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PSYX 100S.01: Introduction to Psychology

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University of Montana, Missoula

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Psyx 100: Introduction to Psychology

Fall 2018

Instructor Information

Instructor: Stuart Hall, Ph.D.

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Office: Skaggs Building 207

Office hours: Tuesday 4-5, Wednesday 2-3, 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 behavior in multiple ways. In this course, you will be taught the role of historical events in shaping human behavior, 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 behavior – 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, we want you to learn how to interpret and think about research. Finally, we want you to see directly the significance of social phenomena through relevant examples and through classroom demonstrations of psychological research.

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.

Optional Text

Weiten's Psychology: Themes and Variations, 10th Edition

Optional Materials

Cengage MindTap online study-if you purchase book and get access code required to log on to MindTap

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](#).

Incompletes

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

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.

Cell Phones/Laptops

Cell phones are to be turned off during class. You can use your laptop to take notes but please do not use laptops for anything other than note taking/class activities.

Course Grades

Your final grade for the course is based on the total of your **3 best exam scores** (3 Sectional Exams and a comprehensive Final Exam; you can drop your lowest test) and **completing the chapter practice quizzes** on Moodle for each chapter prior to the section test.

- Tests: 150 points possible (50 points each test; 75% of grade).
- Quizzes on Moodle: 50 points possible (12.5 points taking each chapter quiz; 25% of grade). You must complete the sections quizzes by midnight the day before the exam (see calendar).
- Research Credits (8): Do not count towards points but are required for a grade.

Total Points: 200 points possible

Your final grade is based on the percentage of the total possible points that you earn. You will be given credit for completing (answering every question) a quiz; they will not be scored for accuracy. Because you can drop your lowest grade and 25% of your grade is from simply taking the chapter practice quizzes, grades will not be curved and there is no extra credit.

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 help achieve this goal, the semester is broken up into 4 sections. Section 1 covers lectures and chapters 1-5, Section 2 covers lectures and chapters 6-9, section 3 covers lectures and chapters 10-13, and Section 4 covers lectures and chapters 13-15.

Sectional Exams and Final

You are required to take the multiple-choice Sectional Exams. The Final Exam is optional. You can take the Final to replace one of the Sectional Exams. The Sectional Exams will cover only the material from that section of class and will be administered during the regular class time. The Final Exam will be on the Monday (December 10) of finals week from 10:10 AM-12:10 PM. All exams are in the lecture room. See course calendar below.

For the Exams you will need to bring a #2 pencil and a NCS Test Sheet 50/50, form No. 95142, you can purchase this BLUE/GREEN Scantron form in the UC. Please note that no student will be allowed to start a test once another student has completed the exam and left the room.

- Study guides are not provided for quizzes and tests; you are expected to know all the material from the textbook and lecture (unless otherwise indicated). Be sure to take advantage of all supplemental study materials.
- Plan to be on time for exams.
- **Final Exam: Monday of finals week from 10:10 AM-12:10 PM, in this room.**

Make-Up Policy

To make up a missed quiz *or* exam, you must meet the following criteria:

1. Notify me **before** the time of the quiz/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

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.

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.

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.doe@umontana.edu, you would enter jane.doe); if you do not do this properly, then you will not get the account information. Also, (2) be sure you enter the right course section number (01), or else you may not be properly credited. Signing up and checking studies is easy; Department of Psychology's [SONA Research Participation](#) page.

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 will 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. Reading about original research. In this option, you will find, read, and summarize an original research article. You should be thorough but brief. Each summary should be 2-3 pages long. Each summary is worth 2 research credits. A separate handout is available outside Skaggs 053 (or upon request from your instructor) with details. To get credit, you need to turn the assignment in to your instructor, 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 do not 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.

Screening day credits are awarded separately from the SONA system and will be incorporated by your instructor automatically if you attend.

SEE COURSE CALENDAR ON NEXT PAGE

COURSE CALENDAR

Class	Date	Topic
1 -	August 28	Class Orientation
2-	August 30	Lecture (Chapter 1)
3-	September 4	Lecture (Chapter 2)
4-	September 6	Lecture (Chapter 3)
5 -	September 11	Lecture (Chapter 4)
6-	September 13	Lecture (Chapter 5)
7-	September 18	Catch Up Day and Discussion of Section
8-	September 20	Examples of Psychology in the Real World <i>Complete quizzes on Chs. 1-5</i>
9-	September 25	TEST 1
10-	September 27	Lecture (Chapter 6)
11-	October 2	Lecture (Chapter 7)
12-	October 4	Lecture (Chapter 8)
13-	October 9	Lecture (Chapter 9)
14-	October 11	Catch Up Day and Discussion of Section
15-	October 16	Examples of Psychology in the Real World <i>Complete quizzes on Chs. 6-9</i>
16-	October 18	TEST 2
17-	October 23	Lecture (Chapter 10)
18-	October 25	Lecture (Chapter 11)
19-	October 30	Lecture (Chapter 12)
20-	November 1	Catch Up Day and Discussion of Section
21-	November 6	HOLIDAY
	November 8	Examples of Psychology in the Real World <i>Complete quizzes on Chs. 10-12</i>
22-	November 13	TEST 3
23-	November 15	Lecture (Chapter 13)
24-	November 20	Lecture (Chapter 14)
25-	November 22	<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>
26-	November 27	Lecture (Chapter 15)
27-	November 29	Catch Up Day and Discussion of Section
28-	December 4	Examples of Psychology in the Real World <i>Complete quizzes on Chs. 13-15</i>
29-	December 6	TEST 4
	December 10	FINAL EXAM 10:10 – 12:10