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Fall 9-1-2001

### PSYC 100S.00: Introduction to Psychology

Alan Laramie Shields

*The University of Montana*

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# INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

PSYC 100

Fall, 2001

Tuesday and Thursday

6:10pm - 8:00pm

McGill Hall 215

Alan L. Shields, M.A.

Skaggs Building 238

Office: 243-4371

E-mail: [ashields@selway.umn.edu](mailto:ashields@selway.umn.edu)

Office Hours:

Mondays: 1:10 to 2:00 pm,

Thursdays: 10:10 to 11:00 am,

Or by appointment.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Psychology is the science of human and animal behavior and mental processes. 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, we learn more about ourselves, others, non-human animals, and our relationships. The course primarily employs a lecture format, although your comments, questions, and discussions are strongly encouraged.

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:** The primary goal of Introduction to Psychology is for you to become knowledgeable regarding the principles and applications of psychology. In addition, by examining current controversies in the broad field of psychology you will enhance your critical thinking skills. Upon the completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Understand the relevance of psychology within society.
- Explain various paradigms of psychology.
- Discuss the different arguments within the field of psychology

**STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE:** Each week will consist of two lectures from 6:10-8:00 PM on Tuesday and Thursday. Lectures will follow the chapters in the book but will also contain extra material emphasizing recent research findings and controversies in the empirical (i.e., experimental) literature. Due to the large amount of material you will be responsible for, it is HIGHLY ADVISED that you have read the material prior to lecture. Your performance in this class will likely be directly related to both your class attendance AND your reading of the assignments.

**REQUIRED TEXT:** Weiten, W. (2001). *Psychology Themes and Variations 5<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.

**RECOMMENDED TEXT:** Stalling, R. B. & Wasden, R. (2001). *Study Guide for Weiten's Psychology Themes and Variations 5<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:** Textbook website (including study center and self-tests): <http://psychology.wadsworth.com>.

CD-ROM (included in text; PsykTrek) includes interactive learning modules, simulations, and video footage. Also includes a detailed glossary of terms used in the textbook.

**ASSESSMENTS:** Your demonstration of successfully accomplishing the objectives for Introduction to Psychology will be based on 5 assessments (i.e., exams). Each assessment will require you to demonstrate your knowledge of the material by answering 40 multiple choice questions.

Each assessment will have equal weighting toward your final grade. The assessments are *not* cumulative. You will be held responsible for all

assigned readings and all materials covered in class lectures and discussions. Make-up assessments will be given *only* in documented emergencies or university approved absences. The date and format of make-up assessments will be at my discretion. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on any assessment (e.g., looking at another student's assessment, using a cheat sheet, turning in another student's in-class assignment) will result in failing the course. The assessment dates are:

1. Tuesday, September 25th
2. Tuesday, October 16th
3. Tuesday, November 6th
4. Thursday, November 29th
5. Tuesday, December 18th from 6:10 to 8:00 PM.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** In addition to the assessments, five *extra credit* quizzes (worth 2 points each) will be given at random during the semester (one in between each assessment for a total of 10 points or half a letter grade). In other words, it is in your best interest to attend all lectures.

### **GRADING BREAKDOWN:**

5 assessments: (40 points each) 200 points

Total: 200 points

### **Grading Scale**

| Grade | Points    |
|-------|-----------|
| A     | 180 - 200 |
| B     | 160 - 179 |
| C     | 140 - 159 |
| D     | 120 - 200 |
| F     | 0 - 119   |

**Research Experience:** Psychology is a science built on systematic research on 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. They may be combined in any manner to meet the 8-credit research experience requirement.

The research experience portion of this class is ungraded. You may choose either or both of these options (e.g., 4 credits of research participation with 4 credits for reading about research) 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. **Sign-up sheets will be posted on the tables on the second floor lobby of the Skaggs Bldg (near room 246).**

Each experiment will be assigned a letter code and you must sign up for experiments designated by DIFFERENT letters. Once you have participated in an experiment assigned a letter (e.g., B), you may not sign up for any other experiment with a similar code (again, B). If you do, you will only receive credit for the first experiment. Some psychological research projects require participants who possess special characteristics. You will have the opportunity to participate in an in-class screening to be eligible for those experimenters. The results of the assessments are confidential, and participation in the screening is optional.

Once you sign up for an experiment, you have made an appointment. If you miss your appointment, you are required to make up the credits for that experiment, PLUS two extra credits.

You will keep track of your hours on an experiment tracking scantron sheet. Do not lose your scantron. This is your record of your participation and you are responsible for it as you would any other required assignment.

Once you have completed your research experience credits, hand in the experimental tracking scantron to **your instructor in-person** (that means during lecture or office hours). Do not slide it under the office door as these could lead to your scantron being misplaced.

2) **Reading about original research.** In this option, you will identify, read, and summarize an original research article in 1-2 pages. Each summary counts towards 2 experimental credits. A separate handout is available outside Skaggs 365 with the details. These assignments are due NO LATER THAN 12/13/01. I highly recommend, however, that you turn them in earlier. This will ensure that if they do not initially meet criteria that you will have an opportunity to re-do them for credit.

**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. 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 a grade of "Incomplete" in any course at UM, an "I" remains permanently on your record, even if you eventually complete the work.

**MISCELLANEOUS:** Note that **September 24<sup>th</sup>** is the last day to drop a class, change a section, or change grading options without a petition. **After September 24<sup>th</sup>**, petitions to drop or the granting of incompletes will be approved only in DOCUMENTABLE emergency cases.

Students with disabilities have the responsibility to declare their disability to the instructor at the beginning of the course if they require accommodations. These students have the responsibility to arrange for such accommodations with Disability Services for Students (Corbin Hall).

## **APPROXIMATE COURSE ORGANIZATION\***

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|               |    |  |
|---------------|----|--|
| Week 1 (9/03) | -- | Chapter 1: The Evolution of Psychology           |
| Week 2 (9/10) | -- | Chapter 2: The Research Enterprise in Psychology |
| Week 3 (9/17) | -- | Chapter 3: The Biological Bases of Behavior      |

### **ASSESSMENT 1 (TUESDAY 9/25)**

|                |    |                                     |
|----------------|----|-------------------------------------|
| Week 4 (9/24)  | -- | Chapter 4: Sensation and Perception |
| Week 5 (10/01) | -- | Chapter 6: Learning                 |
| Week 6 (10/08) | -- | Chapter 7: Human Memory             |

### **ASSESSMENT 2 (TUESDAY 10/16)**

|                |    |   |
|----------------|----|---|
| Week 7 (10/15) | -- | Chapter 9: Intelligence and Psychological Testing         |
| Week 8 (10/22) | -- | Chapter 12: Personality: Theory, Research, and Assessment |
| Week 9 (10/29) | -- | Chapter 10: Motivation and Emotion                        |

### **ASSESSMENT 3 (TUESDAY 11/06)**

|                 |    |  |
|-----------------|----|--|
| Week 10 (11/05) | -- | Chapter 11: Human Development Across the Life Span |
| Week 11 (11/12) | -- | Chapter 13: Stress, Coping, and Health             |
| Week 12 (11/19) | -- | Chapter 16: Social Behavior                        |
|                 | -- | Thanksgiving Holiday: No classes 11/21-11/23.      |
| Week 13 (11/26) | -- | Chapter 16: Social Behavior (continued)            |

### **ASSESSMENT 4 (THURSDAY 11/29)**

|                 |    |  |
|-----------------|----|--|
| Week 14 (12/3)  | -- | Chapter 14: Psychological Disorders              |
| Week 15 (12/10) | -- | Chapter 15: Treatment of Psychological Disorders |
| Week 16 (12/17) | -- | FINAL EXAMINATIONS WEEK: NO LECTURE              |

### **ASSESSMENT 5 (TUESDAY 12/18: 6:10 to 8:00 PM)**

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\*Instructor retains the right to alter the course organization throughout the term.