

Introduction to Psychology (PSYC 120)

Spring 2012

3 credit hours

TR 9:30-10:50

Professor: Dr. Richard Beck

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Course Description for PSYC 120:

A comprehensive survey of the science of psychology emphasizing human behavior. May be used to satisfy University Requirement.

PSYC 120 Learning Outcomes:

- *L01: Research Methodologies in Psychology*
Students will be able to differentiate between observational, correlational, and experimental designs used by psychologists and identify the benefits and limitations of each.
- *L02: Biological Foundations of Psychology*
Students will be able to identify and describe the biological bases of behavior associated with behavioral genetics, neuronal functioning, and brain structures.
- *L03: Sensation, Perception and States of Consciousness*
Students will be able to identify and describe the basic principles, major theories, and research concerning sensation, perception and states of consciousness.
- *L04: Cognition, Learning and Memory*
Students will be able to identify and describe the basic principles, major theories, and research concerning learning, cognition and memory.
- *L05: Motivation and Emotion*
Students will be able to identify and describe the basic principles, major theories, and research concerning motivation and emotion.
- *L06: Social, Developmental and Personality Psychology*
Students will be able to identify and describe the basic principles, major theories, and research concerning personality and social psychology and how these develop across the lifespan.
- *L07: Psychopathology and Psychotherapy*
Students will be able to identify and describe the symptomatology, etiology, and proposed treatments for the major categories of psychological disorders.

Textbook:

Your required textbook is *Living Psychology* by Karen Huffman (Wiley, ISBN: 0-471-67938-0).

Tests and Grades:

There will be four (perhaps five, see below for details) test grades, each worth 100 points (your percentage score on the test). These four test grades will be averaged to create your final grade (which will range from 0% to 100%). After that averaging, final letter grades will be assigned as follows: A = 100%-90%, B = 89%-80%, C = 79%-70%, D = 69%-60%, F = 59%-0%

Tour Policies:

- **Personal Days:** You have 6 "personal days" to use during the semester, days when you don't come to class. These are to be used as sick days, for family crises, or school sports/trips. Please use your days wisely and save them for later in the semester. **Should you exceed 6 absences during the semester your final grade will be dropped one letter grade.** (Note that school sponsored trips/athletic events **are** counted as personal days.)
- **Missed Tests and Making up for Poor Test Grades:** There are four tests during the semester and a fifth test (a cumulative Final Exam). The cumulative final is *optional* if you do not miss any of the previous four semester tests. If you take all five tests your final grade will be the average of your *four best* test grades. Thus, if you do poorly on, let's say, Test #2, you can take the Final Exam and use its grade in place of Test #2's grade. If you miss any of the first three tests (i.e., fail to show up on the day of a test), for whatever reason, you will make up the test on the last day of class before finals week. If you miss the fourth test you must take it the day of the final exam.

Semester Calendar

Spring 2012

Date	Class Content	Textbook Readings
Jan. 17	Course Overview and Syllabus	
19	The Science of Human Nature	Chapters 1
24	Neuroscience and Psychology 1: Brains and Genes	Chapter 2
26	Neuroscience and Psychology 2: How neurons work	Chapter 2
31	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 4
Feb. 2	Consciousness: Sleep, dreams, and drugs	Chapter 5
7	Test #1	Chapters 1,2,4,5
9	Neuroscience Special Topic: Gender differences	PowerPoint
14	Learning Theory: Classical, Operant and Social	Chapter 6
16	Learning Theory: Classical, Operant and Social	Chapter 6
21	Cognitive Psychology 1: Memory and forgetfulness	Chapter 7
23	Cognitive Psychology 2: Language, Intelligence, and Thinking	Chapter 8
28	Motivation, Emotions, and Feelings	Chapter 10
March 1	Test #2	Chapters 6-8,10
6	Developmental Psychology 1: Infancy and Childhood	Chapter 9
8	Developmental Psychology 2: Cognitive development, adolescence, and adulthood	Chapter 9
13	<i>Spring Break</i>	
15	<i>Spring Break</i>	
20	Personality Part 1: Trait theories and Classical theories	Chapter 11
22	Personality Part 2: Classical theories	Chapter 11
27	Personality Part 3: Classical theories	Chapter 11
29	Psychological Disorders Part 1: Defining Mental Illness and Schizophrenia	Chapters 12, 3
April 3	Psychological Disorders Part 2: Depression to Dementia	Chapters 12, 3
5	Psychological Disorders Part 3: Depression to Dementia	Chapters 12, 3
10	Test #3	Chapters 9,11,12, 3
12	Therapy, Part 1	
17	Therapy, Part 2	Chapter 13
19	Therapy, Part 3	Chapter 13
24	Social Psychology Part 1: Relationships, intimacy, attraction, and love	Chapter 14
26	Social Psychology Part 2: Facets of hate	Chapter 14
May 1	Test #4	Chapters 13-14
3	Make Ups for Tests #1-3	
7	Make Up for Test #4 and Optional Cumulative Final @ 1:30 in Walling	