

Introduction to Psychology
PSYC 1315 Section 009
Fall 2009 M/W 7:00-8:20pm
Life Science Room 122

Instructor: Priya Iyer

Office: LS 411

Office Hour: Mondays 5:30-6:30pm or by appointment

Email: iyer@uta.edu

Website: <http://www.uta.edu/webct/> (your grades will be posted here; make sure you can log on!!)

Required text: *The Science of Psychology*, Laura A. King, 1st Edition (the study guide is optional, but recommended).

Course Description & Goals

As a survey in psychology, this course will teach students contemporary psychological principles, theories, and approaches. Specifically, students will be exposed to various psychological approaches, including social, personality, neurological, cognitive, developmental, and clinical psychology via class lectures, guest speakers' presentations, audio/visual media, class discussions, activities, homework, and/or handouts.

Upon completion of this course, students will have a fundamental knowledge of principles and approaches related to human and animal psychology. Additionally, students will be able to apply psychological principles to their everyday lives.

Attendance and Participation

Class attendance and participation are vital to grasping the course content. Students who miss class are required to find out what they missed and to acquire class notes, assignments, and missed material from another student prior to the next class period. I encourage you to exchange emails and/or phone numbers with at least two other students in this section. I will be posting skeleton powerpoints before class for you to print out and follow along (fill in the blanks) during class. They will be posted on WebCT. It is YOUR responsibility to print them out if you choose to do so. I recommend printing double-sided with no more than 3 slides per page so that the slides are large enough to write on.

I expect you to be on time for all class meetings. If you are late, you risk missing important, announcements, directions, discussions, and extra credit opportunities. You are still responsible for any information that is covered and I will not spend time repeating information. Be courteous, be on time, and do not socialize during class.

Be prepared by completing the assigned readings and assignments prior to class. I will be operating on the assumptions that students completed the assigned readings prior to class.

Drop Policy

No grade will be assigned if students drop before the census date, September 9th. Students may drop the course with a grade of “W” until October 30th.

Examinations

Students will have four formal opportunities throughout the semester to demonstrate their knowledge and their ability to critically think about and apply class material. Students will take three non-comprehensive examinations and a non-comprehensive final examination. Examinations will cover information from the text, class lectures, audio/visual media, exercises, guest speakers’ presentations, and class discussions. Students may drop the lowest grade of the first **THREE** exams (the fourth exam **MUST** be taken). Students who wish to find out what questions they missed on examinations may meet with me in my office up to one week after the examination.

Tardy or Absent on Exam Day

If a student is tardy the day of an examination, he or she will not be permitted to take the exam if any class member has already turned in a completed exam. Please be sure to arrive on time.

If students miss an examination due to an **instructor-approved** absence (e.g. military assignment, athletic department event, religious holiday, illness/hospitalization, death in the family, funeral, etc), they will be given a make-up and will be required to take it at a time approved by the instructor (*not* during class time). Students will have **one week** from the missed exam to provide the instructor with documentation to backup their absence, otherwise they will receive a zero for the exam. If students miss an examination due to an unapproved reason (e.g. woke up late, traffic, etc), ***they will not be able to make up the examination and will receive a zero on the examination missed.***

Extra Credit

There will be extra credit opportunities throughout the semester. You will be given the opportunity to write 2 optional real-world/reflection papers worth 5 points each. One paper is due by Monday, October 19th and the other is due by Wednesday, December 2nd. Electronic copies of the papers will NOT be accepted. Please refer to the instructions and rubric at the end of this syllabus.

Grading Distribution

Final grades will be computed by adding the highest two scores out of the first three exams, along with the grade on the final exam. Each exam will be worth 100 points. Again, the lowest score will be dropped out of the first three exams, and the final **MUST** be taken.

A = 269.5 - 300

B = 239.5 - 269.4

C = 209.5 - 239.4

D = 179.5 - 209.4

F = below 179.4

Other Graded Assignments

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.

FAILURE TO COMPLETE THE REQUIREMENT WILL RESULT IN AN INCOMPLETE FOR THE CLASS

Electronic Devices

Please turn silent/off (not on vibrate) all pagers and cell phones during class as these devices are disruptive to other students and to me. I will allow laptops for the purpose of note-taking. *However*, if I receive complaints that the laptops are disruptive to other students, they will be banned. **NO TEXTING** will be allowed in class. It is disruptive and not as covert as you think it is.

Communication and Email

For anyone having a difficult time comprehending reading material or any other course content, please meet with me to discuss strategies on how to succeed in this course. I also welcome student feedback and suggestions as to ways to improve this course. Any email communication to the instructor must be sent to iyer@uta.edu with your last name and the class number in the subject line. 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. I will only use your UTA email account when sending you information.

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).

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.

Important University Dates

August 24th – First day of classes

September 9th – Census date

October 30th – Last day to drop classes

December 4th – Last day of classes

Tentative Class Schedule

| Date | Topic | Before class reading |
|------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Monday, August 24 | Introduction, Syllabus overview What is Psychology? | Chapter 1 |
| Wednesday, August 26 | Psychology's Scientific Method | Chapter 2 |
| Monday, August 31 | | |
| Wednesday, September 2 | Biological Foundations of Behavior | Chapter 3 |
| Monday, September 7 | LABOR DAY-NO CLASS | |
| Wednesday, September 9 | | |
| Monday, September 14 | Human Development | Chapter 4 |
| Wednesday, September 16 | | |
| Monday, September 21 | Exam #1 | Chapters 1-4 |
| Wednesday, September 23 | Sensations and Perception | Chapter 5 |
| Monday, September 28 | States of Consciousness | Chapter 6 |
| Wednesday, September 30 | | |
| Monday, October 5 | Learning | Chapter 7 |
| Wednesday, October 7 | | |
| Monday, October 12 | Memory | Chapter 8 |
| Wednesday, October 14 | | |
| Monday, October 19 | Exam #2 | Chapters 5-8 |
| Wednesday, October 21 | Thinking, Intelligence, and Language | Chapter 9 |
| Monday, October 26 | | |
| Wednesday, October 28 | Motivation and Emotion | Chapter 10 |
| Monday, November 2 | Personality | Chapter 11 |
| Wednesday, November 4 | Health Psychology | Chapter 16 |
| Monday, November 9 | Exam #3 | Chapters 9-11, 16 |
| Wednesday, November 11 | Social Psychology | Chapter 12 |
| Monday, November 16 | | |
| Wednesday, November 18 | Psychological Disorders | Chapter 14 |
| Monday, November 23 | Therapies | Chapter 15 |
| Wednesday, November 25 | | |
| Monday, November 30 | Industrial and Organizational Psychology | Chapter 13 |
| Wednesday, December 2 | | |
| Wednesday, December 9 | Exam #4 (8:15-10:45pm) | Chapters 12-15 |

Note: Blanks spaces mean we will be continuing the chapter from the last class

Extra Credit Real-World Reflection Paper Instructions

Worth: 5 points each, optional 2 papers total

Due: 1 is due by Monday, October 19th

1 is due by Wednesday, December 2nd

You may turn them in early. The papers must be hard-copies (electronic copies will NOT be accepted)

Length: 2 double-spaced pages with only your name and Fall 2009: PSYC 1315 at the top. Typed in 12-point Times New Roman font.

Content:

Discuss a specific concept/area of research that you've learned about this semester. Give the book definition or explanation, and then tell me what you think it means in your own words. Make sure to include the chapter in which it was discussed.

Discuss something that happened to you that made you think about this concept (e.g. movie, article, book, television show, babysitting, your own children/siblings, or just something that happened in your daily activities).

Discuss how/why your real-world experience made you think of the psychological concept. Did the concept fit in with the real-world experience? Feel free to include how you felt and what you thought about the experience, as well as any other information that you think is interesting.

Rubric: (.5 point each)

| |
|---|
| Was the concept presented clearly? |
| Was the book definition given? |
| Did the author explain the concept in his/her own words? |
| Was the chapter in which the concept was described given? |
| Was the experience described clearly? |
| Is the experience pertinent to the concept chosen? |
| Did the author clearly explain how the concept was related to the experience? |
| Did the author give his/her own thoughts/opinions regarding the concept and experience? |
| Were the instructions regarding the format of the paper followed? |
| Did the author use correct spelling/grammar? |

Any questions, feel free to ask me in class or email me at iyer@uta.edu