

Introduction to Psychology – Fall 2009 Psyc 1315.007

Life Sciences Building: Room 122
Tuesday / Thursday 12:30 – 1:50

Instructor: Colleen Thompson
Office: 505, Life Sciences Building
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11:30 – 12:20, or by appointment

Mailbox: Psychology Department, UTA Box 19528
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Course Website: <http://www.uta.edu/webct/>

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

Additional Course Materials: Additional course materials (readings, exercises, etc.) will be passed out throughout the semester and/or placed on WebCt.

Course Description: The course is designed to explore the fundamental methods and content of scientific psychology, with a concentration on the understanding of basic principles. It is a broad survey course, covering a wide range of topics, and it is therefore suited to meet the needs and interests of majors and non-majors.

Course Learning Goals and Objectives: It is the goal of this course to provide a basic understanding of psychology concepts, facts, and theories. Therefore, at the end of the course students should be generally familiar with psychological terminology, concepts, people, theories, facts, and well-known experiments from a variety of disciplines in psychology and be able to apply the material (when relevant) to everyday life.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is not formally required; however several exam questions will come from material that is presented in class but not in the book. Therefore regular attendance is *highly* recommended. Additionally, the course schedule (including exams) is subject to change; thus it is recommended that students regularly attend class to be aware of changes in the schedule.

Grading Format: The grade for each exam will be based off of the percentage of questions answered correctly. The weight of each exam is equal (including the final). The final grade will be calculated from the average of all four exams. The minimum points for a letter grade are, 90 = A, 80 = B, 70 = C, 60 = D, below 60 = F.

This distribution is set; therefore there will be NO rounding up of grades.

Description of Course Requirements:

Exams: There are 4 non-comprehensive required exams for this course. Exams will consist of approximately 60 – 70 questions, and the exam questions will be derived from the lectures, assigned readings, textbook chapters, and any other material presented in class including audio/visual media, exercises/handouts, guest speaker presentations, class discussions, etc. Questions on the exams will consist of a combination of multiple choice, true/false, matching, fill in the blank, and short answer. **Late students will NOT be allowed to take the exam after the first exam has been turned in.** Please review the missed exam policy stated below.

Research Participation Requirement: The Psychology Department requires that all students taking Introduction to Psychology complete a 6-credit research requirement. The main way in which you will be able to complete this requirement will be by participating in experiments conducted by department faculty and their research assistants. In lieu of participating in experiments, you may choose to write reviews of approved research articles. Completing this assignment will be done via Sona (<http://uta.sona-systems.com/>). A departmental handout detailing this requirement (and important deadlines) can be found at www.uta.edu/psychology, under links. Any questions pertaining to this assignment that are not covered in the handout can be sent to psycpool@uta.edu. Points are not added to the course grade for completion of the research participation requirement.

FAILURE TO COMPLETE THE REQUIREMENT WILL RESULT IN AN INCOMPLETE FOR THE CLASS. You will then need to complete your requirement during the next semester *or the incomplete will turn into an F regardless of your academic standing.*

In order to satisfy this requirement, you **MUST** have an account in Sona **REGARDLESS** if you participate in research or write reviews.

Other Relevant Information:

Missed Exam Policy: Makeup exam requests will be approved only when appropriate documentation is provided indicating that compelling circumstances prevented a student from taking a scheduled exam. Examples of such circumstances include funeral attendance, religious holidays, and illness. No information should be provided in a makeup exam request that is private or confidential in nature. A note from a friend or family member is not acceptable documentation. **A request for a makeup exam must be made in writing, and**

must be supplied no later than *one week* following the missed exam. Make-up exams will be held at a time convenient to the instructor.

Make-up exams will be a different exam from the in-class exam, and may include essay questions instead of, or in addition to the types of questions listed above.

Americans With Disabilities Act

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 93112 -- The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new 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 accommodation**" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with **informing faculty at the beginning of the semester and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels.**

Academic Dishonesty

It is the philosophy of 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, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22)

Drop Policy: A course drop grade will be assigned in accord 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 9th, 2008.

A student may drop a course with a grade of W until the two-thirds point of the semester. This period ends on October 30st, 2008. 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.

E-Culture Policy

The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University email address as an official means of communication with students. Through the use of email, UT-Arlington is able to provide students with relevant and timely information, designed to facilitate student success. In particular, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation may be sent to students through email.

All students are assigned an email account and information about activating and using it is available at www.uta.edu/email. New students (first semester at UTA) are able to activate their email account 24 hours after registering for courses. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active as long as a student is enrolled at UT-Arlington. Students are responsible for checking their email regularly.

Student Support Services Available:

The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs 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 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

Course Schedule

(This schedule is tentative and therefore subject to change)

Dates:	Reading Assignment and Topic:
Aug 25	Course Introduction and Chapter 1: What is Psychology?
Aug 27 – Sept 1	Chapter 2: Psychology's Scientific Methods and Ethics
Sept 3 - 8	Chapter 3: Biological Foundations of Behavior
Sept 10 - 15	Chapter 16: Health Psychology

THURSDAY: September 17 EXAM 1

Sept 22	Chapter 5: Sensation and Perception
Sept 24 - 29	Chapter 7: Learning
Oct 1 – Oct 6	Chapter 8: Memory
Oct 8	Chapter 6: Consciousness
Oct 13	Chapter 9: Thinking, Intelligence, and Language

THURSDAY: October 15 EXAM 2

Oct 20 – 22	Chapter 10: Motivation and Emotion
Oct 27	Chapter 13: Industrial and Organization Psychology
Oct 29	Chapter 11: Personality
Nov 3 - 5	Chapter 4: Human Development

TUESDAY: November 10 EXAM 3

Nov 12 - 17	Chapter 12: Social Psychology
Nov 19 - 24	Chapter 14: Psychological Disorders
Dec 1 – Dec 3	Chapter 15: Therapies

THURSDAY: December 10 FINAL EXAM @ 11:00 a.m.

Important University Dates

- August 24th – First day of classes
- September 9th – Census date
- October 30st – Last day to drop classes with an automatic W
- December 4th – Last day of classes