

Introduction to Psychology
Psychology 1315 Section 005 – Spring 2008
Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 am - 12:20 pm
Life Science Building Room 424 (424 LS)

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Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00 pm – 2:00pm
or by appointment

Student Learning Outcomes

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) 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 our selves 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

Psychology by Nairne, 4th edition ISBN 0-534- 60538-9 (study guide optional, but recommended).

Students are strongly encouraged to use the textbook publishers' companion website which can be found at <http://psychology.wadsworth.com/nairne4e/>

Research Participation Requirement

Students enrolled in Psychology 1315 must complete a research participation requirement. Research participation is an experiential learning opportunity which 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 may be satisfied by serving as a participant 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. Summaries must be submitted by the last class meeting. 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. Indeed, how one delivers a message is often as important as the message itself. Thus, I expect students to communicate professionally when sending e-mail communications to me (and to use grammar and spell-check functions before the e-mail is sent). Communications deemed inappropriate may not receive a response.

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.

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 the time and effort you put in to mastering the material.

Grades for the course will be computed as follows:

Exam 1	30 Points
Exam 2	30 Points
Exam 3	30 Points
Final Exam	30 Points
Participation and 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

Exams

There will be four (4) exams, three (3) regular exams and one (1) Comprehensive Final exam. The exams will cover material from lectures, assignments, discussions, videos, presentations and the corresponding readings in the textbook. All of the exams will consist of multiple-choice items. A student arriving late after the scheduled class start time, on an exam date, will not be allowed to take the exam after the first exam is returned. Students are required to provide their own Scantron answer sheets and pencils for the exams.

The lowest exam score will be dropped. If an exam is missed, that will be the score that is dropped. Any additional exams missed will result 0 points for the exam grade. Students are not exempt from any exams. There are a total of 90 points to be earned through exam performance.

If an exam is canceled due to inclement weather or other unexpected reasons, it will take place in the subsequent scheduled class time and at the same place as originally scheduled. An official UT-Arlington picture I.D. is required to take exams.

Missed Exams

Because the lowest exam score is dropped, this instructor will only give makeup exams due to extraordinary circumstances and when official paper documentation is provided. Makeup exams will ONLY be administered at 7:00 am on May 12th, 2008.

A student who misses an examination, 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.

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 or examination within a reasonable amount of time after the excused absence.

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.

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.

Assignments

All assignments and projects should be written in a professional manner. Students should use all of the resources available (working knowledge, real world experience, Internet, text, etc.) to support arguments and explanations. Specific instructions regarding the assignments and projects will be provided when they are assigned.

Class Participation

Class Participation includes, attendance, contributing to class discussions, "in Class" exercises and/or quizzes, and outside of class assignments. Class attendance and participation are mandatory. Psychology is all about human interactions. To learn psychology you have to interact and personalize it. If you have difficulty speaking up in class, come see me and we will work it out. You get a maximum of 10 points for coming to class asking questions, making comments, or taking an informed stand and disagreeing with me.

Class Attendance

Attendance is mandatory and 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.

Students who drop this course must do so in accordance with the University of Texas at Arlington drop policy which can be found in the undergraduate catalog (<http://www.uta.edu/catalog/>).

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 examinations. 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 an examination, 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.

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 or examination within a reasonable amount of time after the excused absence.

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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 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

Academic Integrity

This Instructor expects students to maintain high standards of academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form at The University of Texas at Arlington. 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, 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.

Tentative Schedule of Topics

Date	Topic	Readings/Chapters
1/15	Orientation, Syllabus	
1/17	Introduction Psychology and SONA-Research Requirements	
1/22	Re-Orientation – New Syllabus & The Tools of Psychological Research	Chapter 1-2
1/24	The Tools of Psychological Research and Biological Processes	Chapter 2-3
1/29	The Tools of Psychological Research and Biological Processes	Chapter 2-3
1/31	Human Development	Chapter 4
2/05	Human Development	Chapter 4
2/07	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 5
2/12	EXAM 1	Chapters 1-5
2/14	States of Consciousness	Chapter 6
2/19	Learning	Chapter 7
2/21	Learning	Chapter 7
2/26	Memory	Chapter 8
2/28	Memory	Chapter 8
3/04	Thinking and Language	Chapter 9
3/06	Intelligence	Chapter 10
3/11	Intelligence	Chapter 10
3/13	Motivation and Emotion	Chapter 11
3/18	<i>SPRING BREAK</i>	
3/20	<i>SPRING BREAK</i>	
3/25	EXAM 2	Chapters 6-11
3/27	Personality **Mar 28 - Last Day to Drop**	Chapter 12
4/01	Personality	Chapter 12
4/03	Social Psychology	Chapter 13
4/08	Social Psychology	Chapter 13
4/10	Psychological Disorders and Therapy	Chapter 14 and 15
4/15	Psychological Disorders and Therapy	Chapter 14 and 15
4/17	Stress and Health	Chapters 16
4/22	Stress and Health	Chapters 16
4/24	EXAM 3	Chapters 11-16
4/29	Special Topics in Psychology	<i>Supplement</i>
5/01	Special Topics in Psychology	<i>Supplement</i>
5/06	Final Exam 11:00am-1:30 pm http://www3.uta.edu/registrar/FinalSpring2008.asp	Chapters 1-16 plus