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PSYX 100S.03: Introduction to Psychology

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Psyx 100: Introduction to Psychology

Spring 2022

This syllabus is a working document.

As such, changes will be made throughout the semester as needed.

Instructor Information

Instructor: Chelsey Maxson, MA

Email: chelsey.maxson@umontana.edu

Text: Weiten - MindTapV2.0 for Weiten's Psychology: Themes and Variations

https://www.cengage.com/coursepages/University_PSYX_100S_Section3Spring20221

Office Hours: Zoom office hours by appointment.

Regarding email responses:

- M-F I will respond within 36-hours to emails
- Weekends and Holidays expect a more delayed response

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. And 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 see directly 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.

Text

Weiten - MindTapV2.0 for Weiten's Psychology: Themes and Variations

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 Equality](#). If you think you have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with the Office for Disability Equality (ODE), please contact them in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406-243-2243. I will work with you and ODE to provide an appropriate modification.

Announcements

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

Cell Phones/Laptops

Cell phones are to be turned off during class. You can use your laptop to take notes but please do not use laptops for anything other than note taking/class activities.

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**) and **completing the chapter practice quizzes** on Moodle for each chapter prior to the section test.

- Tests: 250 points (50 points each test; 75% of grade).
- Quizzes on **MindTap**: 85 points possible (17 points for taking each section quiz; 25% of grade). You must complete the sections quizzes by midnight the day before the exam (see calendar).
- Research Credits (2): Do not count towards points but are required for a grade.

Total Points: 335 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; they will not be scored for accuracy. Because you can drop your lowest grade and 25% of your grade is from simply taking the chapter practice quizzes, grades will not be curved and there is no extra credit.

Final Grade	Number of Points	Percentage
A	300 - 335	90 - 100%
B	267 - 299	80 - 89%
C	233 - 266	70 - 79%

Final Grade	Number of Points	Percentage
D	200 - 232	60 - 69%
F	0 - 199	< 60%

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, and section 5 covers lectures and chapters 13-15.

Sectional Exams and Final

You are required to take all of the multiple-choice Sectional Exams. Exams will be 50-multiple choice questions. We will use scantrons. You will need to purchase (blue) scantrons at the University Bookstore.

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 be on Wednesday (May 11) of finals week from 3:20 PM-5:20 PM.** All exams will be administered in person. 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.
- Must take exams during class time.

- **Final Exam: Wednesday (May 11) of finals week from 3:20 PM-5:20 PM.**

- **Make-Up Policy**

To make up a missed quiz *or* exam, you must meet the following criteria:

1. Notify me **before** the time of the quiz/exam and bring proper documentation.
2. 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
 - University-sanctioned activity

Remember, prior notification and documentation are mandatory!

Research Experience (see word document for more detailed instructions)

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 combine both options (e.g., 1 credit of research participation with 1 credit for reading about research for 2 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 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 (01), or else you may not be properly credited. Signing up and checking studies is easy; 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 participating by the researcher who was in charge of the study. 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. Note that if you participate in screening day (described below), you will only need to get 6 credits via the SONA system (screening day credits are tracked separately).

2. Reading and summarize 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 1-2 pages long. Each summary is worth 2 research credits. To get credit, you need to submit the assignment in Moodle.

What happens if I do not 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 (option 2). 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.

SEE COURSE CALENDAR ON NEXT PAGE

COURSE CALENDAR

Class	Date	Topic
1 -	Wednesday, January 19	Class Orientation, MindTap and SONA
2-	Friday, January 21	Lecture (Chapter 1)
3-	Monday, January 24	Lecture (Chapter 1)
4-	Wednesday, January 26	Lecture (Chapter 2)
5-	Friday, January 28	Lecture (Chapter 2)
6-	Monday, January 31	Lecture (Chapter 3)
7-	Wednesday, February 2	Lecture (Chapter 3)
8-	Friday, February 4	Review for Test 1 <i>Complete quizzes on Ch. 1-3 by 11:59pm on February 6</i>
9-	Monday, February 7	Test 1
10-	Wednesday, February 9	Lecture (Chapter 4)
11-	Friday, February 11	Lecture (Chapter 4)
12-	Monday, February 14	Lecture (Chapter 5)
13-	Wednesday, February 16	Lecture (Chapter 5)
14-	Friday, February 18	Lecture (Chapter 6)
15-	Monday, February 21	NO CLASS President's Day
16-	Wednesday, February 23	Lecture (Chapter 6)
17-	Friday, February 25	Review for Test 2 <i>Complete quizzes on Ch. 4-6 by 11:59pm on February 27</i>
18-	Monday, February 28	Test 2
19-	Wednesday, March 2	Lecture (Chapter 7)
20-	Friday, March 4	Lecture (Chapter 7)
21-	Monday, March 7	Lecture (Chapter 8)
22-	Wednesday, March 9	Lecture (Chapter 8 & 9)
23-	Friday, March 11	Lecture (Chapter 9)
24-	Monday, March 14	Review for Test 3 <i>Complete quizzes on Ch. 7-9 by 11:59pm on March 15</i>
25-	Wednesday, March 16	Test 3

Class	Date	Topic
26-	Friday March 16 – March 27	NO CLASS – Spring Break
27-	Monday March 28	Lecture (Chapter 10)
28-	Wednesday, March 30	Lecture (Chapter 10 & 11)
29-	Friday, April 1	Lecture (Chapter 11)
30-	Monday, April 4	Lecture (Chapter 12)
31-	Wednesday, April 6	Lecture (Chapter 12)
32-	Friday, April 8	Review for Test 4 <i>Complete quizzes on Ch. 10-12 by 11:59pm on April 10</i>
33-	Monday April 11	Test 4
34-	Wednesday, April 13	Lecture (Chapter 13)
35-	Friday, April 15	Lecture (Chapter 13)
36-	Monday, April 18	Lecture (Chapter 14)
37-	Wednesday, April 20	Lecture (Chapter 14)
38-	Friday, April 22	Lecture (Chapter 15)
39-	Monday, April 25	Lecture (Chapter 15)
40-	Wednesday, April 27	Lecture (Chapter 15)
41-	Friday, April 29	Movie and Activity
42-	Monday, May 2	Review for Test 5 <i>Complete quizzes on Ch. 12-15 by 11:59pm on May 3 9</i>
43-	Wednesday, May 3	Test 5
44-	Friday, May 6	Opportunity to come in and review your tests if you plan to take the final.

*****May 11, 3:20 – 5:20*****

**FINAL CUMULATIVE EXAM
(OPTIONAL)**