

Spring 2-1-2017

PSYX 100S.01: Introduction to Psychology

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Recommended Citation

Russel, Samantha Cody, "PSYX 100S.01: Introduction to Psychology" (2017). *Syllabi*. 5224.
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Psyx 100: Introduction to Psychology

Spring 2017

Instructor Information

Instructor: Samantha Russell, M.A.
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Office hours: Tuesday and Thursdays 3:00- 4:30

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, 10th Edition

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 Grades

Your final grade for the course will consist of a total of all quiz scores, Midterm Exam score, Final Exam score, and participation points earned in the lab.

Quizzes: 120 points possible

Midterm Exam: 60 points possible

Final Exam: 60 points possible

Lab Participation Points: 60 points possible

Research Credits (8): Required for a Grade

Total Points: 300 points possible

(Up to 5 extra credit points may be offered in class over the semester)

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 | 270 - 300 | 90 - 100% |
| B | 240 - 269 | 80 - 89% |
| C | 210 - 239 | 70 - 79% |
| D | 180 - 209 | 60 - 69% |
| F | 0 - 179 | < 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 2-week cycles. In the first week of each cycle, you will attend lecture Monday through Thursday. In the second week of each cycle, you will attend lecture Monday and Tuesday only. On Wednesday of the second week, you will participate in a Lab Section (which occurs in a different room than normal lecture), which includes an active learning task and quizzes on that cycle's material. On Thursday of the second week, you will have the opportunity to retake the quiz (more on that below).

Example of a two-week period:

| A & B Week | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday |
|------------|---------|---------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Week A | Lecture | Lecture | Lecture | Lecture |
| Week B | Lecture | Lecture | Quizzes & Lab (Lab room) | Quiz Retake (Lecture room) |

- **What is a Lab Section?**

The Lab Section is run by an undergraduate proctor, who has excelled in Introductory Psychology. Two things happen in Lab Section. First, you will participate in a laboratory activity designed to highlight a *small subset* of the course content from the current unit. Second, you will take 2 multiple-choice quizzes on that week's two chapters.

- **What is the lab activity? And why do I need to do it?**

Lab activities are designed to highlight material covered in lecture and the text. The lab activities are NOT designed to be a comprehensive review for the quizzes. Proctors are instructed to demonstrate an activity that highlights a **small subset** of something (sometimes, just one thing) you were taught in lecture or in the book. The goal of the lab is NOT quiz preparation but rather demonstration of a narrow piece of knowledge. (Research suggests you will remember better in the long term if you are taught in this way). Proctors may occasionally do a short review game, but they are allowed by the Director of the entire psych 100 program only 1-2 of these per term. So do not expect something from your proctors that they are not allowed to do!

Please note that you are **required** to be present for the 20-minute lab activity led by your proctor. The lab sessions are worth 10 participation points, 5 points for attendance and 5 points for participation. Students will lose these points for the lab activity if they: 1) do not show up (loss of 10 points); 2) arrive late or leave early (loss of 5 points); or 3) do not participate in the activity (loss of 5 points).

- **Misbehavior during the lab sessions will NOT be tolerated under ANY circumstance.** Such misbehavior will result not only in loss of your lab points, but also in talking with your instructor, and (if the behavior persists) having an unpleasant discussion with the Director of the whole psychology 100 program (with severe accompanying penalties).

- **What can I expect on the quizzes and exams?**

Lectures will follow the chapters in the book but may contain extra material. We will cover all chapters in the book (except chapter 13) as well as address some additional topics. Quizzes and exams will include material covered in lecture and in the text. **Note: If you fail to return your quizzes or exams, you will forfeit the quiz or exam points, in addition to facing other penalties!**

- **Who has to take the Thursday Retake Quiz?**

If you have scored a 7 or higher for both units (70%), you do not need to take the Thursday Retake Quiz. However, if you fail to meet the 70% criteria, **you are required to show up on Thursday** to take a new quiz on that unit. No make-ups are given for Thursday Retake Quizzes.

- **What happens if I do not get a 7 on Wednesday and do not take the Thursday retake?**

You get a zero for that chapter, even if you scored a 6 on Wednesday.

- **What if I got a 7 or higher but want to improve my grade?**

We encourage you to come to every Thursday retake unless you earned perfect scores on Wednesday. Your highest score will be used, so there is no penalty for trying.

- **What if I earn a 5 on Wednesday and a 6 on Thursday, will I receive a 0?**

You will earn a 6, the higher score for the two quizzes; however, since you earned a 5 on Wednesday, YOU MUST attend the Thursday make-up in order to earn a score for that quiz.

- **If I skip the Wednesday quizzes and only take the Thursday quizzes, will my Thursday grades count?**

No. If you skip the Wednesday quizzes, you will not only lose your participation points for the lab and you will also earn zeroes on both quizzes, *even if you take the make-up quizzes on Thursday.*

- **Am I able to keep my quizzes?**

No. Failure to return **any** portion of your quizzes in lab will result in a zero for that quiz.

Midterm and Final

You are required to take the multiple-choice Midterm and Final Exam. The Midterms will be administered during your regular class time in your regular lecture room. The Final Exam will be on the Wednesday of finals week from 3:20-5:20 PM.

For the Midterm and Final you will need to bring a #2 pencil and a NCS Test Sheet 50/50, form No. 95142, you can purchase this BLUE/GREEN Scantron form in the UC. Please note that no student will be allowed to start the midterm or final once another student has completed the exam and left the room.

- Study guides are not provided for quizzes and tests; you are expected to know all the material from the textbook and lecture (unless otherwise indicated).
- Plan to be on time for exams.
- **Final Exam: Wednesday of finals week from 3:20-5:20 PM, in this room.**

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

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 do not do this properly, then 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 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.

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 CALENDAR

| Week | Date | Topic |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 - A week | M January 23 rd | |
| | T January 24 th | Lecture (Chapters 1 & 2) |
| | W January 25 th | |
| | R January 26 th | Lecture (Chapters 1 & 2) |
| 2 - B week | M January 30 th | Lecture (Chapters 1 & 2) |
| | T January 31 st | |
| | W February 1 st | Lab & Quizzes (Chapters 1 & 2) |
| | R February 2 nd | |
| 3 - A week | M February 6 th | |
| | T February 7 th | Lecture (Chapters 3 & 4) |
| | W February 8 th | |
| | R February 9 th | Lecture (Chapters 3 & 4) |
| 4 - B week | M February 13 th | Lecture (Chapters 3 & 4) |
| | T February 14 th | |
| | W February 15 th | Lab & Quizzes (Chapters 3 & 4) |
| | R February 16 th | |
| 5 - A week | M February 20 th | |
| | T February 21 st | Lecture (Chapters 5 & 6) |
| | W February 22 nd | |
| | R February 23 rd | Lecture (Chapters 5 & 6) |
| 6 - B week | M February 27 th | Lecture (Chapters 5 & 6) |
| | T February 28 th | |
| | W March 1 st | Lab & Quizzes (Chapters 5 & 6) |
| | R March 2 nd | |
| 7 - A week | M March 6 th | |
| | T March 7 th | Lecture (Chapter 7) |
| | W March 8 th | |
| | R March 9 th | Midterm Exam |
| 8 - A week | M March 13 th | Lecture (Chapters 8 & 9) |
| | T March 14 th | |
| | W March 15 th | Lecture (Chapters 8 & 9) |
| | R March 16 th | |
| 9 - Break | M March 20 th | |
| | T March 21 st | No Class – Spring Break |
| | W March 22 nd | |
| | R March 23 rd | No Class – Spring Break |

| Week | Date | Topic |
|--------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 10 - B week | M March 27 th | Lecture (Chapters 8 & 9) |
| | T March 28 th | Lecture (Chapters 8 & 9) |
| | W March 29 th | Lab & Quizzes (Chapters 8 & 9) |
| | R March 30 th | Quiz Retakes (Chapters 8 & 9) |
| 11 - A week | M April 3 rd | Lecture (Chapters 10 & 11) |
| | T April 4 th | Lecture (Chapters 10 & 11) |
| | W April 5 th | Lecture (Chapters 10 & 11) |
| | R April 6 th | Lecture (Chapters 10 & 11) |
| 12 - B week | M April 10 th | Lecture (Chapters 10 & 11) |
| | T April 11 th | Lecture (Chapters 10 & 11) |
| | W April 12 th | Lab & Quizzes (Chapters 10 & 11) |
| | R April 13 th | Quiz Retakes (Chapters 10 & 11) |
| 13 - A week | M April 17 th | Lecture (Chapters 14 & 15) Skip Chapter 13 |
| | T April 18 th | Lecture (Chapters 14 & 15) |
| | W April 19 th | Lecture (Chapters 14 & 15) |
| | R April 20 th | Lecture (Chapters 14 & 15) |
| 14 - B week | M April 24 th | Lecture (Chapters 14 & 15) |
| | T April 25 th | Lecture (Chapters 14 & 15) |
| | W April 26 th | Lab & Quizzes (Chapters 14 & 15) |
| | R April 27 th | Quiz Retakes (Chapters 14 & 15) |
| 15 - A week | M May 1 st | Lecture (Chapter 12) |
| | T May 2 nd | Lecture (Chapter 12) |
| | W May 3 rd | Lecture (Chapter 12) |
| | R May 4 th | Lecture (Chapter 12) Review for Final Exam |
| 16 - Finals | | Finals Week |
| | W May 10th | Final Exam – 3:20-5:20 pm |

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 (Psyx 100) syllabus for Fall 2016. 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 _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Email Address: _____

Enrollment Information

In the space below, please tell me why you are taking this class.