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PSYX 100S.07: Introduction to Psychology

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**PSYX 100: Introduction to Psychology
Fall 2013, Section 7**

MCG 210, 6:10-8:00, M W

Instructor: Priya Loess

Phone: (406) 243-6347

Email: priyadarshani.loess@umontana.edu *Preferred method of contact*

Office: 053 Skaggs Building

Office Hours: *To be announced

Course Description: Psychology is the science of human and animal behavior and mental processes. As a survey course, Introduction to Psychology provides an overview of the methods, terms, theories, and findings in the field. By understanding principles of psychology, you will learn more about yourself, others, non-human animals, and relationships. This course primarily employs a lecture format, although your comments, questions, and discussions are strongly encouraged.

Learning Outcomes:

- 1) Understand Psychology as a multifaceted discipline
- 2) Understand how historical events shaped the field of Psychology
- 3) Understand human behavior through multiple perspectives (e.g. behavioral, physiological, social, cognitive)

Required Text: Weiten's Psychology: Themes and Variations, 9th edition.

Optional Material: PsykTrek CD-ROM and/or Themes and Variations Study Guide

NOTES:

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/1321>

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

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.

Withdraw from the semester: September 16 (5pm) is the last day to withdraw without a "W" on your transcript

Attendance: While attendance is not required it is HIGHLY recommended. If you are not able to attend lecture it is YOUR responsibility to get the notes. Additionally, students are responsible for any announcements made in class. These may include changes in policy, due dates, or assignment requirements.

Please note, as part of your grade, there are ten (unannounced) in-class participation activities. There will be **no** opportunity to make-up these activities if you are not in class when they take place.

Classroom Behavior: All students will be expected to be in class on time, and to be attentive to the lecture and activities during class time. It will also be expected that students maintain a respectful, collegiate environment. All students should feel free to ask content-relevant questions in class.

Electronic Devices: The use of wireless communications devices during class is prohibited. This specifically includes such activities as 1) placing or receiving phone calls, 2) sending or receiving text messages, and 3) internet searching, game playing, etc.

If you are an emergency professional (physician/nurse, counselor/therapist, EMT, etc) or you are expecting an EMERGENCY communication please set your wireless device to its silent alarm mode and quietly exit the classroom to respond.

Exams:

You are **required** to take 5 exams, including the cumulative final. Exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. The first 4 exams will be administered during class time in your regular classroom. The date and time of your final exam will be announced at a later time. Please note, no student will be allowed to start any exam once another student has completed the exam and left the room.

Course Grade:

There will be four exams and one semi-cumulative final. Each exam, excluding the final, is worth 50 points. The final exam will be worth 80 points.

| Assignment | Total Points Possible |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Exam 1 | 50 points |
| Exam 2 | 50 points |
| Exam 3 | 50 points |
| Exam 4 | 50 points |
| Final | 80 points |
| Research Experience | 8 credits <i>Required for a grade</i> |
| Class Activities | 10 @ 2 pt each = Max of 20 points |
| Total Points | 300 points possible |

Your final grade is based on the percentage of the total possible points that you earn. Because grades are not curved in this class, every student has the opportunity to earn an A in this course. Alternatively, every student can fail this course if they fail to meet criteria.

Grade Rubric:

| <u>Final Grade</u> | <u>Points</u> | <u>Percentage</u> |
|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| A | 270 - 300 | 90%-100% |
| B | 240 - 269 | 80%-89% |
| C | 210 - 239 | 70%-79% |
| D | 180 - 209 | 60%-69% |
| F | 0 - 179 | <60% |

What can I expect on the exams?

Lectures will follow the chapters in the book but may contain extra material. All chapters in the book will be covered (except chapters 9 and 14) as well as some additional topics. Exam questions will include material from the text and material covered in lecture, whether it was in the text or not. Therefore, it is important for you to both read the text and attend lectures regularly.

The beginning of each chapter in your textbook includes an outline. This outline can help you focus on the critical material in each chapter. At the end of each chapter is a Recap section. Concentrate your text book study efforts on knowing the Key Ideas, Terms, and People listed in the Recap section. Completing the Practice Test at the end of each chapter is a good way to prepare for exams.

What should I bring to the exams?

For each of the exams, you will need to bring a #2 pencil and an NCS Test Sheet 50/50, form No. 95142. You can purchase this Scantron form in the UC for 15 cents. Please note that no student will be allowed to start an exam once another student has completed the exam and left the room.

NOTE: Study guides are typically not provided for tests; you are expected to know all the material from the textbook, lecture and supplementary materials (such as videos).

Make Up Policy:

There will be no make-ups for missed in-class assignments.

To make up an exam you must:

- Notify me **before** the exam and bring proper documentation.
 - Examples of documented circumstances that may merit approval include the following:
 - Illness or accident
 - Death or family emergency
 - University-sanctioned activity

Research Experience: Psychology is a science built on systematic research of both human and non-human animals. A critical aspect of this course is becoming familiar with how that information is obtained. There are two ways to meet this course requirement and they may be combined in any manner to meet the 8-credit research experience requirement.

The research experience portion of this class is not graded but it is required for a grade in the course. You may choose either or both of these options (e.g., 4 credits of research participation with 4 credits for reading about research for 8 total credits) but this requirement must be met by the end of the semester.

- 1) Participation in original research. In this option, you will sign up to participate in actual psychology experiments. Individual experiments may range from 1 to 8 credits. Typically, each credit takes about 30 minutes. Sign-up sheets will be posted on the tables on the second floor lobby of the Skaggs Bldg near room 246.

Each experiment will be assigned a letter code and you must sign up for experiments designated by DIFFERENT letters. Once you have participated in an experiment assigned a letter (e.g., B), you may not sign up for any other experiment with the same code (again, B). If you do, you will only receive credit for the first experiment. Some psychological research projects require participants who possess special characteristics. You may have the opportunity to participate in an in-class screening/testing day to be eligible for those experiments. The results of the assessments are confidential, and participation in the screening /testing day is optional.

You will keep track of your hours on an experiment tracking sheet (see below). Do not lose your tracking sheet. This is your record of your participation and you are responsible for it as you would be for any other required assignment.

Once you have completed your research experience credits, hand in the experimental tracking sheet to **your instructor in person.**

- 2) Reading about original research. In this option, you will identify, read, and summarize an original research article in 1-2 pages. Each summary is worth 2 research credits. A separate handout is available outside Skaggs 053 with the details.

What happens if I don't finish the research experience requirement?

Students who do not complete their research experience credits will receive an Incomplete for the class. Students with Incompletes will be allowed to finish their research experience requirement only through the reading about research option. Consistent with university policy if you do not resolve your Incomplete within one year, your grade will revert to one letter grade lower than what you would have received otherwise. **Be aware** that if you earn an "Incomplete" in any course at UM, an "I" remains on your record permanently, even if you eventually complete the work.

Screening Day: Screening day is September 11th. This day is designated to provide you an opportunity to earn research credit (2 units) and to provide researchers an opportunity to screen Psychology 100 students for other studies later in the semester. Screening day is in the first hour of lecture for that day only and is not in your normal lecture room therefore you will need to attend class prior for the room announcement. Screening Day location will be announced ASAP, to be immediately followed by a shortened lecture in our classroom.

Course Calendar
(May be subject to change)

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 8/26, Monday | Syllabus |
| 8/28, Wednesday | Chapter 1 |
| 9/2, Monday | Labor Day: No class |
| 9/4, Wednesday | Chapter 2 |
| 9/9, Monday | Chapter 2 & 3 |
| 9/11, Wednesday | Screening Day/ Chapter 3 |
| 9/16, Monday | Chapter 3 & 4 |
| 9/18, Wednesday | Chapter 4 & Review |
| 9/23, Monday | Exam 1 (Ch 1, 2, 3, 4) |
| 9/25, Wednesday | Chapter 5 |
| 9/30, Monday | Chapter 5 & 6 |
| 10/2, Wednesday | Chapter 6 & 7 |
| 10/7, Monday | Chapter 7 & review |
| 10/9, Wednesday | Exam 2 (Ch 5, 6, 7) |
| 10/14, Monday | Chapter 8 |
| 10/16, Wednesday | Chapter 8 & 10 |
| 10/21, Monday | Chapter 10 & 11 |
| 10/23, Wednesday | Chapter 11 & review |
| 10/28, Monday | Exam 3 (Ch 8, 10, 11) |
| 10/30, Wednesday | Chapter 12 |
| 11/4, Monday | Chapter 12 & 15 |
| 11/6, Wednesday | Chapter 15 & 16 |
| 11/11, Monday | Veteran's Day: No Class |
| 11/13, Wednesday | Chapter 16 & review |
| 11/18, Monday | Exam 4 (12,15,16) |

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 11/20, Wednesday | Chapter 13 |
| 11/25, Monday | Chapter 13 |
| 11/27, Wednesday | Thanksgiving Break: No Class |
| 12/2, Monday | Chapter 13 |
| 12/4 Wednesday | Final exam review (Ch 13, all chapters) |
| 12/9, Monday | Final Exam Week: Final time, date and location TBA |

RESEARCH REQUIREMENT RECORD SHEET

Name: _____

Instructor: _____

You are expected to participate in 8 credits (2 credits/hour of participation) of research credit to successfully complete Psychology 100. Failure to complete all 8 credits will result in an "incomplete" for the course (there is no benefit to earning more than 8 credits of research credit). The top row is for you to record the time, location and contact information for earning research credits. The bottom row is for the researcher to fill-out. Hand in this sheet to your instructor when you have completed all 8 credits of research credit. Please contact your instructor if you have any questions.

1.

| | | | | |
|----------------------|------|-----------|---------|--------|
| Experiment Code | Date | Location | Contact | Points |
| Researcher Signature | | Lab Stamp | | Date |

2.

| | | | | |
|----------------------|------|-----------|---------|--------|
| Experiment Code | Date | Location | Contact | Points |
| Researcher Signature | | Lab Stamp | | Date |

3.

| | | | | |
|----------------------|------|-----------|---------|--------|
| Experiment Code | Date | Location | Contact | Points |
| Researcher Signature | | Lab Stamp | | Date |

4.

| | | | | |
|----------------------|------|-----------|---------|--------|
| Experiment Code | Date | Location | Contact | Points |
| Researcher Signature | | Lab Stamp | | Date |

5.

| | | | | |
|----------------------|------|-----------|---------|--------|
| Experiment Code | Date | Location | Contact | Points |
| Researcher Signature | | Lab Stamp | | Date |

6.

| | | | | |
|----------------------|------|-----------|---------|--------|
| Experiment Code | Date | Location | Contact | Points |
| Researcher Signature | | Lab Stamp | | Date |

Please Remove this Page from Your Syllabus

This is not a legally binding document: it is a written acknowledgement on the part of the responsible college student that you have read and understand the policies and guidelines of this course.

SIGNATURE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I, _____ (PRINT YOUR NAME) hereby acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Introductory Psychology (Psyx. 100) syllabus for Fall 2013. I have read the syllabus and understand **all of the course policies and requirements**. I recognize that it is my responsibility to seek clarification regarding any aspect of the syllabus, the course requirements, or the grading policies if they are unclear to me.

Signature

Date

Code name information

I do not post grades with student identification numbers, therefore, you will need to provide me with a "code name" if you would like your grades posted following tests. Please be certain that you choose a code name that is familiar to you so that you remember it when looking up your grades. Also, please refrain from choosing inappropriate code names, as they will not be accepted.

Code Name: _____

Detach this part of the page and return it to me before the second day of class