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PSYX 100S.04: Introduction to Psychology

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University of Montana - Missoula

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Psyx 100: Introduction to Psychology

Spring 2015

Instructor Information

Instructor: Kaitlyn Ahlers

Email: kaitlyn1.ahlers@umontana.edu

Office: Skaggs Building 053

Office phone: 406-243-6347

Office hours: Thursday 12:30-3:00 p.m. or by appointment

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 organizations and/or relationships in multiple ways. In this course, you will be taught the role of historical events in shaping human organization, 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 organizations and relationships – 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 these data. 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.

Required Text

Weiten's Psychology: Themes and Variations, 9th Ed.

Optional Material

PsykTrek CD-ROM and/or Themes and Variations Study Guide

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 [Disability Services for Students](#). If you think you have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406-243-2243. I will work with you and Disability Services 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.

Course Grading

Your final grade for the course will consist of a total of all quiz scores and your 3 (out of 4) best exam scores. You are required to take all 4 exams, but your grade will be calculated from your 3 best exam scores (allowing to drop your lowest exam score). There will be 5 unannounced quizzes throughout the semester that are valued at 10 points each. Quizzes will not be announced ahead of time and thus you will benefit from attending class regularly. Please also note that in order to receive credit and a grade for this course you must complete 8 research credits through SONA (see page 3 for details)

Exam 1	50 points possible
Exam 2	50 points possible
Exam 3	50 points possible
Exam 4	
Quiz points (5 x 10 points)	50 points possible
Research Credits (8)	Required for a Grade
Total Points	200 points possible

Your final grade is based on the percentage of the total possible points that you earn. Because we do not curve grades, 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.

Final Grade	Number of Points	Percentage
A	170 - 200	90 - 100%
B	140 - 169	80 - 89%
C	110 - 139	70 - 79%
D	80 - 109	60 - 69%
F	0 - 79	< 60%

Course Structure

This course is designed to help you learn a large amount of material at a manageable pace. To achieve this goal, the semester is broken up into 3-4 chapter cycles. At the end of each cycle you will have an exam on those 3 to 4 chapters. The benefit of this system is that you will not have to take a cumulative midterm and a final at the end of the semester. Instead you will be able to focus just on the chapters of

that cycle for each exam. I hope this will alleviate some stress for you as well as allow you to explore the material more.

Exams

You are required to take **ALL** 4 exams. Exams 1-3 will be administered during your regular class time in your regular lecture room. Exam 4 will be on Tuesday evening during finals week from 7-9 p.m. **Please note that this time is different than the time noted in the UM class schedule.**

For all exams you will need to bring a #2 pencil and a NCS Test Sheet 50/50, form No. 95142, you can purchase this BLUE 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.

Study guides are not provided for exams; you are expected to know all the material from the textbook and lecture (unless otherwise indicated).

- **Since only 3 exams count towards my grade, can I just take 3 of the 4?**
No. If you do not take all 4 exams you will not be eligible for the 3 best grade policy and will receive a 0 on an exam. **YOU MUST TAKE ALL 4 EXAMS.**
- **What can I expect on the exams?**
Lectures will follow the chapters in the book but may contain extra material. We will cover all chapters in the book (except chapter 9 and 14) as well as address some additional topics. Exams will include material covered in lecture and in the text. In general, you can expect exams to come 75% from in-class material and 25% from the textbook. ***Note: Please remember to turn in all exam copies after you complete an exam. If you fail to return your copy of the exams, you will forfeit the exam points in addition to facing other penalties!***

Make-Up Policy

To make up a missed 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 is 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.

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. Signing up for studies occurs via an online sign-up system. To sign up, you will need to create an account online. When doing so, (1) be sure you use your umontana e-mail address as your username (so if your umontana e-mail address is jane.doe@umontana.edu<mailto:jane.doe@umontana.edu>, you would enter jane.doe); if you don't do this properly, you will not get the account information. Also, (2) be sure you enter the right course section number, 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 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.

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 about original research. In this option, you will find, read, and briefly summarize an original 1-2 page article. Each summary is worth 2 research credits. A separate handout is available outside Skaggs 053 (or upon request from your instructor) with details. To get credit, you need to turn the assignment in to your instructor, who will review it and assign credit. (Note: This does not happen on the online system, which is only used for option 1).

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 (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.

Screening/Testing Day

Screening/Testing day is designated to provide you an opportunity to earn research credit (2 credits) and to provide researchers an opportunity to screen Psychology 100 students for other studies later in the semester or hand out short questionnaires. Screening/Testing day is in place of lecture for that day only and **is not always in your normal lecture room**; therefore (if you wish to attend screening/testing day) you will need to attend class in order to hear the announcement about its exact location. **You are NOT required to attend screening/testing day.** If you do not attend, you will not receive the 2 credit

points, but no penalty will be assessed. If you do attend Screening/Testing Day you must go to the correct section and time to get your points.

Screening day credits are awarded separately from the SONA system and will be incorporated by your instructor automatically if you attend.

Course Schedule

Week/Day	Chapters/Assignment
Week 1 • M Jan 26 • W Jan 28	Chapters 1 + 2 • Syllabus & Lecture • Lecture
Week 2 • M Feb 2 • W Feb 4	Chapters 2 + 3 • Lecture • Lecture
Week 3 • M Feb 9 • W Feb 11	Chapters 3 • Lecture • SCREENING DAY
Week 4 • M Feb 16 • W Feb 18	Chapters 3 • NO CLASS • Lecture
Week 5 • M Feb 23 • W Feb 25	EXAM + Chapter 4 • EXAM 1 (Ch. 1, 2, 3) • Lecture
Week 6 • M Mar 2 • W Mar 4	Chapters 4 + 5 • Lecture • Lecture
Week 7 • M Mar 9 • W Mar 11	Chapters 6 + 7 • Lecture • Lecture
Week 8 • M Mar 16 • W Mar 18	Chapter 7 + EXAM • Lecture • EXAM 2 (Ch. 4, 5, 6, 7)
Week 9-B • M Mar 23 • W Mar 25	Chapters 8 + 10 (Skip 9) • Lecture • Lecture
Week 10 • M Mar 30 • W Apr 1	SPRING BREAK • NO CLASS • NO CLASS
Week 11 • M Apr 6 • W Apr 8	Chapters 10 + 11 • Lecture • Lecture
Week 12 • M Apr 13 • W Apr 15	Chapters 11 + 12 • Lecture • Lecture

Week/Day	Chapters/Assignment
Week 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M Apr 20 • W Apr 22 	Exam + Chapter 15 (Skip 14) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EXAM 3 (Ch. 8, 10, 11, 12) • Lecture
Week 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M Apr 27 • W Apr 29 	Chapters 15 + 16 (Skip 14) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture • Lecture
Week 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M May 4 • W May 6 	Chapter 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture • Lecture
Week 16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T May 12 	FINALS WEEK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EXAM 4 (Ch. 15, 16, 13) 7:00-9:00 PM Location TBA

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 student that you have read and understand the policies and guidelines of this course.

****Please return this sheet to your instructor on, or before, the second day of class.****

SIGNATURE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I, _____ (PRINT YOUR NAME) hereby acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Introductory Psychology (Psych. 100) syllabus for Spring 2015. 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 or deadlines. Please be certain that you choose a code name that is familiar to you, so that you remember it when it comes time to look up your scores. Words of caution: I will not accept code names that are inappropriate (racist, sexist, general bad taste).

Code Name: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please provide your UM student email address for your lab proctor and myself to contact you if we have questions concerning your exams or participation in this class.

Email Address: _____

Enrollment Information

My major (or what I am thinking of majoring in) is: _____

My college year is (year 1/freshman): _____

In the space below, please tell me why you are taking this class and what you are looking forward to learning. Thanks!