

General Psychology: PSY1130: AAO1/03

Fall Semester 2009

Mineral Area College, Social Science Department

INSTRUCTOR: Fred Nute, Ph.D.

OFFICE: Arts & Sciences #9

OFFICE HOURS: MWF: 9:00-9:50 AM; TR: 10:45-11:45 AM

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DEPARTMENT CHAIR: Fred Nute

REQUIRED TEXT: Coon & Mitterer (2009). Psychology: Modules for Active Learning (11/e).
Cengage Publishing

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A broad overview of the general field of psychology and fundamental principles of human behavior is provided in this course. Includes topics such as the biology of behavior, learning and memory, emotion and motivation, growth and development, personality, abnormal behavior, and treatment of mental illness.

COURSE COMPETENCIES

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the major concepts, principles, theories, and themes that characterize the discipline of psychology
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of psychology as a scientific discipline, including the methods used to explore human behavior, steps in the research process, the role of evidence in research, and ethical issues involved in conducting research.
3. Students will demonstrate and understanding of individual differences in human behavior and recognize the complexities of how people vary in biopsychological, cognitive, developmental, and sociocultural domains.
4. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the application of psychology to everyday life.
5. Students will develop critical thinking skills by using psychological concepts, principles, and theory through collaborative small group work

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

Teaching procedure will include lecture with power point; video clips and vignettes, demonstrations, class discussions and in-class small group work. The small group work is an integral part of this class and group activities are designed to provide the student with an opportunity for self-expression and application of sociological concepts and theory to everyday life.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

Treat class like a job. Ask yourself how a boss would react to your behaviors in and out of the classroom. Your employers will have expectations that you come to work on time, pay attention to what you are doing while you are there, do what is necessary to complete your work, prepare for meetings, and refrain from interfering with the ability of your co-workers to do their jobs. Your employers will expect you to leave home early enough to be at work on time. They expect you come to work unless something else truly make that unreasonable to do. Different employers have different ideas about what are "good" reasons for missing work. Regardless of how good your reasons are, however, there are consequences of missing work, sometimes minor and sometimes major. Your employers will expect you to facilitate each other's success and certainly not to interfere with it. If you regularly talk to your neighbor during meetings or engage in other off-task behavior, the people who decide on promotions and dismissals will not the distraction and inattention. If you come to the meetings unprepared, they will notice that too. There are positive behaviors that will increase the chances of keeping your job, getting raises and promotions, and generally succeeding in your career. My approach to what is fair in class largely reflects this perspective.

Students are expected to attend all classes, to be on time, and to stay until the end of the class session. Leaving class early without any justifiable advance notice will count as an absence. TURN OFF BEEPERS & CELL PHONES during class.

PLEASE NOTE:

IF YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE IN THE COURSE, DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT EARLY. SOME OF YOUR OPTIONS INCLUDE THE USE OF THE LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER, TUTORING THROUGH THE EXCELL PROGRAM, CAREER & ACCESS SERVICES, OR CONSULTING WITH THE INSTRUCTOR. ALSO, BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE COLLEGE'S CALENDAR DATES AND POLICIES PERTAINING TO WITHDRAWAL FROM CLASS WITHOUT PENALTIES SUCH AS FINANCIAL AID, INSURANCE POLICIES, RECEIVING AN F GRADE IN CLASS, ETC.

COURSE OUTLINE

The schedule below shows the sequence of topics to be covered for this course. You will receive an additional schedule which provides the specific dates for assigned chapters to be covered in class, as well as tentative dates for exams.

Chapter 1 Introducing Psychology and Research Methods
Chapter 2 Brain and Behavior

EXAM 1—Chapters 1 and 2

Chapter 4 Sensation and Perception
Chapter 5 States of Consciousness

EXAM 2—Chapters 4 and 5

Chapter 6 Conditioning and Learning
Chapter 7 Memory

EXAM 3—Chapters 6 and 7

Chapter 3 Human Development
Chapter 8 Intelligence, Cognition, Language, and Creativity

EXAM 4—Chapters 3 and 8

Chapter 9 Motivation and Emotion
Chapter 10 Personality
Chapter 11 Health, Stress, and Coping

EXAM 5—Chapters 9, 10, and 11

Chapter 12 Psychological Disorders
Chapter 13 Therapies

FINAL EXAM—Chapters 12 and 13

*NOTE: the final exam is COMPREHENSIVE and covers the last two chapters in addition to the content from all the previous exams

GRADING AND PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Your grade in this class will be based on your performance on SIX scheduled exams. The first five tests will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions. Each exam question is worth 2 points with 100 points possible on each of the first five exams. Exams will be given during regular class periods and test-taking time will coincide with the scheduled time for the class. The final exam (6th exam) will be a **COMPREHENSIVE TEST** and will consist of 100 questions. The **final** will be worth a total of **250 points**; 50 comprehensive questions each worth 3 points and 50 questions over the last two chapters each worth two points.

Grading Scale for Exams:

A = 90 to 100	percent
B = 80 to 89	percent
C = 70 to 79	percent
D = 60 to 69	percent
F = Below 60	percent

ALL exams will count toward your final grade. **NO EXAMS WILL BE DROPPED** from grade calculations. Your final course grade will be based on a 750 point scale as follows:

675 – 750 = A	450 – 524 = D
600 – 674 = B	below 450 = F
525 – 559 = C	

NOTE: The **FINAL EXAM is not optional and MUST be taken.** Also, the time and date are not optional or open to change; i.e., the final must be taken by everyone at the scheduled time and date as per the college calendar. Failure to take the final exam will result in an automatic F for the course.

PRE-TEST QUIZZES

There will be six pre-test quizzes given during the class. Each quiz will be made up of 10 multiple-choice questions each worth ½ point or 5 points total possible. NOTE: There will be no make-ups for the quizzes. Points earned on the quizzes will be considered extra credit and added to your total points on the scheduled exams. The quizzes are designed to serve as a diagnostic indicator of your readiness to take the scheduled exams.

ADDITIONAL CREDIT OPTIONS (Students may choose only one option for credit)

1. Website scavenger hunt for the American Psychological Association and the American Psychological Society (10 points). See instructor worksheet for details.
2. Research article critique using the PsiChi Journal available at the MAC library (15 points). See instructor worksheet for details.

TANDEM TESTING OPTION

You will have the option of taking the first five scheduled exams as an individual or in tandem with one other person as a test partner. The tandem option is a form of cooperative learning/assessment in which two students work together in answering the test questions. You hand in one answer sheet with both your names on it and receive the same grade. Testing partners are formed by students and no more than two students will be allowed to test together. If you feel that a partner is not working out, you can opt to find a new partner or take the remaining exams on your own. PLEASE NOTE: The final exam must be taken individually. Also, the Pre-test Quizzes can only be taken individually. A one page Crib Sheet (front/back) can be used while taking the scheduled exams; no notes, however, can be used on the quizzes.

COURSE POLICY

Attendance: Attendance is expected. There are no unexcused absences! If a student is absent, he or she is simply absent. Three consecutive absences will result in an automatic drop from the course. A total of six absences during the semester will result in an automatic drop for students in MWF sections and a total of 4 absences will result in an automatic drop for students in the TR sections. For summer classes, a total of four absences will result in an automatic drop. Students are expected to come to class on time and keep all cell phones/pagers turned off. Attendance will be considered in determining your final grade should you be on the border between grades (within 8 points).

Students are responsible for all information that is presented in class, regardless of attendance. You should obtain any missed lecture notes and announcements made in class from other students.

It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from a course they do not wish to take. If you simply stop coming to the class and do not officially withdraw from the course, then you still receive a grade that will be based on completed work.

Class Participation: This class is intended to be interactive; therefore, I expect students to come to class prepared. That is, all assigned reading should be completed before class. You should be prepared to participate in class discussions and group work.

Academic Honesty: Cheating and plagiarism are not acceptable behavior and will result in an automatic F for this course. This would include looking on someone else's answer sheet during testing or using someone else's ideas or words in a paper assignment without providing appropriate source documentation and quotes. The Academic Dean will be notified of all student transgressions, as well as the course of action taken by the instructor.

Exam and Make-Ups: I expect your attendance on all scheduled exam dates, and I expect you to arrive to class on time for exams. Students who arrive late to an exam will only be permitted to complete the exam in the remaining portion of the allotted time devoted to the exam. The allotted time ends when the regularly scheduled class time ends. There are no exceptions to this policy. For tandem testing, I expect both partners to be present at the same time and to start the exam together. Should one of the partners be late, both parties will be required to take the exam individually.

IMPORTANT—If you need to miss a regularly scheduled exam due to a valid, unavoidable circumstance, you must let me know by providing written documentation within 24 hours of the regularly scheduled exam. If you or a personal representative do not contact me within 24 hours of the scheduled exam, you will receive a ZERO on that exam. Do not ask to be excused from the regular exam times unless you are hospitalized, contract a major illness, or experience some equally traumatic event for which you can provide appropriate documentation. If such an instance is not appropriately documented and subsequently approved by the professor, the student will receive a zero for that exam. The instructor will make the final determination of whether a reason for missing an exam is to be considered valid and excused. No make-ups will be given for the final exam. Family vacations, break-ups with a boyfriend or girlfriend, for example, are not considered valid reasons.

All make-up exams will be given on the last week of classes ONLY. You must schedule a time with me to take the make-up exam. Make-up exams will be different from the regularly scheduled exams.

TEST REVIEWS: Students will receive a test review sheet for each of the scheduled exams to facilitate learning and preparation outside of class. The review sheets list the specific learning competencies for course content. A formal in-class review will take place prior to each scheduled exam to provide students with an opportunity to ask questions and clarify any issues related to the learning competencies and testing procedure.

Special Needs: Mineral Area College complies with guidelines set forth in the American with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you need special assistance or support due to special circumstances such as a physical and/or learning disability, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss appropriate and reasonable accommodations.