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PSYX 100S.04C: Introduction to Psychology

Jamie H. Kearra

University of Montana, Missoula, jamie.kearra@mso.umt.edu

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MISSOULA COLLEGE

Spring, 2016

PSYX 100S: Introduction to Psychology, Section 04C

COURSE SYLLABUS

PROFESSOR: Jamie Kearra, M.S.

I. CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Office:** Missoula College, AD-04B
Phone: 243-7917
- **Office Hours:**
 - Thursday 1:00pm – 2:00pm, or by appointment
- **Email:** jamie.kearra@mso.umt.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 04, 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 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, **you can expect to spend about 12 hours a week on this course outside of the classroom.**

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*. 4th Edition. Upper Saddle River: Pearson.**
 - ISBN-13: 978-0-205-97224-1

- You can purchase a shrink-wrapped, loose-leaf **text** and access to the online supplement, **REVEL**, at the **Missoula College Bookstore** for \$99.35.
- Or, you can purchase *just* the **online supplement, REVEL**, which includes the online text, directly from our publisher, Pearson for \$75.00. You can get one 2 week trial for the book if you are waiting on financial aid to purchase your book. In addition if you purchase the online book they will send you a loose leaf copy by mail for an additional \$5.

1. Visit this link, which is unique to our Psyx 100 section:

<https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/pcimjl>

2. Sign in with your Pearson Account. You can either: sign in with an existing Pearson username and password OR create a new Pearson account if this is your first Pearson digital product.
3. Choose your course under 'My Courses' and choose an access option: redeem an access code that you got from your school's bookstore or purchase access online. There is a free trial if you are waiting for financial aid.
4. What you should know:
 - Bookmark <https://console.pearson.com> to easily access your materials.
 - Pearson recommends using the latest version of Chrome, Firefox, or Safari with this digital product.
 - Contact your instructor if you lose the invite link.
 - Do NOT lose your password!

- There are a couple hard copies of the texts on reserve at the library.

2. **Moodle:**

- This course is managed (i.e. gradebook) through Moodle. To access Moodle, go to <http://umonline.umn.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. Participation Points	150
3. Research Credits (8 credits)	Required
<hr/>	
TOTAL POSSIBLE	650

- 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-class**.
- There are **5 exams** in this course. Each covers 2-3 chapters each.
- Each exam has **50 questions**, worth 2 points each, for a total of 100 points.
- You must arrive to class on-time the day of an exam. **Students who are more than 20 minutes late will NOT be allowed to take the exam.**
- You may **NOT** use your **notes** or **text** during an exam. 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. PARTICIPATION POINTS (Pp)

- Participation points consist of **random attendance checks**, as well as individual and group work. Some of these assignments will be in class, others may be take-home.
- The dates of the random attendance checks and individual or group work are purposely **NOT** listed on your Course Calendar.
- There are 150 Pp possible. How many points available on any given day will depend on what is being graded (e.g. attendance, written work, group work, etc...).
- **Students who sleep, leave early/come late, work on other assignments or text, facebook, surf the internet, etc... during class will NOT earn their participation points.**
- Your first assignment for participation points is the “**Syllabus Contract**,” which is worth 5 points. See the last page of this syllabus for your contract.

3. 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.
- In Psyx 100, you must earn **8 research credits**. There are two ways you can meet this requirement: **1) participate in an original research project** and/or **2) read about original research and writing a review**. Detailed information about these options will be given in class and the instructions will be posted in Moodle, under the “Research Credits” header.
- Your research credits must be **completed by Wednesday April 27th at the beginning of class**. If a student does not complete these credits on time, their grade will be **dropped one whole 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.**

VIII. DROP POLICY

According to UM's [Academic Policies and Procedures](#), beginning the **46th instructional day** of the semester (i.e. **March 29th, 2016**) through the last regular class day (i.e. **May 6th, 2016**) 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. For more information on important dates, see [Important Dates and Deadlines](#).

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, research credit papers, 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).

XI. CLASS ETIQUETTE

- Please turn your **cell phones off** or on **silent** before class begins.
- Please, **DO NOT TEXT** during class. It is very distracting to your classmates as well as myself, *especially* when you trying to be inconspicuous (i.e. texting under the desk, under notes, using your text as a barrier, etc...). If I catch you on your phone during class, I will ask you to put it away. After 2 or 3 prompts, **I will ask you to leave the class immediately!**
- **Please be on time.** If you must leave early, out of courtesy for your classmates and me, please sit close to the door so you can excuse yourself quietly. Also, please let me know before class that you need to leave early.
- If you type your notes on a computer during class, please **DO NOT use Facebook, play games, check email, surf the internet, etc...during class.** While I may not be able to see you, your peers sitting behind you can see, which can be very distracting. Again, if I find you are doing other things on your computer during class time than taking notes, I will ask you to stop. After 2 or 3 prompts, **I will ask you to leave the class immediately!**
- Please **do not talk to your neighbors** during class. Just like texting “inconspicuously” is distracting, so is whispering.
- I ask that you please **raise your hand** if you have a question or comment during lecture.
- If you are disruptive, I will talk to you individually after class. After 2 or 3 prompts, **I will ask you to leave the class immediately!**

*****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.

XII. COURSE CALENDAR

- Please note, this is a **tentative** course calendar. There may be changes due to the pace of lecture. You are responsible for any changes, which I will clearly announce.
- 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.

(Revised 1/19/2016)

	WEEK	Objective	DUE
1	Mon, 1/25	- Welcome - Chp 1 - Syllabus Contract (5 Pp) (DUE 2/03)	
	Wed, 1/27	- Chp 1	
2	Mon, 2/01	- Chp 1 / Chp 2	
	Wed, 2/03	- Introduce Research Credits (DUE 2/10) - Chp 2	- Syllabus Contract DUE at the beginning of class
3	Mon, 2/08	- Chp 3	
	Wed, 2/10	- Chp 3 / Chp 4	
4	Mon, 2/15	- No Class President's Day	
	Wed, 2/17	- EXAM 1 (Chp 1, 2 & 3)	- EXAM 1
5	Mon, 2/22	- Chp 4	

	Wed, 2/24	- Chp 5	
6	Mon, 2/29	- Chp 5 / Chp 6	
	Wed, 3/02	- Chp 6 / Chp 7	
7	Mon, 3/07	- EXAM 2 (Chp 4, 5 & 6)	- EXAM 2
	Wed, 3/09	- Chp 7 / Chp 8	
8	Mon, 3/14	- Chp 8	
	Wed, 3/16	- Chp 8 /Chp 9	
9	Mon, 3/21	- Chp 9	
	Wed, 3/23	- Ch 10	
10	Mon, 3/28	- EXAM 3 (Chp 7, 8 & 9)	- EXAM 3
	Wed, 3/30	- Chp 10 / Chp 11	
11	Mon, 4/04	- SPRING BREAK	
	Wed, 4/06	- SPRING BREAK	
12	Mon, 4/11	- Chp 11	
	Wed, 4/13	- Chp 12	
13	Mon, 4/18	- Chp 12	
	Wed, 4/20	- EXAM 4 (Chp 10, 11 & 12)	- EXAM 4
14	Mon, 4/25	- Chp 14	
	Wed, 4/27	- Chp 14	- Research Credits DUE at the beginning of class.
15	Mon, 5/02	- Chp 15	
	Wed, 5/04	- Chp 15	
16	FINALS WEEK Mon, 5/9, 3:20pm - 5:20pm	- EXAM 5 (Chp 14 & 15)	- EXAM 5

**PSYX 100S, Sec 04C
Spring 2016
Jamie Kearra, M.S.**

SYLLABUS CONTRACT

Expectations are very clear in this Syllabus. It is each student's responsibility to read and understand the syllabus and its policies. If you are not clear on any portion of the course, contact your instructor immediately.

Once you have read your Psyx 100 syllabus, please sign below to indicate that you have read and understand the syllabus. This acts as a sort of "**contract**" between me and you, letting me know that you are ready to begin and understand the requirements of the course so you may be successful. For example, your signature below implies that you have taken note of all important due dates and times; you understand what is required, including **5 Exams, random participation points**, and **8 credits of research participation**. You also understand that you are responsible for any changes to the course calendar.

This top portion of the contract is for your records. Please sign below and **return to me**, at the **start of class** by **Wednesday, Feb. 3rd**. This contract is worth 5 participation points.

**PSYX 100S, Sec 04C
Spring 2016
Jamie Kearra, M.S.**

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Printed Name

Signature

Date