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PSYX 100S.01: Introduction to Psychology

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PSYX 100S – 01: Introduction to Psychology Spring 2018

Course Location and Time

Location: Social Sciences Building 356

Time: Tuesday & Thursday 12:30-1:50pm

Instructor Information

Instructor: Nora Uhrich

Email: nora.uhrich@umontana.edu

Office: Skaggs Building 053

Office hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 12:30-2pm and by appointment

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, 10th Ed.

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](#). All work for this class must reflect your own work. As specified in the Student Conduct Code, academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to:

- *Plagiarism*: representing someone else's work (words, ideas, data, materials) as your own.
- *Misconduct during an examination or academic exercise*: Copying from another student's paper/exam, giving information to another student, consulting unauthorized materials.

Academic misconduct will result in a zero for that exam or assignment and the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students to be dealt with appropriately.

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.

Communication

Other than my office hours, the best way to contact me is by email. I will try to respond to your email as soon as I can but you should not have to wait more than 24 hours during weekdays for a reply. If it has been longer, please resend your message in case I did not receive it the first time.

Class Etiquette

The classroom is meant to be a learning environment. However, learning is inhibited when there is a lack of respect for one another's individuality as well as for the class as a whole. In order to better facilitate a beneficial environment for all, we need to set a few ground rules:

1. **Cellphones** should be **turned off** or otherwise silenced during class time.
2. **Be on time.** People coming in late disrupt the flow of the class and places them behind in the material covered in class. Occasionally, being late cannot be helped, but routine tardiness shows a lack of respect for the entire class.
3. **Talking.** Please raise your hand when you wish to speak. Also, discussions or comments with your neighbors while someone else is speaking are disrespectful to us all. If you

missed something that was said, please let us know and the speaker will repeat it.

Statement on Gender Identity

This course affirms people of all gender expressions and gender identities. If you prefer to be called a different name than that on the class roster, please let me know. Feel free to correct me on your preferred gender pronoun. If you have any questions or concerns in this area, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Class Sessions and Attendance

At times during class we will be learning material that is covered in your readings, while at other times we will be discussing concepts and findings that are not mentioned in your text. I will not lecture on every topic covered in the book; likewise, not everything covered in class will be found in the book. So, for you to get the most out of this course, it will be important for you to attend class and to keep up with the reading assignments. Discussions and activities that are conducted during lecture are a way to enhance your understanding of the material, and as such, topics and concepts related to these activities are eligible to be included in exams. I will be posting my PowerPoint lectures on Moodle as .pdf files as soon as possible following the day's lecture. *If you miss a lecture* you are responsible for obtaining missed notes and important announcements from another student.

Course Grading

Our course has many components. Your final grade for the course is based on the total of 10 in-class activities, 3 Moodle section quizzes, 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 5 for details). Grades will be posted on the course Moodle webpage. There will be two extra credit opportunities available on the course Moodle webpage (maximum 3 points).

Point Breakdown:

The highest three exam scores (50 points each test): 150 points possible

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

Moodle Section Quizzes (3 x 10 points): 30 points possible

Research Credits (8): Required for a Grade^[1]_{SEP}

Total Points: 200 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	Number of Points	Percentage
A	180-200	90-100%
B	160-179	80-89%
C	140-159	70-79%
D	120-139	60-69%
F	0-119	<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 3 sections that cover 4-5 chapters. At the end of each section you will have an exam on those 4-5 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 section 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. 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.

Lastly, you will complete 3 graded Moodle quizzes. The Moodle quizzes consist of 10 multiple-choice questions designed to help you study for the sectional exams. The Moodle quizzes will be open-book and open-note and are to be completed by midnight the day before the exam (see course calendar). Although the Moodle quizzes are open-book, I suggest you treat each one like a short practice test after you have studied the section exam material.

Sectional Exams and Final

Exams 1-3 will be administered during your regular class time in your regular lecture room. Exam 4 will be on Friday, May 11 during finals week from 8:00-10:00 AM. **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 exam 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). ^[L]_[SEP]
- Plan to be on time for exams.
- **Exam 4 (Final): Friday, May 11 of Finals week @ 8:00-10:00 AM (Location TBA)** ^[L]_[SEP]

What can I expect on the exams? ^[L]_[SEP]

Lectures will follow the chapters in the book but may contain extra material. We will cover most chapters in the book 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.

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 are mandatory!

Research Experience ^[L]_[SEP]

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. ^[L]_[SEP]

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 (Friday, May 11th). ^[L]_[SEP]

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 (if your umontana e-mail address is jane.smith@umontana.edu, you would enter jane.smith); if you do not do this properly, then you will not get the account information. Also, (2) 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.

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. Writing a summary/reaction paper about original research. In this option, you will select a research article from the online course Moodle folder titled, “SONA Research Readings (Option 2).” You will read your selected article and briefly summarize it. Each written summary should be 1-2 pages long and each summary is worth 2 research credits. A separate handout of instructions and a writing rubric is available on the course Moodle webpage. To get credit, you need to turn the assignment in to your instructor by email, 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. *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	Tuesday (T) – Jan. 23	Syllabus	<i>Welcome!</i>
	Thursday (R) – Jan. 25	1	
Week 2	T – Jan. 30	2	
	R – Feb. 1	2	
Week 3	T – Feb. 6	No Class – Screening Day	<i>Screening Day – 12:30 PM in SS 356 (see syllabus pg. 6 for more info.)</i>
	R – Feb. 8	3	
Week 4	T – Feb. 13	3/4	
	R – Feb. 15	4	Complete Moodle Quiz by Feb. 19, 11:59PM
Week 5	T – Feb. 20	EXAM DAY	<i>EXAM 1 – chapters 1, 2, 3, 4</i> Bring Scantron & pencil
	R – Feb. 22	5	
Week 6	T – Feb. 27	5/6	
	R – Mar. 1	6	
Week 7	T – Mar. 6	7	
	R – Mar. 8	7/8	
Week 8	T – Mar. 13	8	
	R – Mar. 15	10	
Week 9	T – Mar. 20	10/Catch-up	Complete Moodle Quiz by Mar. 21, 11:59PM
	R – Mar. 22	EXAM DAY	<i>EXAM 2 – chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, 10</i> Bring Scantron & pencil
Week 10	T – Mar. 27	No Class	<i>Spring Break!</i>
	R – Mar. 29	No Class	<i>Spring Break!</i>
Week 11	T – Apr. 3	11	
	R – Apr. 5	11/13	
Week 12	T – Apr. 10	13	
	R – Apr. 12	14	
Week 13	T – Apr. 17	14	
	R – Apr. 19	15	
Week 14	T – Apr. 24	15	
	R – Apr. 26	12	
Week 15	T – May 1	12/Catch-up	Complete Moodle Quiz by May 2, 11:59PM
	R – May 3	EXAM DAY	<i>EXAM 3 – chapters 11, 12, 13, 14, 15</i> Bring Scantron & pencil
	Friday – May 11	*Reminder*	<i>Last day to complete 8 SONA Research Credits (required) & Extra Credit (optional)</i>
FINAL	Friday – May 11	FINAL EXAM DAY ***8:00-10:00AM***	<i>EXAM 4 – comprehensive</i> 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:

Nora Uhrich 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.