

Introduction to Psychology
Psychology 1315 Section 004 – Fall 2009
Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:00 am – 9:20 am
Life Science Building – Room 122 (LS 122)

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Student Learning Outcomes, Objectives, and Goals

This course will cover a wide range of psychological concepts and topics. Successful completion of this course will require students to a) be able to describe and integrate the basic theories of psychology, b) be able to identify and apply the techniques and methods used by psychologists, c) be able to explain and the application of psychology, and d) be able to begin answering questions that they may have about themselves and the people around them.

Psychology is the scientific study of behavior, cognition and emotion. The basic unit of study in psychology is the human being. As a species, human beings are and have been fascinated with ourselves for millennia. Psychology is the result of this fascination. It developed as a method for answering questions that we have asked about ourselves since earliest times. Questions such as: Why do I do the things I do? What is love? How can I be sure you understand my experience? Why do I remember certain things and not others? How can I ever survive this experience? Overall, we still have more questions than we have answers. The overarching purpose of this course is to share with you the empirically derived answers that we do have, to help you apply this knowledge to solve problems and increase your understanding of everyday life, and to formulate better, more objective questions about human agency.

It is critical that students read the assigned material before coming to class. Discussions and lectures will be based on the assigned readings. Students are expected to budget enough time during the week to read the material from the text.

Required Text

"The Science of Psychology" by Laura A. King, 1st edition McGraw Hill. (The study guide optional, but recommended). The text is also available as an eBook at <http://www.coursesmart.com> or <http://textbooks.vitalsource.com>

Research Participation Requirement

Students enrolled in Psychology 1315 must complete the research participation requirements. Research participation is an experiential learning opportunity that enhances and deepens students' understanding of and appreciation for the scientific study of psychology. Failure to meet this requirement will result in an "Incomplete" or failing grade. This requirement can be satisfied by participating in psychological research or by summarizing and evaluating published studies in journals or in other sources. More details will be provided in an orientation session and in an informational handout. This handout can be viewed on the Department of Psychology website <https://www.uta.edu/psychology/> under "Participant Pool Information." Points are not added to the course grade for completion of this requirement.

Communications

When communicating with faculty members and other professionals, all students are expected to communicate in a professional and formal manner regardless of the communications media (phone, e-mail, face-to-face, etc.). This includes addressing one's audience using their proper title, using proper grammar and using proper spelling. How one delivers a message is often as important as the message itself. Thus, I expect students to communicate professionally when communicating with me. This includes, but is not limited to, using proper greetings, proper grammar and an appropriate tone. Communications deemed inappropriate will not receive a response.

Electronic Mail

UT-Arlington provides all students with an official UT-Arlington electronic mail (e-mail) address. UT-Arlington and this instructor will use students' UT-Arlington e-mail accounts for official communication with students. All communications regarding this course will be sent to students' UT-Arlington e-mail accounts.

Cellular Telephones and Other Electronic Devices

Do not leave your cellular telephone (cell phone) or other electronic device (blackberry, or other electronic communication device) turned on during class. Even on vibrate mode these devices are very distracting to me and to other students.

Evaluation

Grading is based on a mastery model. There is no curve. You may all get A's, you may all fail, or you may sort yourselves out across a normal distribution of grades. It depends on your time, your effort and your effectiveness at mastering the material.

Grades for the course will be computed as follows:

Psychology Knowledge Exercises (PKEs)	60 Points
Quizzes	30 Points
Involvement & Attendance	10 points

The course grades will be assigned as follows:

A	90 – 100 Points
B	80 – 89 Points
C	70 – 79 Points
D	60 – 69 Points
F	0 – 59 Points

Psychology Knowledge Exercises (PKEs)

PKE grades will be calculated based on each student's ability to read the text, attend class and complete an on-line multiple choice PKE assignment. Students will be required to complete each PKE on or before the specified deadline. The PKEs will be administered via the UT-Arlington WebCT system. Deadlines for each chapter can be found on the last page of this document. **It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that they complete the PKE before the deadline (refer to the last page on this document for deadlines).** If the PKE is not completed by the deadline, the student will get zero (0) points for that PKE assignment. Each PKE will count for four (4) points for a total of 60 possible points.

Quizzes

Quiz grades will be calculated based on each student's ability to read the text and complete the quizzes prior to the beginning of each class. Students will be required to complete the quizzes for each chapter on or before our class meeting to discuss the given chapter. The quizzes will be administered via the UT-Arlington WebCT system. Deadlines for each chapter quiz can be found on the last page of this document. **It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that they complete each quiz before the deadline (refer to the last page on this document for deadlines).** If the quiz is not completed by the deadline, the student will get zero (0) points for that quiz assignment. Each quiz for Chapters **two (2) through sixteen (16)** will count for two (2) points for a total of 30 possible points. Completion of Quiz 1 is optional and will be counted as extra credit for those students who are interested.

Involvement & Attendance

Involvement & Attendance includes attendance, contributing to class discussions, "in class" exercises and/or projects, and possible outside of class assignments not listed on this document. Class attendance and involvement is highly encouraged. Much of psychology is about human interactions. To learn psychology, it helps to interact and personalize it. If you have difficulty speaking up in class, see me and we will work out a solution. You get a maximum of ten (10) points for coming to class, asking questions, making comments, discussing topics, or taking an informed stand and disagreeing with the instructor. While attendance is not mandatory, promptness is expected. The instructor reserves the right to deny entrance into the class if students are late. The instructor also reserves the right to remove any student that disrupts the learning process. Attendance will be periodically monitored.

The Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs provides lists of students who have absences authorized by the University (e.g., participation in athletic events or scholastic activities that are officially sponsored University functions). These are primarily activities that are funded by the University. The student must contact the instructor one week in advance of the excused absence and arrange with the instructor to make up missed work or missed quizzes. Instructors will provide those students an opportunity to make up the work or otherwise adjust the grading to ensure that the student is not penalized for the absence. Failure to notify the instructor or failure to comply with the arrangements to make up the work will void the excused absence.

A student who misses a quiz, work assignment or other project because of an observance of a religious holy day will be given the opportunity to complete the work missed within a reasonable time after the absence provided the student has properly notified the instructor. To meet the proper notification requirements, students must notify the instructor in writing of classes scheduled on the dates they will be absent in observance of a religious holy day. A "religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20 of the Tax Code.

Notification must be made within the first 15 class days and either personally delivered, acknowledged and dated by the instructor, or sent certified mail, return receipt requested. The student may not be penalized for these excused absences, but the instructor may appropriately respond if the student fails to complete satisfactorily the missed assignment within a reasonable amount of time after the excused absence.

Exams

There will be no exams for this course.

Final Grade Information

No final grade information will be released by phone or e-mail. Only by providing the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope will you be able to receive your final grade before it is posted on MyMav.

Dropping the Course

A course drop grade will be assigned in accordance with UT-Arlington policy (see current catalog). No grade is given if a student drops a course before 5:00 p.m. CST on the Census Date, September 9, 2009. A student may drop a course with a grade of "W" until the two-thirds point of the semester. This period ends on October 30, 2009. A student may drop a course after this point only upon approval of the appropriate official.

Drop for Non-payment of Tuition

If you are dropped from this class for non-payment of tuition, you may secure an Enrollment Loan through the Bursar's Office. You may not continue to attend class until your Enrollment Loan has been applied to outstanding tuition fees.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

If you are a student who requires accommodations in compliance with the ADA, please consult with the course instructor at the beginning of the semester. The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability. Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in Room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.

Student Support Services

The University supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. They include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at (81) 272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

Academic Integrity

This instructor requires students to maintain high standards of academic integrity. It is the philosophy of this instructor and The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2)

Any student who is found to have committed ANY act of academic dishonesty or scholastic dishonesty in relation to the assignments and requirements of this course will automatically receive a failing grade for this course. The failing grade for the course will be in addition to any University or Departmental sanctions deemed appropriate.

Bomb Threats

If anyone is tempted to call in a bomb threat, be aware that UT-Arlington will attempt to trace the phone call and prosecute all responsible parties. Every effort will be made to avoid cancellation of presentations/tests caused by the bomb threat. Unannounced alternate sites will be available for these classes. Your instructor will make you aware of alternate class sites in the event that your classroom is not available.

Tentative Schedule

Date	Quizzes (Due on or before 8:00 am CST)	Chapter	Topic	PKEs (Due on or before 10:00 pm CST)
8/25			Orientation and Syllabus	
8/27	Quiz 1	Chapter 1	What Is Psychology?	
8/30				PKE 1
8/30	***Assignment Calendar Due (before 10:00 pm)***			
9/01	Quiz 2	Chapter 2	Psychology's Scientific Methods	
9/03		Chapter 2	Psychology's Scientific Methods	
9/06				PKE 2
9/08	Quiz 3	Chapter 3	Biological Foundations of Behavior	
9/10		Chapter 3	Biological Foundations of Behavior	
9/13				PKE 3
9/15	***Plagiarism Tutorial Due (before 8:00 am)*** http://library.uta.edu/tutorials/Plagiarism			
9/15	Quiz 4	Chapter 4	Human Development	
9/17		Chapter 4	Human Development	
9/20				PKE 4
9/22	Quiz 5	Chapter 5	Sensation and Perception	
9/24	Quiz 6	Chapter 6	States of Consciousness	
9/27				PKE 5/6
9/29	Quiz 7	Chapter 7	Learning	
10/01		Chapter 7	Learning	
10/04				PKE 7
10/06	Quiz 8	Chapter 8	Memory	
10/08		Chapter 8	Memory	
10/11				PKE 8
10/13	Quiz 9	Chapter 9	Thinking, Intelligence and Language	
10/15		Chapter 9	Thinking, Intelligence and Language	
10/18				PKE 9

Date	Quizzes (Due on or before 8:00 am CST)	Chapter	Topic	PKEs (Due on or before 10:00 pm CST)
10/20	Quiz 10	Chapter 10	Motivation and Emotion	
10/22		Chapter 10	Motivation and Emotion	
10/25				PKE 10
10/27	Quiz 11	Chapter 11	Personality	
10/29		Chapter 11	Personality	
11/01				PKE 11
11/03	Quiz 12	Chapter 12	Social Psychology	
11/05		Chapter 12	Social Psychology	
11/08				PKE 12
11/10	Quiz 13	Chapter 13	I/O Psychology	
11/12		Chapter 13	I/O Psychology	
11/15				PKE 13
11/17	Quiz 14	Chapter 14	Psychological Disorders	
11/19		Chapter 14	Psychological Disorders	
11/22				PKE 14
11/24	Quiz 15	Chapter 15	Therapies	
11/26	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>			
12/01		Chapter 15	Therapies	
12/03	Quiz 16	Chapter 16	Health Psychology	
12/08*				PKE 15, PKE 16, and Extra Credit PKE*

***Due by 10:30 am on December 8th, 2009.**