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PSYX 100S.51C: Introduction to Psychology

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MISSOULA COLLEGE
Spring, 2015
PSYX 100S: Introduction to Psychology, Section OL
COURSE SYLLABUS
PROFESSOR: Leslie Croot, M.S.

I. CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Office:** Virtual by phone only
- **Phone:** 406-529-8118
- **Office Hours (by phone):**
 - Thu: 12:00pm – 1:00pm
 - Or by phone appointment
- **Email:** leslie.croot@umontana.edu
 - It is essential you use your university email (i.e. umconnect).
 - **In the subject line of every email,** please state your class and purpose; **Ex: Psyx 100, Sec OL, Exam 1 question.**
 - If you do NOT follow the above format, there may be a delay in my response. However, my commitment is to respond to emails within 24 hours (no later than 36) when received Mon – Fri. Please expect delays on weekends or holidays.

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to Psyx 100, an Introduction to Psychology. Psychology 100 is a basic and fundamental course. While it is required for psychology majors, it is also a prerequisite for many other majors because of its broad and comprehensive nature. Psychology 100 will introduce you to the study of behavior and the mind. Why do we do what we do, feel what we feel, say what we say, etc... While many students want the right or wrong answer to these questions, this course actually covers a variety of principles and theories of scientific psychology, as applied to understanding human thoughts, emotions, and behaviors. In the first part of the course, we will set the foundation. We will briefly explore the history of psychology, the goal being to appreciate how we got to where we are today. Then, we will look at *how* psychologists study the mind and behavior today. This will take us into the variety of theories, including the biological and physiological foundations of behavior and thought, consciousness, learning and memory, cognition, growth and development, motivation and emotion, sexuality and gender, stress and health, personality, and psychological disorders and therapeutic approaches.

Please note, this is a 4-credit course, which in the traditional classroom setting, equates to 4 hours of face-to-face lecture per week. In addition, every 1 credit is equal to 3 hours of homework per week. Thus, given this class is being offering an online format, you can expect to spend about **16 hours a week on this course.**

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Have a basic knowledge of psychology, including:
 - terms, facts, concepts, and theories about psychology
 - methods and techniques used to study psychology
2. Have improved higher-order thinking skills, including:
 - applying knowledge already learned to new problems and situations

- evaluating information and distinguish between fact and opinion
- 3. To use psychological research to inform your own views and be able to analyze research
- 4. To improve your knowledge of learning and memory techniques for use in future course

IV. REQUIRED MATERIALS

1. Text and Supplements:

- **CICCARELLI & WHITE (2015). *Psychology*. Upper Saddle River: Pearson.**
 - This is the 4th Edition of the text.
 - ISBN-13: 978-0-205-97224-1
- This text is available at the **Missoula College (MC) bookstore, not the Mountain campus bookstore**.
 - See <http://www.montanabookstore.com/cot/>
- There are a couple of hard copies of the text on reserve at the MC and Mountain campus libraries.

2. Moodle:

- To access Moodle, go to <http://umonline.umt.edu/> and click the “Moodle NetID Login” button.
- It is recommended that you use the internet browser, Firefox, to run Moodle.

V. ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- Your grade in this class is based on the following:

1. 5 Exams (100 points each)	500
2. 1 Paper	100
3. 100 Participation Points	100
4. Research Credits (8 credits)	Required for a grade
TOTAL POSSIBLE	700

- This class can only be taken in traditional mode; you are not able to switch to credit/no credit. 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 rounded). The breakdown is as follows:

93-100%	A	73-76%	C
90-92%	A-	70-72%	C-
87-89%	B+	67-69%	D+
83-86%	B	63-66%	D
80-82%	B-	60-62%	D-
77-79%	C+	< 60%	F

1. EXAMS

- All exams are administered **in Moodle**.
- There are **5 exams** in this course. Each covers 3 chapters each.

- Each Exam has **50 questions**, worth 2 points each, for a total of 100 points.
- You must take the exam **independently**. Cheating on an exam is a violation of the Student Conduct Code, and violators will be sanctioned. (See the “Student Conduct Code” section below for more information and an explanation of sanctions for violations.)
- The days exams are scheduled are in the Course Calendar, which is at the bottom of this syllabus. **NO LATE EXAMS WILL BE ACCEPTED!** (Please see exceptions below, under the “Late and make-up Work Policy.”) I will **not** make **alternative arrangements** to give any exams early due to travel plans, school projects, or other courses’ requirements.

2. **PAPER**

- You have 1 paper worth **100 points**
- Detailed instructions for the paper are in Moodle.
- The Course Calendar states when the instructions for the paper will be available and when the paper is due.
- If a paper is NOT submitted by the specific day and time, it is considered **late**. For every **24-hour period it is late**, you will lose **10%** off the total points possible. For example:
 - 0 - 24 hours late = - 10%
 - 24.5 - 48 hours late = - 20%
 - 48.5 - 72 hours late = - 30%
 - 72.5 – 96 hours late = - 40%

3. **PARTICIPATION POINTS**

Though you will primarily be self-guided in this course, you will be responsible for participating in FIVE online discussions throughout the semester. You will have five days to complete two posts in each of these discussions. Each post is worth 10 points, for a total of 20 points per discussion. Additional details will be provided during the weeks that these assignments are due.

4. **RESEARCH CREDITS**

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 you can meet this course requirement: **1) participating in an original research project** and/or **2) reading about original research and writing a review**. You may choose to complete one, or a combination, of these options in order to meet the **8-credit research requirement** (e.g., 4 research credits for participation and 4 credits for reading about research for a total of 8 credits). Detailed instructions on how to complete both of these options are in Moodle.

Your research credits must be **completed by 11:59pm on Friday, May 1st, 2015**. If a student does not complete these credits on time, their grade will be dropped one letter grade (e.g. A- to B-).

VI. **ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS.

- **Missoula College students**: Contact Paul Kozlowitz at (406) 243-7931 or via email, [Paul](#).
- **Mountain campus students**: Contact DSS at (406) 243-2243 or via email, [DSS](#).

I will work with you and DSS to provide reasonable modifications. “Reasonable” means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. In addition, the student must provide DSS documentation *before* the assignment is due so reasonable accommodations can be made. For more information, please consult [DSS](#).

VII. **LATE and MAKE-UP WORK POLICY:**

LATE or MAKE-UP WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. HOWEVER, according to the UM’s [Academic Policies and Procedures](#), under “Class Attendance/Absence Policy,” I **MAY** excuse **brief** and **occasional** absences for the following reasons:

1. an illness or injury
2. a family emergency
3. religious observance
4. participation in a university sponsored activity
5. military service

If you miss an assignment, exam or participation points due to one of these exceptions, **valid documentation MUST be provided** in order to make it up.

- Please consult me on what “valid documentation” entails.
- You have **48 hours after the missed assignment’s due date** to notify me so that we can arrange for you to make-up the work or turn it in late.
- Please be aware, **I strictly enforce this policy and WILL REQUIRE documentation.**

****IMPORTANT:** Technical issues are NOT considered valid excuses for turning work in late or failing to complete an assignment. Moodle can be accessed from any computer with internet access. If you experience technical problems, you have the option of using a computer at the libraries or at the computer labs on the Missoula College or Mountain Campuses. You can also use a colleague’s computer, go to the public library, café, etc... **It is your responsibility to have consistent and reliable internet access so you can submit your assignments on time.** It is in your best interest to be organized, plan, and not procrastinate.

VIII. **DROP POLICY**

According to UM’s [Academic Policies and Procedures](#), beginning the **46th instructional day** of the semester (i.e. **April 7th, 2015**) through the last regular class day (i.e. **May 8th, 2015**) before Finals Week, students may drop courses **only by petition that requires approval from the instructor, advisor, and dean**. Note that not all petitions are approved and documented **justification is required**. Some examples of documented circumstances that may merit approval are accident or illness, family emergency, or other circumstances beyond the student’s control. Instructors and advisors have the right to indicate that they do not recommend the drop. A WP or

WF will appear on the transcript.

IX. INCOMPLETE POLICY

A grade of Incomplete (I) may be given when, in the opinion of the instructor, there is a reasonable probability that students can complete the course without retaking it. The incomplete is not an option to be exercised at the discretion of a student. In all cases it is given at the discretion of the instructor (see UM's [Academic Policies and Procedures](#)).

X. STUDENT CONDUCT CODE (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY)

The Student Conduct Code, which can be found here, [Student Conduct Code](#), will be strictly enforced in this class. Specifically, cheating in any form will not be tolerated. You are not allowed to collaborate on any assignment (i.e. exam, paper, etc...) with anyone, including, but not exclusively, students who have previously taken this course, graduate students in psychology or related disciplines, friends, etc... Thus, all assignments **must** be completed **INDEPENDENTLY**, unless otherwise stated in the instructions (e.g. group projects), when students seek services from the Writing Center or tutoring, or unless accommodations have been approved by your instructor. **Cheating or plagiarism** will result in **FAILURE** (that is, a zero or an "F") on the assignment, **at minimum**, and it will be reported to Department Chair and/or the Dean. The instructor reserves the right to assign an "F" for the course if cheating or plagiarism occur. Additionally, you are subject to University sanctions, suspension or expulsion.

If you do not know what plagiarism is, you can ask your professor, visit the [Writing Center](#) at the Mountain campus (Liberal Arts 144, 243-2266), the [Mansfield Library](#) (243-6866), or contact Missoula College's [Academic Support Center](#) (243-7826).

*****IMPORTANT NOTE:** This is a standardized course across the UM, Missoula College campus. This means that there are established standards that we hold department-wide. These standards determine how the course is conducted, thus, they are not negotiable. In short, we strictly enforce the policies stated in this syllabus.

XI. COURSE CALENDAR

- Below are the due dates and times for your assignments. Please take note of these important dates.
- I will **not** make **alternative arrangements** to give any exams **early** due to **travel plans, assignments in other courses, work, etc...**. No exceptions! It is your responsibility to plan to meet the requirements in this class in order to be successful.
- This is a **tentative** course calendar. You are responsible for any changes, which I will clearly announce.

WEEK		Topic	Assignments	DATE POSTED	DATE DUE
1	Mon, 1/26 - Sun, 2/01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Chp 1 			
2	Mon, 2/02 - Sun, 2/08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chp 2 	Introduce Research Credits	Mon, 2/02, 10am	Fri, 5/01, by 11:55pm (MST)
3	Mon, 2/09 - Sun, 2/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chp 3 	Participation #1	Mon, 2/09, 10am	Fri, 2/13, by 11:55pm (MST)
4	Mon, 2/16 - Sun, 2/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chp 4 	EXAM 1 (Chps 1-3)	Mon, 2/16, 10am	Fri, 2/20, by 11:55pm (MST)
5	Mon, 2/23 - Sun, 3/01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chp 5 	Participation #2	Mon, 2/23, 10am	Fri, 2/27, by 11:55pm (MST)
6	Mon, 3/02 - Sun, 3/08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chp 6 	Introduce Paper	Wed, 3/04, 10am	Fri, 4/10, by 11:55pm (MST)
7	Mon, 3/09 - Sun, 3/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chp 7 	EXAM 2 (Chps 4-6)	Mon, 3/09, 10am	Fri, 3/13, by 11:55pm (MST)
8	Mon, 3/16 - Sun, 3/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chp 8 			
9	Mon, 3/23 - Sun, 3/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chp 9 Chp 10 	Participation #3	Mon, 3/23, 10am	Fri, 3/27, by 11:55pm (MST)
10	Mon, 3/30 - Sun, 4/05	Spring Break!			
11	Mon, 4/06 - Sun, 4/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chp 10 Chp 11 	EXAM 3 (Chps 7-9)	Mon, 4/06, 10am	Fri, 4/10, by 11:55pm (MST)
12	Mon, 4/13 - Sun, 4/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chp 12 	Participation #4	Mon, 4/13, 10am	Fri, 4/17, by 11:55pm (MST)
13	Mon, 4/20 - Sun, 4/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chp 13 	EXAM 4 (Chps 10-12)	Mon, 4/20, 10am	Fri, 4/24, by 11:55pm (MST)
14	Mon, 4/27 - Sun, 5/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chp 14 	Participation #5	Mon, 4/27, 10am	Fri, 5/01, by 11:55pm (MST)
15	Mon, 05/04 - Sun, 05/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chp 15 	PAPERS ARE DUE		FRI, 5/08, by 11:55pm (MST)
16	Mon - Fri 05/11-05/15	FINAL WEEK	EXAM 5 (Chps 13-15)	Mon, 5/11, 10am	Fri, 5/15, by 11:55pm (MST)