

General Psychology Online – PSY1130 AAW1 & 2

Course Syllabus Fall 2009

3 Credit Hours

Dr. Fred Nute

Office Hours

Office # 9

MTWRF 9:00 – 10:00 A.M.

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Description of Course: This course will cover a broad overview of the general field of psychology and fundamental principles of human behavior. It includes topics such as abnormal behavior, personality, motivation and emotion, learning and memory, stress and health, and social psychology.

Materials for Course:

- A. Psychology: A Journey, 3rd edition, Coon & Mitterer. Thomson Publishing 2008.
- B. Writing Papers in Psychology, 8th edition, Rosnow. Thomson Publishing
- C. WebTutor Cardboard Folio Access Code packaged with text.
- D. Internet access and a valid email address and account.

Course Goals:

- A. Demonstrate knowledge of the major concepts, principles, processes, and theories that characterize the discipline of Psychology.
- B. Demonstrate an understanding of the methods psychologists use to explore human behavior, including observation, hypothesis development, data collection, correlation, survey, experimentation, and the role of evidence in research.
- C. Demonstrate an understanding of individual differences in human behavior and recognize the complexities of how people vary in biopsychological, cognitive, developmental, and sociocultural domains.
- D. Demonstrate knowledge of the dominate themes, persistent questions, and conflicts in the filed of psychology.
- E. Develop critical thinking skills by using psychological concepts and theories.

Course Content:

- Chapter 1: Introducing Psychology and Research Methods
- Chapter 2: Brain and Behavior
- Chapter 3: Human Development
- Chapter 4: Sensation and Perception
- Chapter 5: States of Consciousness
- Chapter 6: Conditioning and Learning
- Chapter 7: Memory
- Chapter 8: Intelligence, Cognition, Language, and Creativity
- Chapter 9: Motivation and Emotion
- Chapter 10: Personality
- Chapter 11: Health, Stress, and Coping
- Chapter 12: Psychological Disorders
- Chapter 13: Therapies

Organization of the Course:

This course is divided into 13 chapters, each corresponding with a chapter in the text (Note: chapter 14 will not be covered). It is to your benefit to read each chapter two or three times as part of your preparation for the online tests. You will also be presented with a description of and directions for completing your Research Paper assignment. The writing assignment will be included as part of the graded requirements for the course. You will also have practice tests available online that will help you prepare you for the scheduled tests (see Course Process below). Note: Points on the practice tests do not count toward your course grade.

Course Process: The best way to work through the course and use the online support content is to follow the steps below:

1. Study the “**TEST REVIEWS**” on the WebTutor website (**click on Course Information tab**—then select the desired chapter. **NOTE:** if you are unable to access the reviews, you may obtain hard copies form me at the college.
2. Read the assigned chapter in the Coon & Mitterer text.
3. Go to the corresponding chapter on the website (click on **course documents**), read the chapter overview, and complete some of the learning activities which are designed to help you identify and better understand essential concepts by allowing you to see and experience them in a more interactive format than can be achieved in the textbook.
4. Click **Review Activities** on the course menu and take some the assessments for each chapter to help review and prepare for the scheduled exams. **NOTE:** Points on these assessments do **NOT** count toward the course grade.
5. As you identify gaps in your learning through this process, go back to the textbook and review the information.

Student Evaluation:

Grading Scale:

90 – 100% = A

80 – 89% = B

70 – 79% = C

60 – 69% = D

Research Paper Assignment:

You are required to submit an expository/review research paper on an assigned topic. Paper requirements and guidelines will be based on the **APA writing style** (American Psychological Association). Papers must be the student’s original work....absolutely no papers which have been “cut and pasted” from various sources will be accepted. Also, no hard copy papers will be accepted. Your paper will include a title page with your name and date as per the APA style. The “Writing Papers in Psychology” text will be your reference for the APA writing style. You will need to familiarize yourself with proper documentation, and other APA style requirements. You will **NOT** need to do an Abstract as part of your paper. **A minimum of 4 pages of text is required.** This does not count the cover page or the Reference page (bibliography). **A minimum of five (5) outside sources should be used for the paper. Only two electronic sources will be accepted.** In Appendix B (page 139) of the writing text, you will find an example of a completed review paper titled “Perspectives on Intelligence” that you can use as a guide to the APA style of documentation, paragraph indentation, etc. **Research topics will include Road Rage and Serial Killers. Topics will be randomly assigned to students by the instructor and student names will be posted on the website corresponding to the respective topic. You will need to go to the Assignment Content Area on the website to obtain the details of this assignment topic. The Due Date for Serial Killer papers is Tuesday, October 27 by 11:00AM and Road Rage papers Thursday, October 29 by 11:00AM. Late papers will not be accepted.**

The research paper is worth 100 points and should be taken seriously. A significant part of the grade (35%) will be based on compliance with the APA writing style; 50% on Content; and 15% on Organization and neatness. **LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** If you await the deadline and have computer problems such that you are unable to send your paper, you will automatically lose 100 points. **Good planning and efficient time management are essential for this class. In addition to including your name and topic title on the cover page of the paper, your last name should be on the file you save the paper document to (2 points will be taken off each paper that does not comply with this requirement).** Research papers are assessed based on content, grammar, neatness, compliance with APA guidelines and the ability to address the key components outlined in the assignment content area on the website. You will complete the paper assignment outside of WebTutor in an application such as Microsoft Word. Save your document to a file and return the file for grading by using the assignments content area (click the assignments navigation button in the course menu). If, for whatever reason, you are unable to submit your writing assignment through the process outlined above, you can simply send me an email with your assignment as an attachment. You can view your grades by clicking the Tools button in the course menu and then clicking View Grades.

	Paper Assignment Points
100 - 90 points	Indicates your assignment is very well thought out, has meaningful content, and clearly conveys your understanding of the research topic. Paper addressed all the assignment components and conforms to the APA style. Excellent use of research evidence to support ideas with proper documentation. A Solid conclusion that provides a good summary and include personal views. Only minor flaws.
89 - 80 points	Your assignment has good thought behind it, but the connection to the research topic is somewhat vague in areas—assignment components missing or unclear. Thus, some of your thinking is unclear and does not clearly demonstrate a full understanding of the material and concepts being studied. Some problems with conforming to the APA style and providing supportive evidence.
79 - 70 points	Much of your thinking on the research topic is unclear and very vague. While you have some grasp of the topic you've researched, your ability to apply the material doesn't come through. Paper doesn't directly address some of assignment components. Also, some issues with supportive evidence and documentation. Problems with proper use of the APA style.
69 - 60 points	While you are able to state your opinions about the topic you've read about, it seems you don't fully grasp what the nature of the topic or support your ideas with proper research evidence and documentation. Very poor paper organization—topics not directly addressed. Serious problems with use of APA style.
59 points or less	Much of what you've written on the topic is too vague. The content of your writing does not clearly demonstrate your thinking or whether you truly understand the material on the topic. Little or no use of the APA writing style. No supporting evidence or documentation.

Tests:

- There will be **thirteen, 30 question multiple-choice tests**. Each test is worth 30 points (1 point per question) and will cover a single chapter.
- These tests will be given online (**Click on the Chapter Exams button on the course menu**).
- Each test will be timed. You will be allowed only 35 minutes to complete each test. One point will be deducted for each minute that a student exceeds the scheduled time limit. **Do not start the test until you are prepared and ready to complete it. It will not allow you to restart once your total time is up.**
- Tests will be made available to take on Thursday's at 8:00 a.m. (fall/spring only) and will remain available until midnight Saturday of the same week (see the course schedule for Due Dates). **No exceptions will be made to the test schedule for vacations, etc.**
- The questions will appear one at a time and you will only be allowed to review each question once. Once answered, you will not be allowed to return to that question.
- Tests use a Forced Completion Format. That is, you must complete the test the first time it is launched. Once you click out, you will not be able to get back in. Your grade will then be based on what you have completed up to that point.
- Your scores will automatically be posted. Click View Grades in Tools.

Course Grades:

Grading will be based on the points you earn on your written assignments and tests. NO Scores are dropped. The comparative value of each graded item toward your course grade is as follows:

Graded Item	Point for each item	Number of items in the course	Total points possible
Research Paper	100	1	100
Tests	30	13	390
TOTAL		14	490

Your course grade will be determined as follows:

441 to 490 = A
392 to 440 = B
343 to 391 = C
294 to 342 = D
below 294 = F

Email:

Contact me directly through the MAC email system at fred@mineralarea.edu. Do Not try to email me thru the WebTutor website. I only use the MAC system to receive email. You should check your email frequently for update messages and reminders of tests and assignments. Also, if I should not respond to an email, contact me per phone @ 573-518-2234-- ASAP. You may use your personal email address for this course, but if problems arise with your personal email, you will need to use your MAC email address. All students have a MAC email and you can call 518-2137 to get help with this. If you change your email address, you will need to make sure you also change your email on our WebTutor website by going to TOOLS and personal information. Again, you have the responsibility to recognize that certain communications may be time-critical and failure to check email may result negative consequences.

Technical Difficulties: WebTutorService@cengage.com . Contact me first by phone or email with any difficulties.

Extra Credit: Discussion Board

Additional points can be earned by participating in Discussion Board Forums. The discussion board will be the only extra credit for this course. No exceptions will be made. Discussion Board is a communication tool that allows students to participate in course-related discussions on different topics (threads) created by the instructor. To access the discussion board on the website, click “Discussion Board” on the menu and then click on the topic, and then click add thread. The availability of discussion threads will be posted on the website announcements and via email. Once posted, your responses on the board will be available to both the instructor and other classmates for review. NOTE: credit will not be automatic. You must meet the criteria outlined below. If your response is determined to be inadequate, you will receive an email from me. **A total of 45 points** may be obtained through discussion board participation. Points will be assigned as follows: (Note: Student posted responses do not automatically receive credit. The response must meet the above criteria. An email will be sent to a student if a response is considered inadequate. Failure to keep up with email and thread deadlines will result in no credit)

<u>Board Threads & Criteria</u>	<u>Points</u>
Student Introduction	5
1 st Topic Thread (posted response must be meaningful and incorporate relevant psychological concepts; a minimum of 15 lines of text required)	10
2 nd Topic Thread (same as first thread)	10
3 rd Topic Thread & Web Search (a minimum of 30 lines of text required with a substantive response)	20

Online Etiquette Policy: When taking a course online it is important to remember several points of etiquette that will smooth communication between students and their instructors.

- 1. Avoid language that may come across as strong or offensive.** Language can be easily misinterpreted in written communication. If a point must be stressed, review the statement to make sure that an outsider reading it would not be offended, then post the statement. Humor and sarcasm may be easily misinterpreted as well, so try to be as matter-of-fact and professional as possible. This includes language of the internet—e.g., do not write using all capital letters, because it may appear as shouting.
- 2. An online classroom is still a classroom.** Though the course may be online, appropriate classroom behavior is still mandatory. Respect for fellow classmates and the instructor is as important as ever whether communicating via email or the discussion board forum. For example, when communicating via the discussion board, many different ideas are presented. While you may not agree with some of them, it is nonetheless important to respect these differences.
- 3. No inappropriate material.** Do not forward any chain letters, jokes, pornographic material, etc. to classmates or the instructor.
- 4. Breach of Etiquette.** Any violations of these policies may result in any number of negative consequences, including reduced or zero credit for an assignment or board posting, a lowered course grade, an F for the course and/or academic probation. If a violation occurs, the instructor will contact the student for a face-to-face meeting and/or referral to the academic dean’s office for disposition.

Special Polices:

- A. Attendance & Drop Policy:** This course is a web based course. Just as in a traditional classroom regular attendance is expected. Regular attendance is measured in this course by checking posted announcements regularly, turning in class assignments, taking tests as assigned, and contacting the instructor for assistance if needed. If a student plans to withdraw from the course, it is his/her responsibility to officially withdraw from the class. **The instructor will automatically drop students after two weeks of nonattendance, which includes failure to complete ANY two scheduled tests and/or assignments.**
- B. Assignment Due Dates:** The due date of each assignment will be announced. No credit will be given for work that is late. **Late papers are not accepted.**
- C. Missed Tests or Assignments:** **Missed tests or assignments may not be made up.**
- D. Saving Tests:** Tests are to be taken in one setting for a total of 35 minutes. You May Not save a test and take the remaining questions at a later time. If this occurs, your score will be base only on the completed items on the first attempt and will result in a lower score.
- E. Academic Honesty:** Cheating and Plagiarism are not acceptable academic behavior and will result in an automatic zero for the test or assignment involved. The academic dean will be notified of all instances of cheating or plagiarism. More than one instance of cheating or act of plagiarism will result in an F for the course.
- F. Use of College Open Labs:** Students may use only college software. No personal software is allowed in the labs. No college software will be illegally copied for personal, education, or business use. No college software or hardware may be removed from the labs. Personal, no-educational use of lab equipment and supplies is to be restricted.
- G. Special Needs:** Mineral Area College complies with guidelines set forth in the Americans 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 accommodations. **(This syllabus represents the planned objectives, content, learning experiences, assessment process, and competencies. The instructor reserves the right to alter the syllabus as needed.)**