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PSYC 100S.09: Introduction to Psychology

Ellen M. Crouse

The University of Montana

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Syllabus:
Introduction to Psychology
Psyc 100, Section 9
Autumn Session, 2001
Tues & Thurs, 6:10 – 8:00 p.m.
GBB 122

Instructor : Ellen Crouse
Office Phone : 243 6514
E-mail : intropsych@juno.com

Office: SB 368
Hours: Tues & Thurs, 5:10-6:00
(Add'l hours by appt.)

Purpose of the Course

As an survey course, Introduction to Psychology is designed to provide students with a broad overview of the field. A wide array of topics in psychology will be covered, including psychological concepts, perspectives on the history of psychology, and recent research. The course provides students with a foundation in psychology, preparing them for further coursework in any field concerned with human behavior, cognition, and development.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, you should be able to do the following:

- Discuss basic aspects of the relationship between the human mind and body.
- Talk knowledgeably about definitions of mental health and psychological disorders, including historical and cultural influences on these definitions.
- Describe the major theories of psychological development, and provide support for the merits and weaknesses of each.
- Explain the evolutionary, psychoanalytic, behavioral, biological, cognitive, and humanistic perspectives in psychology.
- Talk knowledgeably about the influence of societal values on mental health and human psychology.

Text Information

For this course, you are *required* to obtain the following text:

- Weiten, W. (2001). *Psychology: Themes and Variations, 5th Edition*. Wadsworth Publishing.
- **PsycTrek CD-ROM**, Wadsworth Publishing.

Wadsworth also provides students a study center website for quiz questions, research updates, interactive exercises, and suggested readings from each chapter:

- <http://psychology.wadsworth.com/book/weitenthemes5e/>

Research Experience (OPTIONS)

Psychology is a science built on systematic research. 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** (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) Reading About Original Research

In this option, you will identify, read, and summarize an original research article in a written report. Each summary counts towards 2 experimental credits. A separate handout will be available outside Skaggs 365 with the details and paper criteria.

2) Participation in Original Research

In this option, you sign up to participate in actual psychology experiments. Individual experiments range from 1 to 8 credits each. 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 (outside SB 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 (e.g., B again).** 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 to be eligible for those experiments. 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 be for any other required assignment.

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

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 by the reading about research option. Consistent with university policy, if you do not complete your course requirements within one year, your grade will revert to one letter grade lower than what you earned originally. **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.

Evaluation of Your Work

Your progress in this course will be evaluated on the basis of grades on major exams and grades on in-class assignments & quizzes. Because I know that no one is at their peak performance 100% of the time, **I allow you to drop your lowest major exam score.** Grading for this course is based on the following:

Grading Breakdown

4 Exams (out of 5):	(100 points each)	400 Points
Quizzes	(80 points)	<u>80 Points</u>
Total Possible Points:		480

Grading Scale

Grade	Points
A	480 - 430
B	429 - 382
C	381 - 334
D	333 - 286
F	285 - 000

Please note that your research experience is a requirement of the course, but it does **not** count toward your total points in the course.

In addition to the above grading scale, you may improve your grade with occasional **extra credit opportunities**. Because I allow you to drop a major exam grade, as well as offering extra credit, **I do not curve grades**.

Exams

- There will be five major exams in the course. Most consist of multiple choice, true/false, matching, fill-in-the-blank, and short-answer questions. Most exams will contain one extra credit question.
- **I ENCOURAGE YOU TO TAKE ALL 5 EXAMS**, so that you have some "wiggle room" in case you do poorly on one.

Absences and Missed Exams

If you are going to miss a major exam, you must notify me before the class period during which the exam is held. University-approved excuses with documentation of the excuse are required if you want to make up missed work. You bear the responsibility for giving me prior notice and for making arrangements for making up the exam. Pop quizzes, in-class assignments, and extra credit cannot be made up.

Students with Special Needs

If you have special learning needs, it is your responsibility to inform me, at the outset of the course, of your disability and the ways in which you and DSS have determined that you will need accommodation for your learning style. I'll be happy to help you to achieve your goals in this course.

Outline of Lecture Topics and Assigned Readings

Please note that you are expected to complete the assigned readings **prior to class** on the day on which they are assigned. I reserve the right to give pop quizzes on any class day (and I am more likely to do so if it looks like no one is doing the reading).

<u>Class Date:</u>	<u>Topic/Assignment:</u>	<u>Pages of Text:</u>
Tues, 04 Sep 01	Introduction. Review syllabus. Begin lecture on history of psychology.	
Thu, 06 Sep 01	History of psychology. Subfields of <input type="checkbox"/>	1-35
Tue, 11 Sep 01	Research & the scientific method	36-73
Thu, 13 Sep 01	The nervous system	75-90
Tue, 18 Sep 01	The brain & endocrine system Evolutionary bases of behavior	91-123
Thu, 20 Sep 01	★ <u>EXAM #1: CHAPTERS 1-3</u> ★	

Tue, 25 Sep 01	Sensation & perception The visual system, Gestalt principles	125-156, 169-177
Thu, 27 Sep 01	Biological rhythms, sleep, & dreams Learning	179-203 221-245
Tue, 2 Oct 01	Learning (cont.)	246-263
Thu, 4 Oct 01	Memory: Encoding & storage	265-279
Tue, 9 Oct 01	Memory: Retrieval & forgetting	279-305

Thu, 11 Oct 01  **EXAM #2: CHAPTERS 4-7** 

Tue, 16 Oct 01	Language, problem solving, & decisions	307-343
Thu, 18 Oct 01	Overview of intelligence testing Motivation & Theories of emotion	345-371 387-405, 412-429
Tue, 23 Oct 01	Development: Erikson	431-445
Thu, 25 Oct 01	Development: Piaget & Kohlberg	446-483

Tue, 30 Oct 01  **EXAM #3: CHAPTERS 8-11** 

Thu, 1 Nov 01	Personality: Psychodynamic approaches	485-499
Tue, 6 Nov 01	Personality: Behavioral, humanistic and biological approaches	499-527
Thu, 8 Nov 01	Stress Defining mental health	529-546, 560-567 569-576
Tue, 13 Nov 01	Anxiety & somatoform disorders Mood & personality disorders	576-591, 598-603
Thu, 15 Nov 01	Schizophrenia Law, culture, & mental illness	592-598, 603-613

Tue, 20 Nov 01  **EXAM #4: CHAPTERS 12-14** 

Thu, 22 Nov 01	<u>No Class ! Thanksgiving Holiday!</u>	
Tue, 4 Dec 01	Overview of therapy & treatment	615-653
Thu, 6 Dec 01	Prejudice, attributions, & attitudes	655-678
Tue, 11 Dec 01	Conformity & obedience	678-683
Thu, 13 Dec 01	Group behavior	683-697

Tue, 18 Dec  **FINAL EXAM: CHAPTERS 15-16** 
