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PSYX 100S.04: Introduction to Psychology

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PSYX 100 - 04: Introduction to Psychology

Spring 2016

Course Location and Time

Location: GBB 122

Time: Monday & Wednesday 6:10-8:00pm

Instructor Information

Instructor: Allison "Ka" Powell

Email: allison.powell@umontana.edu

Office: Skaggs Building 053

Office hours: Mondays 10:00-11:00am; Thursdays 4:45-5:45pm; Fridays 11:30am-12:30pm

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, I want you to learn how to interpret and think about these data.

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. 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.

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.

Email Communication

I will be communicating with students using students’ umontana email addresses. It is the students’ responsibility to regularly check email at this address.

“People First” Language

Students are expected to use appropriate, “people first” language in class discussions and written work. People with disabilities are just that: people who happen to have physical, sensory, behavioral, or intellectual disabilities. Please avoid phrases like “the handicapped,” “autistic kids,” “severely retarded,” or other statements that highlight the disability rather than the individual. Instead, speak and write in a way that puts “people first” for example, “the student with a severe disability,” “the program for students with behavior disorders.” This small change emphasizes the humanity and individuality of the person and clarifies that disability is only one of many characteristics (and not necessarily the most important!) that people can possess.

Course Grading

Your final grade for the course will consist of a total of 10 in-class activities and your 3 (out of 4) best exam scores. You may take all 4 exams, but your grade will be calculated from your 3 best exam scores (allowing you to drop your lowest exam score). To receive full credit for in-class activities you will need to complete 10 in-class assignments that are valued at 2 points each.

So, of the 10 in-class activities offered, you must be present for, and complete, 10 to receive full in-class assignment credit. *In-class assignments are not announced ahead of time and thus you 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). Grades will be posted on the course Moodle webpage. *One extra credit* assignment will be made available on the course Moodle webpage. This extra credit assignment will be worth 2 points.

Exam 1: 50 points possible

Exam 2: 50 points possible

Exam 3: 50 points possible

Exam 4: 50 points possible

In-class assignments (10 x 2 points): 20 points possible

Research Credits (8): Required for a Grade

Total Points: 170 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	Percentage
A	90 - 100%
B	80 - 89%
C	70 - 79%
D	60 - 69%
F	< 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 4-5 chapter cycles. At the end of each cycle you will have an exam on those 4 to 5 chapters. The benefit of this system is that you will not have to take a cumulative midterm and the comprehensive final at the end of the semester is optional (given completion of 3 exams during 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.

In addition to exams, you will complete in-class activities that will comprise the rest of your grade. These activities will range from quizzes and group discussions to critical analyses of psychological theories. You will therefore need to bring paper to class for these assignments.

Exams

Exams 1-3 will be administered during your regular class time in your regular lecture room. Exam 4 will be on Monday evening during finals week from 7:40PM-9:40 PM. **The location for the final is TBA.**

For all Exams you will need to bring a #2 pencil and an NCS Test Sheet 50/50, form No. 95142, you can purchase this **BLUE/GREEN** Scantron form in the UC for 15 cents. Please note that no student will be allowed to start the mid-term or final 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).
- Plan to be on time for exams.
- **Exam 4: Monday of Finals week @ 7:40 – 9:40 PM (Location TBA)**

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 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, please 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](http://hs.umt.edu/psychology/undergraduates/sona.php) page. URL: <http://hs.umt.edu/psychology/undergraduates/sona.php>

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.

Further, in case it is needed for verification, you will also keep track of your hours on an experiment tracking sheet. *Do not lose your tracking sheet.* This is your own verification of your participation should any error in tracking occur on the online system.

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 of instructions is available on the course Moodle. 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	Date	Chapters Covered*	Notes
Week 1	Monday (M) – Jan 25	Syllabus	Welcome!
	Wednesday (W) – Jan 27	1	
Week 2	M – Feb 1	2	
	W –Feb 3	2	
Week 3	M—Feb 8	3	
	W –Feb 10	-	Screening Day (CHEM 123)
Week 4	M—Feb 15	NO CLASS	Presidents' Day
	W –Feb 17	3	
Week 5	M—Feb 22	4	
	W—Feb 24	4	
Week 6	M—Feb 29	EXAM DAY	EXAM 1—chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 Bring scantron & pencil
	W—March 2	5	
Week 7	M—March 7	5/6	
	W—March 9	6	

Week	Date	Chapters Covered*	Notes
Week 8	M—March 14	7	
	W—March 16	7/8	
Week 9	M—March 21	8	
	W—March 23	8/10	
Week 10	M—March 28	10	
	W—March 30	EXAM DAY	EXAM 2 on chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 Bring scantron & pencil
Week 11	M—April 4	<i>NO CLASS</i>	<i>Spring Break</i>
	W—April 6	<i>NO CLASS</i>	<i>Spring Break</i>
Week 12	M—April 11	11	
	W—April 13	11/12	
Week 13	M—April 18	12/15	
	W—April 20	15	
Week 14	M—April 25	15/16	
	W—April 27	16	
Week 15	M—May 2	13	
	W—May 4	EXAM DAY	EXAM 3 on chapters 11, 12, 15, 16, 13 Bring scantron & pencil
FINAL	Monday, May 9th	FINAL EXAM	EXAM 4 (comprehensive) Location TBA, 7:40-9:40pm Bring scantron & pencil

*Homework for this class includes the outside reading in the textbook that corresponds to the chapters we are covering in class (for example, if we are covering chapter 3 in class, you should also be reading chapter 3 outside of class).

Disclaimer:

Allison Powell reserves the right to make changes in (a) the course schedule, (b) course requirements, (c) the course grading procedures, and/or any other aspects of the course at any time. Any alterations will be circumspect and will be made in the best interests of the students, the course, and the professor.