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PSYX 100S.50: Introduction to Psychology

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PLEASE NOTE, ALL ASSIGNMENTS FOR THIS COURSE ARE DUE FRIDAYS BY 11:55 PM

Syllabus - Psychology 100

Introduction to Psychology

Fall Semester 2018

Instructor

Samantha C. Russell

Samantha1.russell@umontana.edu

Department URL: www.umn.edu/psych

Required Text

Weiten's Psychology: Themes and Variations, 10th Ed.

Reaching your instructor

Due to the online nature of this course, the best way to get ahold of me will be over email. Emails shall be returned to all students usually within 48 hours of receiving them. I encourage you to email me whenever you have questions, however questions about assignments need to be sent at least 24 hours before an assignment is due to make sure you get an answer back in time to help you with the assignment.

Office Hours

Because this course is online, office hours will be held on an as needed basis. For office hours, you may meet with me on campus, or if you're a distance student, we can video chat.

Course Objectives

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 a 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. 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.

Course Policies

Announcements

Students are responsible for all announcements made in class. These may include changes in policy, due dates, or assignment requirements. Announcements are posted in the announcements section of the course or are directly emailed to the students.

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Technology Policies

Please contact UM Online if you experience technical difficulties. Though I would love to be able to help, I am not qualified to do so. **Critical Note: I do not allow technical issues or not having the proper software as reasons for late or incomplete work.** To ensure your own protection, please keep technical support contact information available offline and please do not wait until the last minute to complete your work each week! To access technical support (and save their contact information offline) please click on the "Tech Support" link to the left of the page. It is imperative to back up your homework answers on a format such as a thumb drive or online document saver (google docs is great) so if you have an electronic emergency, such as a computer crash, going to a place such as a library, or a computer café to finish your homework will be an easy transition.

Technical Alternatives

Also, keep in mind your technical alternatives if you have computer difficulties. If you live near the University, campus computers are an option. Otherwise, consider the public library, an internet café, a computer at work, or friend or family member's computer. Have a plan of action in mind so that you can complete the required work each week if an issue arises.

Assignment Due Dates, Late Work, and Make-up Work

Assignments will open every Monday Morning and are due the following Friday by 11:55 pm MST. Please be sure to start your assignments early enough to complete them by the time the week closes.

As a rule, I do not accept late work or allow make up work, except for one "freebie". No reason is required to take advantage of this opportunity, and it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to make this happen. Students have 24 hours to make up the work from the time I send the make-up assignment email, and students are not permitted to use the "freebie" at any time during finals week. Aside from this one freebie, no extra points will be given and no extra credit will be assigned.

Students cannot, under any circumstance, make up the discussion posts assignment. Due to the interactive nature of this assignment, students must be engaged in this process throughout the week each week in order to receive credit.

To make up multiple missed assignments it is mandatory that you (1) notify your Instructor before the time of the assignment and (2) provide proper documentation verifying the reason for your absence. Examples of proper documentation include a medical note or a death or family emergency. Remember, prior notification and documentation is mandatory! You can provide documentation by either scanning and emailing the documents, or mailing the documents, an easy alternative can also be taking a high quality photo with your camera/smart phone and sending that to my email address.

Grades of Incomplete

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

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](#).

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Plagiarism

The Student Conduct Code discusses plagiarism. However, it is a serious offense worth re-mentioning. This course requires students to adhere to APA format when citing, paraphrasing, or referencing sources. If you have plagiarized, either intentionally or accidentally, you will receive a zero on the entire assignment. If you plagiarize a second time, you will fail the course.

Netiquette

Students must engage in proper “netiquette”. Netiquette, or “network etiquette” is a professional and mannerly way of communicating with others in the online medium. Failure to engage in proper netiquette will result in earning a zero for each assignment where an incident has occurred.

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 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.

Dropping/Adding/Changing grade option

Please refer to the [Registrar's website](#) on these policies.

Course Assignments & Grading Criteria

Assignments for this class include quizzes, labs, and discussions.

Quizzes

There will be **1** 30-question quiz per chapter, which means roughly **1** quiz per week. Occasionally, a quiz with questions from two chapters (you will know this ahead of time) will be given. These assignments are designed to test your knowledge of the reading material for the current week. You are only allowed one attempt for each quiz so please read the assigned readings before attempting to complete the quizzes. Late quizzes will not be accepted unless extenuating circumstances occur.

Lab Assignments

Lab assignments are supplements to the required readings, quizzes, and discussions in class. They are described in full detail under “Labs.” There are 5 lab assignments across the course, and they are worth 30 points each.

Discussions

Doing well on the Discussion Board assignment requires consistent and detailed participation each week and is the participation and essay portion of the course. Grades are based on (1) attendance and (2) quality of your posts and do not include any posts made in the “Q & A” or “Welcome” Discussions. Full credit requires high quality and maximum frequency posts. The two charts below explain how your discussion posts are graded.

<u>ATTENDANCE GRADING (30 points possible)</u>		
Students must post (respond) a <u>minimum of three separate days per week</u> . You can post more than three	3 days	30 points
	2 days	20 points

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ATTENDANCE GRADING (30 points possible)

days, and post more than three times, but at a minimum, you must post on three separate days.	1 day	10 points
	0 days	0 points

Once the number of days is calculated, students are then graded based on their contributions to the discussion. The following points are deducted, not added, from the points earned above, to yield a final weekly “attendance” score. (Students cannot earn negative points. The lowest possible score is zero.)

Students must make a post to the discussion question (DQ) in the weekly discussion forum. Each weekly DQ post will be due by Friday. In order to receive full credit (as outlined above), the <i>first post will be made well before Friday.</i>	Each day late	2 pts lost
Students must post (respond) to a <u>minimum of three of their peers</u> . You can post to more than three, but at a minimum, you must reply to three of your peers. This promotes student engagement with each other, rather than just responding to the DQ posted by the instructor	3 peers	0 pts lost
	2 peers	3 pts lost
	1 peer	6 pts lost
	0 peers	9 pts lost

Once I have calculated your final weekly “attendance” score, then I grade the quality of your posts, as explained below. Again, the following points are deducted, not added, from the final weekly “attendance” score, to yield a final weekly “Discussion” score. (Students cannot earn negative points. The lowest score is a zero.)

QUALITY GRADING

Students are expected to make detailed and thoughtful posts that reflect an appropriate application of emerging knowledge and vocabulary in the topic area. Each post must add value to the discussion and be related to the required readings for the week. Below are additional details of how I grade the quality of your posts.	Superior	0 pts lost
	Above Average	4 pts lost
	Average	8 pts lost
	Below Average	12 pts lost
	Unacceptable	16 pts lost

Superior: Your first post is completed by Monday at 11:55 PM. Additionally, your contributions demonstrate a complete mastery of the materials assigned. Your responses might integrate multiple views and/or show strong analysis and reflection on topics and other student’s posts. You provide evidence that you are reading the assigned materials and other student postings and are responding accordingly, bringing out interesting interpretations. You know the facts and are able to analyze them, apply them to real life scenarios and handle conceptual ideas. It is highly unlikely that you could get full credit in less than two paragraphs.

Above Average: Your responses build on the ideas of other participants and dig deeper into assignment questions or issues. When you make intelligent posts during the week, including some good critique of the

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course material, then you have demonstrated you have an understanding of the material, are reading posts of your colleagues, and are contributing to the class. Your posts demonstrate confidence with the materials, but may be just a bit off target in one area or another.

Average: You have meaningful interaction with other participants' postings. Posts that state, "I agree" or "I disagree" and include a detailed explanation of what is disagreed or agreed upon and why, or introduce a perspective or concept that adds to the discussion. However, you may have rambling, lengthy posts with no clear point, your writing has a lack of clarity and comprehension, or there are considerable typos and grammatical errors.

Below Average: You answer questions asked by me or other students but do not expand upon your response or you answer questions based only on your opinion, rather than on research or proper evidence. Your posts are unusually short (one paragraph or less) and you fail to demonstrate a clear working knowledge of the material covered for the week.

Unacceptable: You will receive little credit in the week's discussion by just showing up and making trivial comments, without adding any new thought to the discussion. At the low end of the spectrum, no participation gets a "0." If you are not in the discussion, you do not earn any points. Comments such as "I agree" or other one-sentence responses will result in zero points. Copying and pasting from a website without providing your own substantial insight is also an unacceptable post- even if you have properly cited your sources. This assignment is an assessment of your understanding of the information covered in this class. Copying and pasting from websites does not demonstrate a working knowledge of the material.

Special Note: I check very carefully for plagiarism in the discussion posts. If you have plagiarized, you will get a zero for the entire assignment. If you plagiarize a second time, you will fail the course. If you engage in flaming behavior in the posts, you will get a zero for the entire assignment.

Extra Credit

Your first extra credit opportunity is a 10-point syllabus quiz offered the first week of the course. At the beginning of every week I will send out an important reminder summarizing what we will be completing that week in the course as well as highlighting important reminders. To encourage a thorough reading of all of these emails random sentences will be added requesting you do a task and email it back to me. These extra credit tasks will be worth 2 points each for a total of 15 possible points. One extra credit lab assignment will also be offered the final week of class and will be worth 20 possible points. Meaning that 50 points of extra credit will be possible throughout the course.

Course Grading:

Your final grade for the course will consist of scores on weekly quizzes, discussion posts, and lab exercises. Your final grade is the percentage of the total points earned divided by total possible points. There is no course curve in this class.

The following chart breaks down the points for each assignment type.

Criteria	Points
Quizzes (14 total, at 30 pts each)	420 points possible

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Criteria	Points
Discussion Posts (14 total, at 30 pts ea)	420 points possible
Lab Exercises (5 total, at 60 points each)	300 points possible
Extra Credit	50
Total Points	1,140 points possible

The following chart shows the Grade scale for the Final Course grade.

PLEASE FRIDAYS.	Final Course Grade	Percentage	Tentative schedule NOTE- OUR WEEKS END ON FRIDAYS, MEANING ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE ON
	A	90-100%	
	B	80-89%	
	C	70-79%	
	D	60-69%	
	F	< 59.5%	

Units	Readings	Quizzes & Discussions	Lab Assignments
Week 1 (8/27-8/31) Chapter 1 The Evolution of Psychology	Syllabus The Evolution of Psychology (Chapter 1)	Extra Credit Syllabus Quiz Week 1 Discussion First Post Due by Friday at 11:55 PM Week 1 Quiz	
Week 2 (9/3-9/7) Chapter 2 The Research Enterprise in Psychology	The Research Enterprise in Psychology (Chapter 2)	Post Due by Friday at 11:55 PM Week 2 Quiz	
Week 3 (9/10-9/14) Chapter 3 Biological Bases of Behavior	The Biological Bases of Behavior (Chapter 3)	Post Due by Friday at 11:55 PM Week 3 Quiz	Lab Assignment #1 Due

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Units	Readings	Quizzes & Discussions	Lab Assignments
Week 4 (9/17-9/21) Chapter 4 Sensation and Perception	Sensations and Perception (Chapter 4)	Post Due by Friday at 11:55 PM Week 4 Quiz	
Week 5 (9/24-9/28) Chapter 5 Variations in Consciousness	Variations in Consciousness (Both Editions Chapter 5)	Post Due by Friday at 11:55 PM Week 5 Quiz	Lab Assignment #2 Due
Week 6 (10/1-10/5) Chapter 6 Learning	Learning (Chapter 6)	Post Due by Friday at 11:55 PM Week 6 Quiz	
Week 7 (10/8-10/12) Chapter 7 Human Memory	Human Memory (Chapter 7)	Post Due by Friday at 11:55 PM Week 7 Quiz	Lab Assignment #3 Due
Week 8 (10/15-10/19) Chapter 8 Cognition and Intelligence	Cognition and Intelligence (Chapter 8)	Post Due by Friday at 11:55 PM Week 8 Quiz	
Week 9 (10/22-10/26) Chapter 9 Motivation and Emotion	Motivation and Emotion (Chapter 9)	Post Due by Friday at 11:55 PM Week 9 Quiz	Lab Assignment #4 Due
Week 10 (10/29-11/02) Chapter 10 Human Development across the Lifespan	Human Development across the Lifespan (Chapter 10)	Post Due by Friday at 11:55 PM Week 10 Quiz	
Week 11 (11/5-11/9) Chapter 11 Personality	Personality (Chapter 11)	Post Due by Friday at 11:55 PM Week 11 Quiz	Lab Assignment #5 Due
Week 12 (11/12-11/16)	Stress, Health and Coping (Chapter 12)	Post Due by Friday at 11:55 PM	

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Units	Readings	Quizzes & Discussions	Lab Assignments
Chapter 12 Stress, Health and Coping		Week 12 Quiz	
Week 13 (11/19-11/23) Chapter 14 Psychological Disorders	Psychological Disorders (Chapter 14)	Post Due by Friday at 11:55 PM Week 13 Quiz	Extra Credit Lab Assignment Due
Week 14 (11/26-11/30) Chapter 15 Treatment of Psychological Disorders	Treatment of Psychological Disorders (Chapter 15)	Post Due by Friday at 11:55 PM Week 14 Quiz	
Week 15 (12/03-12/07) Chapter 12 Social Behavior	Social Behavior (Chapter 12)	Post Due by Friday at 11:55 PM Week 15 Quiz	