.

**Grading:** The most strict performance standards that I will use (may be modified down according to class performance)

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

**Note:** Attendance and persistence in the class is always rewarded despite scores.

**Point Totals:**

<b>First Exam (JUN 8<sup>th</sup> – JUN 12<sup>th</sup>)</b>	100 points
<b>Second Exam: (JULY 20<sup>th</sup> – JULY 23<sup>rd</sup>)</b>	100 points
<b>Final Exam: (AUGUST 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>)</b>	100 points
<b>Presentation (AUGUST 1<sup>st</sup>)</b>	100 points
<b>In-Class Assignments (every class)</b>	78 points

**Total points possible** 478 points

Power-points will be made available on WSU online - Canvas under Files. This syllabus will also be made available there.

**Academic Honesty:** as members of the Weber State University academic community, students shall:

1. Maintain academic standards including institutional, school, departmental, program, and individual course standards;
2. Maintain academic ethics and honesty. To this end, the following activities are specifically prohibited:
  - a. Cheating, which includes but is not limited to:
    - i) Copying from another student's test;
    - ii) Using materials during a test not authorized by the person giving the test;

- iii) Collaborating with any other person during a test without authorization;
  - iv) Knowingly obtaining, using, buying, selling, transporting, or soliciting in whole or in part the contents of any test without authorization of the appropriate University official
    - v) Bribing any other person to obtain any test;
  - vi) Soliciting or receiving unauthorized information about any test;
  - vii) Substituting for another student or permitting any other person to substitute for oneself to take a test.
- b. Plagiarism, which is the unacknowledged (uncited) use of any other person's or group's ideas or work. This includes purchased or borrowed papers;
  - c. Collusion, which is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit;
  - d. Falsification, which is the intentional and unauthorized altering or inventing of any information or citation in an academic exercise, activity, or record-keeping process;
  - e. Giving, selling, or receiving unauthorized course or test information;
  - f. Using any unauthorized resource or aid in the preparation or completion of any course work, exercise, or activity;
  - g. Infringing on the copyright law of the United States which prohibits the making of reproductions of copyrighted material except under certain specified conditions.

**Cheating infractions:**

1. The first infraction shall result in a score of 0 (zero) points for the particular test, paper, presentation, activity etc.
2. The second infraction shall result in a failing grade (E) for the course.

**Disclaimer:** I reserve the right to make changes in a) course schedule, b) course requirements, c) course grading procedures, and/or d) any other aspects of the course at any time. Any alterations will be circumspect and will be made in the best interests of the students, the course, and the instructor.