

Introduction to Psychology – Summer 2009

Psyc 1315.001

Life Sciences Building: Room 102
Mon., Tues., Weds., Thurs.: 8:00-10:00

Instructor: Colleen Thompson
Office: 505, Life Sciences Building
Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday, 10:00 – 10:30, or by appointment

Mailbox: Psychology Department, UTA Box 19528
E-mail: cthompson@uta.edu

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 it is *highly* recommended. Students who attend *every* class will receive an extra 3 points on their FINAL grade. Students who only miss *one* class will receive an extra 2 points, and students who only miss *two* classes will receive 1 point. Several exam questions will come from material discussed in class, which can only be learned by attending!

Grading Format: The final grade will be based off of a total of 280 points. The grading distribution (see below) is set, therefore borderline grades will remain borderline, i.e. if the

student has 251 points they will receive a B, I will not round up for them to receive an A. Students can receive extra points *only* through their class attendance, no extra credit opportunities will be given.

Exam 1	70 points
Exam 2	70 points
Exam 3	70 points
Final Exam	70 points
	280 Possible Points

Letter Grade	Points Required
A	252-280
B	224-251
C	196-223
D	168-195
F	167 and below

Description of Course Requirements:

Exams: There are 4 non-comprehensive required exams for this course. 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. Exams will start at 8:30 a.m. **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.

Daily Assigned Readings and Discussion: Daily readings will be assigned. Readings will generally consist of 1 – 4 pages of one or two news stories or articles that are related to that

day's subject. Please read them before coming to class. These readings will be discussed in class as a group. This is designed to help engage students in the topic and to provide them with real world application of psychological principles. Some exam questions will come from the articles and/or class discussion.

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 prior to the next 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, July 13th, 2009.

A student may drop a course with a grade of W until the two-thirds point of the semester. This period ends on July 29th, 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.

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:	Topic / Reading Assignment:
July 8 th	Introduction to Course
July 9 th	Chapter 1: What is Psychology?
July 13 th	Chapter 2: Psychology's Scientific Methods
July 14 th	Chapter 3: Biological Foundations of Behavior
July 15 th	Chapter 4: Human Development
July 16 th	Chapter 5: Sensation and Perception
	Chapter 6: States of Consciousness
<u>July 20th:</u>	Exam #1
July 21 st :	Chapter 7: Learning
July 22 nd :	Chapter 8: Memory
July 23 rd :	Chapter 9: Thinking, Intelligence, Language
<u>July 27th:</u>	Exam #2
July 28 th :	Chapter 10: Motivation and Emotion
July 29 th :	Chapter 11: Personality
July 30 th :	Chapter 12: Social Psychology
<u>August 3rd:</u>	Exam #3
Aug 4 th :	Chapter 16: Health Psychology
Aug 5 th :	Chapter 14: Psychological Disorders
Aug 6 th :	Chapter 15: Therapies
Aug 10 th :	Chapter 13: Industrial and Organizational Psychology
August 11th:	Final Exam

Important University Dates

July 8th – First day of classes
July 13th – Census date
July 29th – Last day to drop classes with an automatic W
August 10th – Last day of classes