

Psychology 100 (005)
Basic Concepts in Psychology
Fall 2006–Jennifer M. Levitas, Ph.D.

Class Meetings: Thursdays, 4:30-7:10

Class Location: Enterprise, room 80

E-mail: gofossil@comcast.net

Office Hours: Thursdays, 7:10-8:10

Phone: 571.435.7193

Note: E-mail is the best way to get in touch with me. I check my e-mail messages frequently, so please use this medium of communication whenever possible.

Textbooks and Supplies:

Required Text: Invitation to Psychology, 3rd edition by Carole Wade and Carol Tavris. Specific reading assignments are listed in the accompanying course outline. Please read the assigned reading BEFORE that topic is covered in class. Expect to read everything more than once!

Strongly Recommended: Study Guide to accompany Invitation to Psychology, 3rd edition. Bring green or blue scantron sheets, #2 pencils, and an eraser to all exams.

Grading Scale:

92-100% = A 87-89% = B+ 77-79% = C+

90-91% = A- 83-86% = B 70-76% = C

80-82% = B- 60-69% = D

Course Objectives:

Welcome to Introduction to Psychology! This course provides an overview of the major areas in the field of psychology. As a survey course, we will cover many diverse areas within the field. The following areas will be emphasized: major models in psychology, major principles of memory applicable to learning of psychology, research methods used in psychology, social psychology, the organization of the human brain and the biological bases of behavior, principles of learning, major theories of personality development, stress and its effects on health, intelligence, development in infancy and childhood, and psychological disorders. Upon completion of the course, you should be able to identify the major theories, terminology, principles, processes, and methods in the above areas.

Course Structure: This is a predominantly lecture-based class, liberally interspersed with class activities.

Course Requirements:

- Completion of four (4) out of five (5) exams
- Activities: both in-class and take-home
- “Looking Back” questions
- Participation in five (5) hours of research experiments

EXAMS

There will be five exams: four exams and one cumulative final exam. All exams will be in a multiple-choice format and will contain 50 questions. There will be **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS**, but the lowest exam grade will be dropped. If you miss one exam for any reason, that is the exam that will be dropped. No exceptions!

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES

There will be some short in-class activities. There will be no makeups for these activities, so if you miss the class, you will receive a zero on the activity that day. There may be some take-home activities as well. These will be assigned in one class and turned in the next. Late assignments will not be accepted.

“LOOKING BACK” QUESTIONS

At the end of each chapter, there are a series of questions. You need to answer all of the questions and turn them in at the appropriate time as indicated on the following page. You must type each question in the text **in bold** and then answer each question in regular type. You will receive a grade of 0, ½, or 1 for each report. Handwritten reports will not be accepted. There are eleven chapters assigned, but you need only turn in 10 sets of questions. Two sets of make-up questions will be allowed and turned in at the final exam.

RESEARCH EXPERIMENTS

You must participate in five (5) hours of research experiments. Failure to do so will result in a deduction from your final grade of 2 points per hour not completed. Please be on time to class the second week (9/7) because a person from Experimentrix will be discussing how to go about signing up for these research hours.

BREAKDOWN OF GRADING

Exams: 80% of your grade (each of your four highest exam grades is worth 20%)

In-class and take-home activities: 10% of your grade

“Looking Back” Questions: 10% of your grade (one point per end of chapter question set)

To figure out your final grade, use the following formula:

(use your four highest exam grades)

Exam #1 x .20 = ??

Exam #2 x .20 = ??

Exam #3 x .20 = ??

Exam #4 x .20 = ??

Activities completed = ?? (I will give you this number at the end of the semester)

“Looking Back” Questions scores (added up) = ??

Add up all the ??’s, and you have your final grade.

CHEATING/PLAGIARISM POLICY

Any form of cheating will not be tolerated. Cheating includes any attempt to defraud, deceive, or mislead the instructor in arriving at an honest grade assessment. Plagiarism is a form of cheating

that involves presenting as one's own the ideas or work of another. Violation of this policy may result in a grade of "F" in the course. Any violations of the Honor Code will be promptly reported to the Honor Committee.

Important Dates

Last day to add—Sept 12

Last day to drop—Sept 29

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

NOTE: The calendar and assignments that follow are BEST ESTIMATES. It is the STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY to keep up to date with any schedule changes regarding reading assignments and exams.

Calendar and Assignments

NOTE: The "Looking Back" questions are due *the date that the chapter is being discussed*. For example, Chapter 3 questions are due 9/14. The only exception to this is that Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 looking back questions are both due 9/7.

Date	Topic	Chapter
8/31	What is Psychology?	1
9/7	Theories of Personality	2
9/14	Begin Development over the Life-Span	3
9/21	Exam #1 (Chapters 1 and 2)	
9/28	Neurons, Hormones, and the Brain	4
10/5	Consciousness: Body Rhythms and Mental States	5
10/12	Exam #2 (Chapters 3 and 4)	
10/19	Sensation and Perception	6
10/26	Thinking and Intelligence	7
11/2	Exam #3 (Chapters 5, 6 and 7)	

11/9	Memory	8
11/16	Learning	9
11/23	No class! Thanksgiving break.	
11/30	Exam #4 (Chapters 8 and 9)	
12/7	Behavior in Social and Cultural Context	10
	Psychological Disorders	11
12/14	FINAL EXAM (cumulative) If you missed turning in some “Looking Back” questions earlier in the semester, you may turn in up to two (2) chapters of questions on the day of the final. The chapters you may choose from are chapters 12, 13, and 14.	