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PSYX 100S.03: Introduction to Psychology

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Psychology 100 Syllabus

PSYX 100S, Sec 03 - Intro to Psychology: Fall 2018

Course Information

Scheduled Time: 5:00 – 7:50pm Wednesdays in McGill Hall 210

Instructor: James McFarland

Office: 236 Skaggs

Email: james.mcfarland@umontana.edu

Readings: listed below

Office hours: 4-5pm Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

Required Textbook*

R. Biswas-Diener & E. Diener (Eds), Noba Textbook Series: Psychology. Champaign, IL: DEF Publishers.
DOI: nobaproject.com

*This is a free textbook (pdf file) available through the instructor the first week of the semester and upon request.

My Goals

- A. **Provide an overview of the field's major theories and research areas.** I want you to have a working knowledge of past psychology research and theories and recognize the contributions and impact they have on current research and the modern day field of psychology.
- B. **Hone thinking/analysis skills through discussion and small in-class activities.** Psychology is all about the mind's interaction with the world. I want you to learn how to engage your critical thinking skills when evaluating new information and be able to identify how it interacts with the information learned prior.
- C. **Gain in-depth knowledge of a few select topics.** I want you to get a sweeping feel for the field in general, but I'd also like for you to get really deep into a few topics that are relevant to our day-to-day lives.

What I Expect of You

There are a total of 200 points possible in this course. The number of points available and their possible percentage of your grade is indicated in parentheses:

A. Attendance/Class Participation (20 points available; 10% of total grade)

This is a once a week/three hour block class and attendance is strongly encouraged. Missing even one class means missing a lot of material, and since the tests will focus primarily on what we go over in class, the best way to get a good grade is to come to class and take good notes (and study, studying is good too).

I will not be posting my notes or slides from lecture, so if you have to miss a lecture please try to plan ahead to get notes from a classmate.

- I. While I will not be taking regular attendance, we will be doing a number of in-class activities that will count towards your attendance/participation grade. These in-class

activities are not posted or scheduled in advance, so coming to class regularly will help ensure you do not miss out on these points.

B. 3 Exams (60 points available for each; 90% of total grade)

There will be a total of three regular exams throughout the semester. Individually each of these exams is worth 60 points and makes up 30% of your total grade. These exams are not cumulative and will only cover the material from class between each exam. You will have the option of replacing your lowest exam score with the score from the final exam (details below).

C. Final exam

The final exam will be cumulative and will cover everything we've gone over in class during the semester. However, the final exam can be used to replace your lowest score from any of the three prior exams. This means if you score higher on the final than on your previous lowest exam score, the final's grade will replace your lowest score. So at the end of the semester you will have taken four exams, but only the three highest scores will count towards your final grade.

Letter Grade	Points	Percentage
A	180-200	90% or higher
B	160-179	80 – 89%
C	140-159	70 – 79%
D	120-139	60 – 69%
F	<120	59% and below

Course Grading

Notes

Disability Accommodations

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 may 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.

Academic Misconduct

You are expected to adhere to the university's student conduct code with regard to academic integrity. Academic misconduct in this course will result in an academic penalty commensurate with the offense as well as possible disciplinary action by the university.

Dropping/Adding/Changing grade option

Please refer to the Registrar's [Drop/Add Policy](#) and the [Official Dates & Deadlines Calendar](#) all questions related to dropping or adding or changing grade option for a course.

Credit/No Credit

For students taking this course Cr/NCr, “Credit” is a grade of A, B, or C. “No Credit” is a grade of D or F. Note: I do not allow students to change from traditional grading to credit/no credit once the deadline for doing so has passed.

Incompletes

Departmental and university policies regarding incompletes do not allow changing “incomplete” grades after one year has passed since the “I” was granted.

Academic Honesty

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](#).

Tentative Course Schedule (subject to change)

Note: These modules (chapters) are all in the required pdf textbook made available at the beginning of the semester. If you misplaced your copy of the text just send me an email and I will send you another one. The lectures will also be supplemented with material outside of the required text and questions from this material will also be included on the exams.

Date	Description
Monday, August 27	Autumn Semester Classes Begin
Wednesday, August 29 (our first class)	Syllabus review and modules 1-4 (Introduction and Research in Psychology).
Monday, September 3	Labor Day – No Classes, Offices Closed
Wednesday, September 5	Modules 5-7 (Biology as the Basis of Behavior).
Wednesday, September 12	Modules 8-10 (Biology and Developmental Psychology).
Wednesday, September 19	Modules 11-13 (Developmental Psychology).
Wednesday, September 26	Modules 14-15 (Sensation/Perception), and <u>Exam 1</u> (covering modules 1-13.)

Date	Description
Wednesday, October 3	Modules 16-18 (Sensation/Perception and Consciousness).
Wednesday, October 10	Modules 19-21 (Learning and Memory).
Wednesday, October 17	Modules 22-25 (Cognition, Language and Intelligence).
Wednesday, October 24	Modules 26-27, and <u>Exam 2</u> (covering modules 14-25).
Wednesday, October 31	Modules 28-31 (Emotion and Motivation and Personality).
Tuesday, November 6	Election Day – No Classes, Offices Closed
Wednesday, November 7	Modules 32-35 (Personality and Psychological Disorders).
Monday, November 12	Veterans Day Observed – No Classes, Offices Closed
Wednesday, November 14	Modules 36-39 (Psychological Disorders and Therapies).
Wednesday, November 21	Student Travel Day – No Classes
Thursday-Friday, November 22-23	Thanksgiving Break – No Classes, Offices Closed
Wednesday, November 28	Modules 40-44 (Social Psychology).

Date	Description
Wednesday, December 5	Modules 45-48 (Psychological Health), and <u>Exam 3</u> (covering modules 26-48).
Friday, December 7	Last Day of Regular Classes
Monday-Friday, December 10-14	Final Exams (TBA)

Syllabus Signature Form

Name of student: _____

I have read and understand the class syllabus and expectations for the
Intro to Psychology class indicated below.

Class: PSYX 100S, Sec 03, Intro to Psychology: Fall 2018

Instructor: James McFarland

Student Signature

Date