

**INTRODUCTORY PSYCHOLOGY, PSY 101, Fall 2009
SYLLABUS AND COURSE OUTLINE**

Tuesday & Thursday from 2:00-3:15 p.m. GMCS 333

**Instructor: Dr. Joseph M. Price, Professor
Department of Psychology, SDSU**

Teaching Assistants: Carly Hennessy and Kristine Rezny

I. Course Description: The focus of this course will be on: (a) major theoretical perspectives guiding current research in psychology; (b) methods of data collection and research designs used in psychological research; (c) review of recent empirical findings within the major branches of psychology; and (d) various applications of psychological theory and research.

II. Objectives: Generally, the goal of this course is to develop student understanding of theoretical perspectives of psychology, research methodology, and findings from recent empirical research. Specifically, at the completion of the course, the student will: (1) demonstrate knowledge of major theoretical perspectives within psychology by identifying principles and concepts cited on exams; (2) demonstrate knowledge of research methodology by identifying major designs and design issues cited on exams, and (3) demonstrate knowledge of the empirical research across various domains of psychology summarized in lectures and required readings by identifying recent findings cited on exams.

III. Textbook (Required):

Myers, D. G. (2007). *Psychology, 8th Edition in Modules*. New York: Worth Publishers.

IV. Course Requirements:

- A. Reading Assignments as specified on course schedule.
- B. Examinations as scheduled (4). For each exam approximately 50% of the questions will come from the text readings and 50% from the lecture material. **All lecture and assigned text material is required for reading and review. Therefore, all assigned material will be considered for evaluation (testing).**
- C. Research Participation Hours. *Students enrolled in Psychology 101 will be required to take part in **five hours** (credits) of psychological research, OR write two research reports, OR some combination of the two. Any combination of participation and abstracts that equals 5 or more credits is acceptable. You will be responsible for keeping track of your own participation credits. The research participation hours and/or papers are due Dec. 11th.*

V. Attendance: Although attendance will not be taken in this course, students are expected to attend every lecture. It will be impossible to receive a passing grade in this course without understanding *and knowing* the material presented **both** in the text and during the lectures.

VI. Grading Procedures and Policy

A. **Examinations: 4 (70 points each).**

1. Exam content. Exams will include questions related to material from the text, classroom lectures/presentations, video presentations, and supplemental reading and viewing assignments. The format for exam questions will primarily be multiple-choice, but may include, may include fill-in, and short answer questions.
2. Scaling for each exam and the final grade. There is no curving.

A (93.3%)	A - (90.0%)	B+ (86.6%)	B (83.3%)
B - (80.0%)	C+ (76.6%)	C (73.3%)	C - (70.0%)
D+ (66.6%)	D (63.3%)	D - (60.0%)	F (59.9% or less)
3. Exam Policy: You must take the exam at the date and time that is scheduled. So, schedule your end-of-the semester plans accordingly. Missing an exam because you got the date, time or place wrong is **not** an acceptable excuse. *(Make-up exams are considered only in cases of illness or family emergency, and are allowed only on a case-by-case basis. Conflicts with travel plans will not be considered for make-up exams.)*
4. SCANTRON: RED SCANTRON FORM NO. **F-288-ERI-L** (STUDENT ENROLLMENT SHEET) IS REQUIRED FOR THE FIRST EXAM, AND FORM NO. **F-289-ERI -L** (TEST FORM) IS REQUIRED ON EXAMS 2, 3, & 4.
5. Cheating: In the event an individual is caught cheating on an exam, the individual will receive 0 points for that particular exam. In addition, for all subsequent exams the individual will be proctored by the instructor at a time and place determined by the instructor (e.g., 7:00 a.m. in the instructor's office). Finally, the individual will also be referred to the University Student Affairs Office for disciplinary action.
6. Challenges to an Exam Grade or Question: All challenges to an exam grade or to the correctness of an answer to a particular exam question must be put *in writing*. You must support your challenge with empirical evidence. For example, citing the paragraph and page number in the text for an alternative answer is acceptable. However, citing an example from your own life experience is **not** acceptable. Everyone is being tested over the same material presented in the lectures, film presentations, and the text. Therefore, personal experiences are not considered as a valid source of reference.

B. **Extra Credit:** There will be 5 extra credit questions on each of the four exams. For Exam 1, extra credit questions will cover material from the Course Syllabus and Course Requirements for Research Participation. For Exams 2, 3, & 4, extra credit questions will cover material from the previous exam. ***No other methods or procedures will be provided for receiving extra credit in this course.***

C. **Research Participation:** Students enrolled in Psychology 101 are required to take part in 5 hours (credits) of psychological research OR write two research reports of articles from current American Psychological Association (APA) journals. Each summary is worth 2.5 credits. Students who **do not fulfill** the requirement will be given a grade of "I"

(incomplete) for the course. The “I” grade will be removed when the student completes the participation requirement in the following session or semester. Students have one year to complete the requirement before the “I” grade lapses into an “F.” Students who drop the course may not carry over their experimental credits to the semester in which they re-enroll. Exception: Students who earn a grade of “D” or “F” will not have their grades withheld for failure to complete the requirement.

- D. **Final Grades:** Final grades will be based on the sum of the four exam scores (280 possible) and the extra credit points you earn (20 possible). Final grades will be calculated on 280 points. However, with the extra credit points, it is possible to receive a total of 300 points.

VII. Classroom Courtesy:

Cell Phone Use. Out of courtesy to your instructor and your fellow classmates, please switch your cell phone to “off” or “silent” mode when class is in session. If you need to answer a call (such as in an emergency), please exit the classroom before answering. Cell phones must be “put away” with other personnel items during exams.

Conversations During Class: Questions during class and participation in class discussions are strongly encouraged. *However, out of courtesy and respect for your fellow classmates, please refrain from personal conversations during lectures, class discussions, films, and exams.*

VIII. Office Hours: By appointment. My office is located at 6363 Alvarado Ct., Suite 103, Room 6. Directions: From the corner of College Ave. and Alvarado Rd. (close to I-8), take Alvarado Rd. east to Alvarado Ct. This will be the first street you come to on the right. On Alvarado Ct., the first building on the right is 6363. Enter the front of the building and proceed to the right to Suite 103. Tell the receptionist that you have an appointment to meet with me. My office phone number is: 594-5241. My email address is: jprice@sunstroke.sdsu.edu. Both T.A.s will maintain office hours two days per week.

IX. Course Outline

Date	Topic	Module Reading Assignment
Sept. 1	So, what is Psychology?	1
Sept. 3	How we learn about human behavior: The Scientific Method	2 & 3
Sept. 8		
Sept. 10	Understanding the link between the brain and behavior	4
Sept. 15		5
Sept. 17	Understanding how the brain interprets environmental experiences	12
Sept. 22		16, 17
Sept. 24	Unit Exam #1	
Sept. 29	Understanding states of consciousness	18, 19
Oct. 1		20
Oct. 6	Learning processes	21

Oct. 8		22 & 23
Oct. 13	Memory	24, 25, & 26
Oct. 15	Memory	27 & 28
Oct. 20	Unit Exam #2	
Oct. 22	Understanding intelligence	29, 31 32
Oct. 27	Understanding genetic and environmental Influences	33, 6 & 7
Oct. 29		
Nov. 3	Understanding emotion	38, 39, 40
Nov. 5	The nature of personality	44 & 45
Nov. 10		46
Nov. 12		
Nov. 17	Unit Exam #3	
Nov. 19	Understanding psychopathology	47, 52, 53, & 54
Nov. 24	Understanding psychopathology	48 & 50
Nov. 25 – 27	Thanksgiving Break (No Class on 26th)	
Dec. 1	Understanding psychopathology.	49 & 51
Dec. 3	Understanding social behavior	55 & 57
Dec. 8	Understanding social behavior	56
Dec. 10	Understanding social behavior	58
Dec. 15	Unit Exam #4 (Final Exam) (Room: GMCS 333)	1:00 – 3:00 p.m.