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PSYX 100S.50: Introduction to Psychology Online

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Syllabus: Psychology 100 Online
Introduction to Psychology (PSYX 100, Section 50)
Fall Semester 2013

<p>Instructor: Lia Harrington Office: Skaggs 368 Office Hours: By appointment/TBA Email: lia.harrington@umontana.edu Please note that my policy is to respond to emails within 24 hours.</p>	<p>Required Textbook: Psychology Themes and Variation, by Wayne Weiten, 9th Edition</p>
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Course Description

Introduction to Psychology is a survey course of various subfields, theories, and experiments central to historical and modern psychology.

Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate familiarity with basic concepts, theories, and subfields in psychology.
2. General understanding of well-known psychology experiments and their methods.
3. Strengthen ability to compose and critique written discussions.
4. Integrate materials covered in class/text with real world examples.

Office Hours

Although this is an online course, please do not hesitate to come talk to me in office hours! I will post my office hours by the second week of classes. However, do not feel constrained by these times. If you would like to meet me, please email me 3 dates and times that are best for you and I'll try to make one of them work for me. If you cannot meet me in person, email is another great option. I will generally try to respond to emails within 24 hours. However, please keep in mind that unexpected events can happen and I may occasionally be slow. Additionally, I am unlikely to respond as quickly on weekends as I would normally on weekdays.

Textbook Readings

Reading the text is essential for gaining both a surface and more in-depth grasp of the material. I strongly suggest you read the assigned text before watching the lectures as this helps the lecture material sink in more. The assigned readings are indicated on the attached course schedule.

Course Assignments & Grading Criteria

Assignments for this class include online lectures, weekly quizzes, midterm exam, discussions and a 3-4 page final reflection paper.

Quizzes

The week 1 quiz is comprised of 5 multiple-choice (1 point each) and 1 short essay question (2 points) and is worth 7 points total. For the remainder of the weeks, the weekly quiz is comprised of 15 multiple-choice (1 point each) and 5 True/False items (1 point each) and 1 short essay (5 points) question and is worth 25 points. This assignment tests your knowledge of the reading material for the current week. Quizzes will be made available on Sunday nights at 10pm and will close Fridays at 5 pm. You are only allowed one attempt for each quiz so please read the assigned readings before attempting to complete the quizzes. For all quizzes you will be given 30 minutes to answer the multiple-choice and True/False questions. You have unlimited time for the short essay question. However, the suggested time limit is 15-20 minutes. Quizzes are worth 25% of your total grade.

Discussions

Each week there will be two graded discussions each worth 15 points (30 points total). The first week there will only be one discussion worth 15 points. The first discussion is designed to help students become familiar with their peers in this class. After the first week, the discussions will focus on psychology topics and themes relevant to the assigned chapter. There will be no discussions during Thanksgiving week. Enjoy Turkey Day!!! Discussions are worth 25% of your total grade.

Doing well on the Discussion Board assignment requires consistent and detailed participation each week and is the participation and essay portion of the course. Grades are based on (1) attendance and (2) quality of your posts and do not include any posts made in the "Q & A" or "Welcome" Discussions. Full credit requires high quality and maximum frequency posts. The two charts below explain how your discussion posts are graded.

Once the number of days is calculated, students are then graded based on their contributions to the discussion. The following points are deducted, not added, from the points earned above, to yield a final weekly "attendance" score. (Students cannot earn negative points. The lowest score is a zero.) Everyone starts out with 30 points. Points are then deducted to reflect discussion question (DQ) quality and frequency.

Students must make a post to EACH DQ in the weekly discussion forum. DQ#1 is due by Wednesday 11:59pm and DQ#2 is due by Friday 11:59pm. I will make both discussions for the week available to you on Sunday nights at 10pm. You must answer both questions to obtain full credit.	2 DQ's	0 pts lost
	1 DQ	15 pts lost
	0 DQ's	30 pts lost
	Each day late	5 pts lost
Students must post (respond) to <u>2 of their peers</u> . This promotes student engagement with each other, rather than just responding to the DQ's posted by the instructor. In any given week, students must respond to a peer for DQ#1 and a different peer for DQ#2.	2 peers	0 pts lost
	1 peers	10 pt lost
	0 peers	15 pts lost

Once I have calculated your final weekly “attendance” score, then I grade the quality of your posts, as explained below. Again, the following points are deducted, not added, from the final weekly “attendance” score, to yield a final weekly “Discussion” score. (Students cannot earn negative points. The lowest score is a zero.)

<u>QUALITY GRADING</u>		
Students must to make detailed and thoughtful posts that reflect an appropriate application of emerging knowledge and vocabulary in the topic area. Each post must add value to the discussion and be related to the required readings for the week. Below are additional details of how I grade the quality of your posts.	Superior	0 pts lost
	Above Average	3 pts lost
	Average	6 pts lost
	Below Average	9 pts lost
	Unacceptable	15 pts lost

Superior: Your contributions demonstrate a complete mastery of the materials assigned. Your responses might integrate multiple views and/or show strong analysis and reflection on topics and other student’s posts. You provide evidence that you are reading the assigned materials and other student postings and are responding accordingly, bringing out interesting interpretations. You know the facts and are able to analyze them, apply them to real life scenarios and handle conceptual ideas. It is highly unlikely that you could get full credit in less than two paragraphs.

Above Average: Your responses build on the ideas of other participants and dig deeper into assignment questions or issues. When you make intelligent posts during the week, including some good critique of the course material, then you have demonstrated you have an understanding of the material, are reading posts of your colleagues, and are contributing to the class. Your posts demonstrate confidence with the materials, but may be just a bit off target in one area or another.

Average: You have meaningful interaction with other participants' postings. Posts that state, “I agree” or “I disagree” and include a detailed explanation of what is disagreed or agreed upon and why, or

introduce a perspective or concept that adds to the discussion. However, you may have rambling, lengthy posts with no clear point, your writing has a lack of clarity and comprehension, or there are considerable typos and grammatical errors.

Below Average: You answer questions asked by me or other students but do not expand upon your response or you answer questions based only on your opinion, rather than on research or proper evidence. Your posts are unusually short (one paragraph or less) and you fail to demonstrate a clear working knowledge of the material covered for the week.

Unacceptable: You will receive little credit in the week's discussion by just showing up and making trivial comments, without adding any new thought to the discussion. At the low end of the spectrum, no participation gets a "0." If you are not in the discussion, you do not earn any points. Comments such as "I agree" or other one-sentence responses will result in zero points. Copying and pasting from a website without providing your own substantial insight is also an unacceptable post- even if you have properly cited your sources. This assignment is an assessment of your understanding of the information covered in this class. Copying and pasting from websites does not demonstrate a working knowledge of the material.

Special Note: I check very carefully for plagiarism in the discussion posts. If you have plagiarized, you will get a zero for the entire assignment. If you plagiarize a second time, you will fail the course. If you engage in flaming behavior in the posts, you will get a zero for the entire assignment.

Midterm

The midterm exam will only include material covered previously by the text or online resources. You will be given 120 minutes to complete the exam. Please do not wait until the last minute to submit the exam because you will be unable to submit it once time expires. All exams submitted after the exam duration will be graded a zero (0). Please plan accordingly. The midterm is worth 30% of your total grade.

Final Reflection Paper

Please prepare a 3-4 page paper about 2-3 main psychological concepts/themes/experiments covered in this course that you found interesting. Remember to back up your opinions with support from the textbook or online materials. Please keep all references strictly to material used in this course (i.e. you don't need to do extra research). Use of the first person "I" is permissible. Please use APA citation format. Further information, including a grading rubric, will be given closer to finals period. The final paper is worth 20% of your total grade.

Course Grading:

Your final grade for the course will consist of scores on weekly quizzes, discussion posts, midterm, and a final reflection paper. *****Note:** I round up when grading. (79.5 -->80 B)

The following chart shows the percent weight of each assignment for your total grade.

Assignment	Percentage
Quizzes	25%
Discussion	25%
Midterm	30%
Final Paper	20%

The following chart shows the Grade scale for the Final Course grade.

Final Course Grade	Percentage
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	<60%

Course Calendar
 (**Subject to change**)

Week	Dates	Topic/Book Chpt.	Assignment
1	8/26-8/30	1: The Evolution of Psychology	Quiz, Discussion
2	9/2-9/6	2: The Research Enterprise in Psychology	Quiz, Discussion
3	9/9-9/13	3: The Biological Bases of Behavior	Quiz, Discussion
4	9/16-9/20	4: Sensation and Perception	Quiz, Discussion
5	9/23-9/27	5: Variation in Consciousness	Quiz, Discussion
6	9/30-10/4	6: Learning	Quiz, Discussion
7	10/7-10/11	**MIDTERM**	**MIDTERM**
8	10/14-10/18	7: Human Memory	Quiz, Discussion
9	10/21-10/25	8: Language and Thoughts	Quiz, Discussion
10	10/28-11/1	10: Motivation and Emotion	Quiz, Discussion
11	11/4-11/8	11: Human Development Across the Life Span	Quiz, Discussion
12	11/11-11/15	12: Personality	Quiz, Discussion
13	11/18-11/22	13: The Social Behavior	Quiz, Discussion
14	11/25-11/29	15: Psychological Disorders	Quiz only
15	12/2-12/6	16: Treatment of psychological Disorders	Quiz, Discussion
16 (FINALS)	12/9-12/13	FINAL PAPER	FINAL PAPER

Course Policies

Announcements

Students are responsible for all announcements made in class. These may include changes in policy, due dates, or assignment requirements. Announcements are posted in the announcements section of the course or are directly emailed to the students.

Technology Policies

Please contact UM Online if you experience technical difficulties. Though I would love to be able to help, I am not qualified to do so. **Critical Note: I do not allow technical issues or not having the proper software as reasons for late or incomplete work.** To ensure your own protection, please keep technical support contact information available offline and please do not wait until the last minute to complete your work each week! To access technical support (and save their contact information offline) please click on the "Tech Support" link to the left of the page.

Technical Alternatives

Also, keep in mind your technical alternatives if you have computer difficulties. If you live near the University, campus computers are an option. Otherwise, consider the public library, an internet café, a computer at work, or a friend or family member's computer. Have a plan of action in mind so that you can complete the required work each week if an issue arises.

System and Software Requirements

Please refer to the UMOonline web page that lists downloads and plug-ins that they may need to complete your course: <http://umonline.umt.edu/StudentInfo/plugins.htm>

Late Work, and Make-up Work

Students cannot, under any circumstance, make up the discussion posts assignment. Due to the interactive nature of this assignment, students must be engaged in this process throughout the week each week in order to receive credit.

To make up multiple missed assignments it is mandatory that you (1) notify your Instructor before the time of the assignment and (2) provide proper documentation verifying the reason for your absence. Examples of proper documentation include a medical note or a death or family emergency. Remember, prior notification and documentation is mandatory! You can provide documentation by (a) scanning and emailing the documents, (2) mailing the documents, or (3) bringing them by my office during office hours. I do not allow students to make up work until I have received the proper documents. I do not allow make up work during the week of final exams.

Grades of Incomplete

Departmental and university policies regarding incompletes do not allow changing "incomplete" grades after one year has passed since the "I" was granted.

Academic Misconduct

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/vpsa/index.cfm/page/2585>.

Plagiarism

The Student Conduct Code discusses plagiarism. However, it is a serious offense worth re-mentioning. This course requires students to adhere to APA format when citing, paraphrasing, or referencing sources. If you have plagiarized, either intentionally or accidentally, you will receive a zero on the entire assignment. If you plagiarize a second time, you will fail the course.

Netiquette

Students must engage in proper “netiquette.” Netiquette, or “network etiquette” is a professional and mannerly way of communicating with others in the online medium. Failure to engage in proper netiquette will result in earning a zero for each assignment where an incident has occurred.

Disabilities and Special Learning Needs

It is your responsibility to inform your Instructor, at the outset of this course, of any disability and the ways that you and the DSS have determined are necessary to accommodate your needs. Please contact UM's DSS for more information (<http://life.umt.edu/dss/>).

Dropping/Adding/Changing grade option

Please refer to the Registrar's website on these policies:
<http://www.umt.edu/registrar/students/dropadd.aspx>