

University of Montana

## ScholarWorks at University of Montana

---

University of Montana Course Syllabi, 2021-2025

---

Fall 9-1-2022

### PSYX 100S.02: Introduction to Psychology

Katelyn Melcher

*University of Montana, Missoula*, [katelyn.melcher@umontana.edu](mailto:katelyn.melcher@umontana.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi2021-2025>

**Let us know how access to this document benefits you.**

---

#### Recommended Citation

Melcher, Katelyn, "PSYX 100S.02: Introduction to Psychology" (2022). *University of Montana Course Syllabi, 2021-2025*. 279.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi2021-2025/279>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana Course Syllabi, 2021-2025 by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@mso.umt.edu](mailto:scholarworks@mso.umt.edu).

# PSYX 100 Section 02: Introduction to Psychology

University of Montana | Department of Psychology

Fall 2022 | 3 credits | Mon/Wed/Fri 11-11:50 AM | Chemistry 123

## **Instructor Information:**

Instructor: Katelyn Melcher, MA (she/her, they/them)

Email: [katelyn.melcher@umontana.edu](mailto:katelyn.melcher@umontana.edu)

Office Hours: Skaggs 368: Mondays 9:30 – 11 am, Wednesdays 12 – 1 pm

## **Course Materials:**

Text: MindTap for Weiten's Psychology: Themes and Variations, 11th edition

<https://www.cengage.com/dashboard/#/course-confirmation/MTPN38JZRP8D/initial-course-confirmation>

## **Course Description:**

Psychology is the science of human and animal behavior and mental processes. You will learn to understand the nature, structure, and historical development of human behavior in multiple ways. In this course, you will be taught the role of historical events in shaping human behavior, including how these events shaped our own field. From multiple angles (behavioral, physiological, social, cognitive), you will be taught how the human mind – the basic building block of all human behavior – functions. You will be taught this through the eyes of multiple psychological theories, ranging from behavioral, physiological, social, and cognitive approaches. Further, by being exposed to actual research results throughout the term and discussing the meaning of those results, we want you to learn how to interpret and think about research. Finally, we want you to directly see the significance of social phenomena through relevant examples and through classroom demonstrations of psychological research.

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. The course primarily employs a lecture format, although your comments, questions, and discussions are strongly encouraged. Throughout the semester, visiting guest lecturers and/or films may be presented in class as well.

## **Course Structure:**

This course is designed to help you learn a large amount of material at a manageable pace. To help achieve this goal, the semester is broken up into 5 sections:

- Section 1 covers lectures and chapters 1-3
- Section 2 covers lectures and chapters 4-6
- Section 3 covers lectures and chapters 7-9
- Section 4 covers lectures and chapters 10-12

- Section 5 covers lectures and chapters 13-15

### **Section Exams and Course Final:**

You are required to take all 5 multiple-choice Sectional Exams. The Final Exam is optional. You can take the Final to replace one of the Sectional Exams. The Sectional Exams will cover only the material from that section of class and will be administered during the regular class time. The Final Exam will cover content from the entire course and will be administered on the Monday (December 12) of finals week from 8:00 AM-10:00 AM. All exams will be administered on Moodle. See course calendar below.

- Study guides are provided for the sectional tests; you are expected to know all the material from the textbook and lecture (unless otherwise indicated). Be sure to take advantage of all supplemental study materials on MindTap.
- You must take the exams during class time. They will be posted to Moodle and only available during the designated time.
- **IMPORTANT:**
  - You must take the exam independently. This means you cannot work with or consult with any other students in this class, former PSYX 100 students, friends, family, other professors, etc. when taking an exam.
  - Do not ever use Google or another search engine to try to answer exam questions!
  - Violating either of the above is considered cheating and is a violation of the Student Conduct Code.
- **Make-Up Policy:** To make up a missed quiz or exam, you must meet the following criteria:
  - a. Notify me before the time of the quiz/exam and bring proper documentation. In the event of an emergency, you have 48 hours after the exam time to notify me.
  - b. You must have legitimate documentation verifying the reason for your absence. Examples of documented circumstances that may merit approval include the following: illness or accident, death or family emergency, religious observance, military service, or University-sanctioned activity. Remember, prior notification and documentation are mandatory!

### **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. You may choose either or combine both 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.

#### **Option 1. Participation in original research**

In this option, you will sign up to participate in actual psychology experiments. Individual experiments may range in credits they award. Typically, each credit takes about 30 minutes. Signing up for studies occurs via an online sign-up system. To sign up, you will need to create an account online for SONA.

- When doing so, (1) be sure you use your umontana e-mail address as your username (if your umontana e-mail address is [jane.doe@umontana.edu](mailto:jane.doe@umontana.edu) you would enter jane.doe); if you do not do this properly, then you will not get the account information. Also, (2) be sure you enter the right course section number (02), or else you may not be properly credited. Signing up and checking studies is easy; just go to the Department of Psychology's SONA Research Participation page.
- Each experiment has a different name. Once you have participated in a specific experiment, you may not sign up for any other experiment with the same name. 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 out-of-class screening to be eligible for those experiments.
- Your credit will be tracked via the online system – you will be awarded credit for participation within 72 hours of participation. If you check your credit and it has not been awarded in a timely fashion, contact the experimenter listed as the contact on the study to resolve this conflict.
- At the end of the term, your instructor will automatically get your credits from the online system.

### **Option 2. Reading and summarizing original research**

In this option, you will find, read, and summarize an original research article in Psychology. You should be thorough but brief. Each summary should be 2-3 pages long, double spaced. Each summary is worth 2 research credits. To get credit, you need to submit the assignment via Moodle, and I will review it and assign credit. (Note: This does not happen on the online system, which is only used for Option 1). Summaries must be submitted by Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 pm.

### **Course Grades:**

Your final grade for the course is based on the total of your 5 best exam scores (5 Sectional Exams and a comprehensive Final Exam; you can drop your lowest test score) and completing the chapter practice quizzes on Moodle for each chapter prior to the section test.

- Tests: 250 points (50 points each test).
- Quizzes on MindTap: 50 points possible (10 points for taking each section quiz). You must complete the sections quizzes by 11:59 pm the day before the exam (see calendar).
- Research Credits (8): 50 points possible (6.25 points for each credit).
- Total Points: 350 points possible

Your final grade is based on the percentage of the total possible points that you earn. You will be given full credit for completing (answering every question) a quiz; it will not be scored for accuracy. Because you can drop your lowest test grade and part of your grade is from simply taking the chapter practice quizzes, grades will not be curved and there is no extra credit for this course.

Final grades are based on the +/- system. Traditional rounding rules apply (i.e., .5 and above are rounded up and less than .5 are not). The breakdown is as follows:

Grade	Percentage	Points	Grade	Percentage	Points
A	93-100%	326 - 350	C	73-76%	256 - 269
A-	90-92%	315 - 325	C-	70-72%	245 - 255
B+	87-89%	305 - 314	D+	67-69%	235 - 244
B	83-86%	291 - 304	D	63-66%	221 - 234
B-	80-82%	280 - 290	D-	60-62%	210 - 219
C+	77-79%	270 - 279	F	< 60%	0 - 209

## Course Guidelines and Policies

### 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](#).

### Incompletes:

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

### Disability Modifications:

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and the [Office for Disability Equity \(ODE\)](#). If you anticipate or experience barriers based on disability, please contact the ODE at: (406) 243-2243, [ode@umontana.edu](mailto:ode@umontana.edu), or visit [www.umt.edu/disability](http://www.umt.edu/disability) for more information. Retroactive accommodation requests will not be honored, so please, do not delay. As your instructor, I will work with you and the ODE to implement effective accommodation, and you are welcome to contact me privately if you wish.

### Announcements:

Students are responsible for any announcements made in class or on Moodle. These may include changes in policy, due dates, or assignment requirements.

### Technology:

In the classroom, please only use technology related to classroom activities (taking notes). Please refrain from using technology for personal reasons during class time. In case of emergency, or if you simply must take a call or message, please quietly leave the room, and tend to your business. I may also need to take a call during class time and will follow the same procedures if necessary.

**Email:**

Email is my preferred method of communication (katelyn.melcher@umontana.edu). Please email from your student account (umontana) only. I will do my best to respond to your email question(s) within 2 business days of receipt. I will usually respond much faster than that, but please try to plan accordingly, in case I cannot reply within 48 hours across business days. If I have not replied to your email within that time frame, it means that I did not receive or see it for some reason, so please resend the email.

**Course Calendar**

Week	Dates	Deadlines/Notes
1	Aug 29, 31, Sep 1	Monday: Class Introduction Wednesday: Ch 1 Friday: Ch 1 & 2
2	Sep 5, 7, 9	Monday: <b>NO CLASS – Happy Labor Day!</b> Wednesday: Ch 2 Friday: Ch 3
3	Sep 12, 14, 16	Monday: Ch 3 Wednesday: Review Day ( <b>Quizzes due Thursday at 11:59 pm</b> ) Friday: <b>Test 1</b>
4	Sep 19, 21, 23	Monday: Ch 4 Wednesday: Ch 4 & 5 Friday: Ch 5
5	Sep 26, 28, 30	Monday: Ch 6 Wednesday: Ch 6 Friday: Review Day ( <b>Quizzes due Sunday at 11:59 pm</b> )
6	Oct 3, 5, 7	Monday: <b>Test 2</b> Wednesday: Ch 7 Friday: Ch 7
7	Oct 10, 12, 14	Monday: Ch 8 Wednesday: Ch 8 Friday: Ch 9
8	Oct 17, 19, 21	Monday: Ch 9 Wednesday: Review Day ( <b>Quizzes due Thursday at 11:59 pm</b> ) Friday: <b>Test 3</b>
9	Oct 24, 26, 28	Monday: Ch 10 Wednesday: Ch 10 Friday: Ch 11
10	Oct 31, Nov 2, 4	Monday: Ch 11 Wednesday: Ch 12 Friday: Ch 12
11	Nov 7, 9, 11	Monday: Review Day ( <b>Quizzes due Tuesday at 11:59 pm</b> ) Wednesday: <b>Test 4</b> Friday: <b>NO CLASS – Veterans Day</b>

Week	Dates	Deadlines/Notes
12	Nov 14, 16, 18	Monday: Ch 13 Wednesday: Ch 13 Friday: Ch 14
13	Nov 21, 23, 25	Monday: Ch 14 Wednesday: NO CLASS – Travel Day Friday: NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Holiday
14	Nov 28, 30, Dec 2	Monday: Ch 14 Wednesday: Ch 15 Friday: Ch 15
15	Dec 5, 7, 9	Monday: Ch 15 Wednesday: Review Day (Quizzes due Thursday at 11:59 pm) Friday: Test 5 Research Summaries Due by 11:59 pm
16	Dec 12	Monday: Final Exam 8-10 am