

General Psychology
PSYC 101-09
Fall, 2009

Instructor: Dr. Mark Walter
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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 1:00 – 2:50
Monday and Wednesday: 4:00 – 4:50
or by appointment

Class Time: Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays 3:00 – 3:50

Class Location: 114 Holloway Hall

Required text: Lilienfeld, S.O., Lynn, S. J., Namy, L.L., & Woolf, N. J. (2009). *Psychology: From inquiry to understanding*. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon.

You will also be required to purchase a registration to the MyPsychLab website. This comes bundled with your book if you purchase your book from the University Bookstore.

Course Objectives: Psychology is defined as the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. This definition allows for a very wide variety of topics to be studied within the field. One of the primary objectives of this course is to give you a flavor for the diversity of topics that psychologists study. A second objective is to provide you with an understanding of the various methods that psychologists use when conducting research. As part of this second goal, you will become familiar with much of the terminology that psychologists use. Understanding the terminology of a field is big first step in learning the area. As we proceed through the semester you will see that the theories and principles that we discuss have direct application to your own life. As such, a third objective of this course is to aid you to think more critically about your own life and those around you. The fourth objective is to aid you in becoming a better writer. The best of ideas can go unnoticed if they are not communicated effectively. To achieve this last objective, you will be assigned several papers over the course of the semester.

Evaluation

Exams: There will be four in-class exams given during the course of the semester. The exam format may be a combination of multiple choice, matching, fill in the blank and short answer. Each exam will cover only the material presented in lecture and in text since the preceding exam. Each exam will be graded on a 100-point scale. The four exams will be worth 50% of your final grade. Each student must take all four exams to pass the course.

Papers: You will have to write two short (2 – 3 page, typed and double-spaced) papers over the course of the semester. These papers will assess your understanding of the course material as well as your ability to express these ideas in a clear and concise manner. Each paper will be graded on a 100-point scale and together the two papers will be worth 25% of your final grade. The details of each paper assignments will be given to you within two weeks of its being due. Papers that are

turned in late will be penalized 10% of the total grade for each day they are late. You must turn in both papers to pass the course.

MyPsychLab: There will be a number of assignments this semester that you must complete using the MyPsychLab website. The exact nature of each of these assignments will be given to you as we progress through the semester. MyPsychLab has pre and post-tests for each of the chapters in your textbook. In addition to other assignments in MyPsychLab you will be required to take the post-test for each chapter that you will find on the schedule below. 20% of your grade will be based on your completion of the MyPsychLab assignments. MyPsychLab assignments can be turned in any time from the time you receive the assignment until you are tested over that material.

Quizzes: There will be a number of announced and unannounced quizzes given during the course of the semester. These quizzes may be multiple choice or short answer questions. The average of your quiz scores will be weighted 5% of your final grade. Missed quizzes cannot be made up.

Calculating Your Grade:

Weighting each component of your grade:

Exams	Take the average of your exams and multiply by .5
Papers:	Take the average of your papers and multiply by .25
MyPsychLab	Take the average of your post-test scores and multiply by .2 and then subtract 1 point for each uncompleted MyPsychLab assignment (including post-test scores)
Quizzes:	Take the average of your quiz scores and multiply by .05

After weighting each component of your grade, add up the various components. This sum will equal a number between 0 and 100.

I will base your final grade on the following criteria:

- A = 90 – 100
- B = 80 – 89
- C = 70 – 79
- D = 60 – 69
- F = 0 – 59

Academic dishonesty: The various forms of academic dishonesty are described in the student handbook. I would urge you to familiarize yourself with the university policy regarding academic dishonesty. **Pleading ignorance of the policy or of what constitutes academic dishonesty is not a legitimate excuse.** The penalty for any act of academic dishonesty is failure of the course and referral for disciplinary action. Please don't cheat.

Policy on Missed Exams: You must take the exams on the dates scheduled. Make-up exams will only be given when an exam was missed due to a college-sanctioned event in which you participated or in cases of documented illness. If you miss an exam due to a college sanctioned event you must present the excuse **before** missing the exam. If you miss due to illness you must have a physicians note stating you were unable to take the exam at the scheduled day and time. If you miss an exam due to illness you must contact me before the next class meeting and let me

know that you still want to take the exam. Before being allowed to take the make-up exam you must present a physician signed excuse. **All make-up exams will be given immediately after the final.** On the day of the final it is your responsibility to let me know that you need to take a make-up exam. **You will only be allowed to take one make-up exam.** In other words, if you miss more than one exam during the semester you cannot pass the course.

Psychology Department Research Requirement: (information will be posted on MyClasses about this).

All General Psychology students must fulfill a research requirement. You may choose either option:

- (1) Volunteer to be a research participant in studies conducted by researchers from the Psychology Department.
- (2) Read research material on reserve at Blackwell Library and then write and submit a report on the readings.

Failure to fulfill either requirement 1 OR 2 will result in an Incomplete for this class.

There is much more information about this requirement on MyClasses. Click on Departments & Schools – Psychology Department Research Requirement.

Attendance: Attendance is critical to understanding the ideas and theories that will be presented in class. Attendance is also of critical importance if you are to be able to perform your best on the papers that will be assigned over the course of the semester. In addition, you are responsible for all material that is presented in class (e.g., knowing about changes in the schedule) even on the days you are not present. If you have more than six unexcused absences during the course of the semester, points may be deducted from your final course average. Certain absences will be considered excused if official documentation is provided to the instructor either before missing a class or before the next class meeting. The final determination of whether an absence is excused or not resides with the instructor.

Information about the University Writing Center:

At the University Writing Center (directly above the Fireside Lounge in the Guerrieri University Center), trained consultants are ready to help you at any stage of the writing process. It is often helpful for writers to share their work with an attentive reader, and consultations allow writers to test and refine their ideas before having to hand papers in or to release documents to the public. In addition to the important writing instruction that occurs in the classroom and during teachers' office hours, the center offers another site for learning about writing. **All students are encouraged to make use of this important service.** For more information about the writing center's hours and policies, visit the writing center or its website at www.salisbury.edu/uwc.

University statement regarding the possibility of pandemic flu:

There is an international concern that a flu pandemic may occur in the near future (see <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/> for current information). Salisbury University has submitted an outline of its plan for responding to such an event to the University System. This plan calls for possible closure of the University. The University intends to award full credit for all classes offered. Credit and grades could be awarded based on work completed up to the time of closure, if the University closed late enough in a semester, or the University may need to resume classes, and extend classes beyond the scheduled time in order to award such credit. Should a pandemic occur, it is likely that some of the University's plans would be superseded by orders from the

Health Department, the University System, or the Governor's Office. In the event of a flu epidemic or other emergency that results in suspension of this class, I will be communicating with you about this course and its requirements via GroupWise e-mail. *Students must verify that they can gain access to their e-mail through the web.* To verify that you can do this, go to www.salsibury.edu and click "campus e-mail" at the top of the page. If you cannot access your e-mail see the Help Desk located in TETC 113 or go to their website www.salsibury.edu/helpdesk/.

All revisions to assignments, quiz and exam dates, and class and grading policies that would occur during such an emergency will be communicated via e-mail. You will be responsible for completing all these assignments in accordance with class policies.

Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
8/31	Introduction to Class	Prologue
9/2	General Introduction to Psychology	Prologue
9/4	Science and Pseudoscience	1
9/7	No Class – Labor Day	
9/9	Science and Pseudoscience	1
9/11	Science and Pseudoscience	1
9/14	Research Methods	2
9/16	Research Methods	2
9/18	Research Methods	2
9/21	Biological Psychology	3
9/23	Biological Psychology	3
9/25	Biological Psychology	3
9/28	No Class	
9/30	Exam 1	(Prologue, Chapters 1, 2, and 3)

MyPsychLab assignments relating to the Prologue and Chapters 1, 2, and 3 will not be accepted after September 30th at 3:00 pm.

10/2	Perception	4
10/5	Perception	4
10/7	Perception	4
10/9	Consciousness	5
10/12	Consciousness	5
10/14	Consciousness	5
10/16	Learning	6
10/19	Learning	6
10/21	Learning	6
10/23	Exam 2	(Chapters 4, 5, and 6)

10/26	Memory	7
10/28	Memory	7
10/30	Memory	7

MyPsychLab assignments relating to Chapters 4, 5, 6, and 7 will not be accepted after October 30th at 3:00 pm.

10/30 is the last day to withdraw with a “W”

11/2	Human Development	10
11/4	Human Development	10
11/6	Human Development	10

11/9	Human Dev/ Social Psychology	10/13
11/11	Social Psychology	13
11/13	Social Psychology	13

11/16	Social Psychology	13
11/18	Exam 3	(Chapters 7, 10, and 13)

MyPsychLab assignments relating to Chapters 7, 10, and 13 will not be accepted after November 18th at 3:00 pm..

11/20	Personality	14
11/23	Personality	14
11/25	No Class – Thanksgiving Break	
11/27	No Class – Thanksgiving Break	
11/30	Personality	14
12/2	Psychological Disorders	15
12/4	Psychological Disorders	15
12/7	Psychological Disorders	15
12/9	Treatment of Psychological Disorders	16
12/11	Treatment of Psychological Disorders	16

Exam #4 will be given during our final exam time which is on **Tuesday, December 15 from 1:30 – 4:00**. The final exam is not cumulative and will only cover the material in the last quarter of the class: chapters 14, 15, and 16. The final exam will be in our regular classroom – HH 114.

MyPsychLab assignments relating to Chapters 14, 15, and 16 will not be accepted after Tuesday, December 15th at 1:30 pm.