

PSY 101: Introduction to Psychology

Instructor: Dr. George E. Humes, III Ph.D.
Office Hours: To Be Announced
E-mail: caddis_fly_2002@yahoo.com
Office #: E156

Course Description:

This is a survey course of the major areas of study in psychology such as: motivation, learning, physiology, personality theories, social psychology, psychological disorders and treatment, perception, memory, and cognition/thought. This course is organized around six approaches / perspectives, as we will call them. Each perspective has its own terminology and distinctive manner to the study of psychological processes. By the time the course is over, you should know much more about each perspective and thus, have a good beginning understanding of what psychology is about.

The six perspectives to be covered are as follows:

1. The **BEHAVIORAL** perspective: what we do is the result of what we have learned: topics include classical conditioning, instrumental conditioning, and cognitive learning.
2. The **COGNITIVE** perspective: stresses mental events and the processing of information: topics include perception, memory, thinking, and intelligence.
3. The **BIOLOGICAL** perspective: emphasis is on the ways the brain processes contribute to behavior and the mind.
4. The **DEVELOPMENTAL** perspective: studies the changes in behavior that occur from infancy through childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and old age.
5. The **SOCIAL** perspective: studies how a situation and our interpretation of a situation influences our behaviors: topics include attitudes, social cognition, social influences.
6. The **INDIVIDUAL** perspective: stresses the unique behaviors and mental processes of persons: topics include personality psychological disorders, psychological tests, and psychotherapy.

Because this is a survey course, we will only touch lightly on these perspectives. You may find them useful now and later as you try to understand your own behavior and that of others around you.

Course Objectives:

The intentions of this course are as follows:

- Recognize areas of psychological investigation that have implications for everyday life and society.
- Understand the scientific method as it applies to psychology.
- Recognize that psychological phenomena are investigated from many levels of investigation, ranging from biological through social ("micro" through "macro") levels.
- Identify some of the biological mechanisms that influence human psychological processes.
- Be able to discuss psychological development throughout life, from before birth through old age.
- Recognize the impact of experience on psychological phenomena, based on learning principles.
- Recognize the role of cognition and memory in human functioning.
- Recognize some of the important individual differences that influence human functioning.
- Discuss psychological health and psychological problems, based on scientific evidence.
- Recognize ways that society influences human functioning.
- To give you basic knowledge of and experience of writing in APA style.

Course Materials:

Meyers, D.G. (2013). *Psychology 10th Ed. In Modules*. NY.: Worth Publishing.

Highly Recommended:

1. American Psychological Association. *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th edition). Washington DC.
– APA cheat sheets are available on the course webpage for downloading.
2. Stapler
3. An active E-mail Account
4. Flash-drive for assignments specific to this class

Additional reading may be assigned during the semester.

Course Assignments & Assessments:

- Tests / Exams: There will be a minimum of four exams during the course. Please refer to the schedule for dates. The first three tests (potentially more) will be on the information recently covered in class. The last test will be given during finals week and will be cumulative. All exams will be multiple-choice questions, T/F, fill in the blank, & matching, and/or short answer essay and will be based on the readings, class lectures, discussions, assignments, and/or movies. Total test points will vary depending on the number of items.
- Extra Credit: As a general rule, I DO NOT offer extra credit to single individuals. If extra credit is offered, it will be offered to the class as a whole. For example, there may be bonus items on tests. You may choose to answer these items or not to do so –only correct answers will be counted toward your overall test score.
- Quizzes: As a general rule, I don't like to give quizzes unless: 1) class participation is poor or 2) students are not coming to class prepared for the day, i.e., readings/discussion. **Quizzes will be both announced and unannounced.**
- Participation as a subject: During the semester, you may be asked to participate as a subject in an experiment conducted by faculty and/or students in the Psychology Department. You may opt to participate or not –***your participation is completely voluntary***. The person conducting the experiment will provide me with a list of participants. If you are on the list, you will be given 15 bonus points toward your final exam (or your next test –your choice).
- Article Review: You must complete two short article reviews. Format and details will be discussed in class. This assignment will be worth a total of 100 points. (50 points each).

Grading Summary:

Assignment	Weighting Percentage
CoursWork: 1) homework; 2) unit exams; 3) quizzes; & 4) attendance	60%
Final Exam	40%

The following table describes how letter grades will be assigned:

Letter Grade	Percentage
A+	95 - 100%
A	90 - 94%
B+	85 - 89%
B	80 - 84%
C+	75 - 79%
C	70 - 74%
D+	65 - 69%
D	60 - 64%
F	59% and below

Course Policies:

Readings

Readings are to be done before they are discussed in class each day. You will be held responsible for its content.

Learning support

Students with documented learning disabilities who will require accommodations in this course must notify me at the beginning of the semester. The request for any accommodations must also be made in writing at the beginning of the semester to the University's Learning Support Services Coordinator, along with appropriate documentation. The Coordinator of Learning Support Services will notify the student and instructor as to what accommodations are appropriate for this course. Please note: Requests for accommodations that are made after the first week of classes and without notice from the Coordinator of Learning Services, will not be honored.

Deadlines for Assignments

- A. Any assignments handed in after the due date will **NOT** be accepted and will be given a score of **ZERO**. It **MUST** be in *Times Roman* with a 12 pt font. It must be from your text book only. It must cover the entire chapter. If you use **ANY** outside sources, including your slides, you will receive a score of **ZERO** for the assignment. You will lose 2 pts for each section missing from the summary outline. Three or more missing sections will result in a score of **ZERO** and you will **NOT** be permitted to resubmit. There are to be absolutely **NO** graphics in the summary outlines. The only tables permitted are the ones you specifically design and setup yourself (no copy/paste). If I see **ANY** copy/paste, your assignment will receive a score of **ZERO**. There will be **NO EXCEPTIONS** to this.
- B. The assignments must be in the correct format, i.e., a summary outline. If it is not in the correct format, you will receive a score of **ZERO** and will **NOT** be permitted to resubmit. There will be **NO EXCEPTIONS** to this.
- C. You **MUST** include your **FIRST & LAST** names; **Student ID#**; **Section #**; and **Sequence # on everything you submit**. Failure to do so will result in a loss of ½ of the points off the top and you will **NOT** be permitted to resubmit. There will be **NO EXCEPTIONS** to this.
- D. If you will not be in class on the due date, the assignment must be in my office before class begins, e.g., submit the assignment early. {The only exceptions to this are family emergencies and severe illnesses, for which alternative deadlines will be set. However, some form of written verification must be provided in those situations – i.e., doctor's note on hospital letterhead; letter from family, etc.}

Note to student athletes: You are responsible for providing a schedule of your events, with class conflicts noted, for the first week of class. Those students must also remind me when they need to miss class for athletic events. All assignments must be completed prior to their assigned deadlines. All class notes are your responsibility to obtain. This policy also applies to any students who may miss class the day of an assignment deadline due to a university-sponsored event.

Please plan your time responsibly. "My computer/disk has a virus" or "My computer won't co-operate" are not reasonable excuses/reasons to attempt to hand in a late assignment.

Attendance

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. If you are not in class at the time, you will be marked absent. **Thirteen unexcused absences will result in automatic course failure**. If you arrive late and attendance has been taken, make sure you speak with me **AFTER** class. At that time I will record you as late. Three late/tardy arrivals will count as one absence, which will apply to the absence/failure policy stated above. Athletes who have provided events schedules, students who have provided written verification, and students who have severe illness or family emergencies verified in written form will not be counted as absent. [A few other tips: get a lite meal before you come to class, stop at the restroom, and drinking fountain before you come to class – leaving in the middle of class can be very distracting and disrespectful).

Participation

Your participation is key to the success and enjoyment of this class! When class discussions arise, your participation is expected and welcomed.

Tests & Quizzes/Missed Tests & Quizzes

Tests & quizzes will only be distributed during the first 10 minutes of the class. If you show up to the test/quiz after this time you will not be allowed to take the test/quiz. The tests will be a mixture of lecture notes, films, assignments, and the textbook. Items will be direct/definitions, applied, and conceptual. Quizzes will be primarily based on reading assignments and lecture material. **THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES.**

You are expected to take tests/quizzes on the scheduled dates (see schedule). Illness, participation in University activities, and family emergencies are the only reasons for being allowed to take a make-up test and must be verified in written form. **A heavy workload or several tests in other courses are not reasons for taking a make-up test; plan your study time accordingly and responsibly.** You must inform me before the test, if you need to reschedule (e.g., in class, via e-mail, or voice mail). If you are granted permission to take a make-up test, it must be rescheduled within one (1) week of the originally scheduled test date. **MISSED TESTS NOT MADE-UP WITHIN 5 SCHOOL DAYS WILL BE GIVEN A ZERO GRADE – NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Written Assignments

All written assignments must be typed/computer processed. Assignments that exceed one page must be stapled together in the upper left-hand corner. Points will be deducted if either of these two criteria is not met. Make sure that your first and last names are on your assignments. Quoting in a paper is limited to no more than three short quotes in a 5-page paper. APA defines a short quote as 39 words or less. APA format is required.

Cell Phones

It is profoundly rude to talk and/or on your phone in the class. It distracts your peers and is disrespectful to your instructor. Therefore, ALL cell phones MUST be turned off during class time. If you are caught playing with your phone during class, you will be considered (marked) absent. There will be NO EXCEPTIONS to this rule.

Academic Dishonesty

“Plagiarism means one or more of the following: a) neglecting to place in quotation marks any direct quoted phrases/clauses or sentences from another author; b) failing to document (e.g., in parenthetical references) quotations, paraphrases, or other borrowed material; and c) neglecting to use *your own wording* when writing summaries or paraphrases of another author.

Such actions are serious offenses that can have severe consequences. Plagiarism can be *intentional* – for example if you deliberately incorporate the work of another author in your own writing without mentioning and documenting the source. Plagiarism can also be *unintentional* – but no less serious an offense – i.e., if you are unaware of what to acknowledge and how to document it.

Plagiarism is grounds for receiving zero on an assignment. Please be certain to document your sources carefully. Keep in mind, it is ALWAYS better to over-document than to under-document. If you have any questions about this, I will be happy to assist you.

WHAT DOES NOT NEED TO BE DOCUMENTED? You are not required to document common knowledge or your own ideas/thinking. *Common knowledge* is information that most educated people know.

WHAT DOES NEED TO BE DOCUMENTED? You must document any information or ideas which you use from an outside source. Expressing the words or ideas of others in your own words (paraphrasing) does not release you from the obligation of acknowledging your source. Plagiarism can consist of 1) not putting borrowed language in quotation marks, and/or 2) not documenting quotations and borrowed ideas. To avoid plagiarism, 1) enclose direct quotes in quotation marks and 2) acknowledge use of all sources in parenthetical references (or footnotes/endnotes, if used) and bibliographic entries.” **Two or more acts of plagiarism in this course in one semester will result in automatic failure in this course – NO EXCEPTIONS.**



If you are caught looking another students quiz/exam, it will be considered cheating and your assessment will be terminated and you will be given a zero for the assessment. **Two or more acts of cheating in this course in one semester will result in automatic failure in this course – NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Psy 101 Course Schedule:

WK 01	Introduction; Explanation of Requirements; Past & Present Perspectives; Jobs in Psychology; Ethics Chapter 1: Thinking Critically with Psychological Science Appendix A: Careers in Psychology
WK 02	Chapter 1 continued; Chapter 2: Biology of Mind: Neuroscience and Behavior
WK 03	Chapter 2 continued Chapter 5: Developing Through the Lifespan; Quiz time permitting
WK 04	Chapter 5 continued Chapter 6: Sensation; Chapter 6: Perception
	Semester Break (Sept. 25 th - Oct. 11th)
WK 05	Chapter 5 / 6 continued; Quiz time permitting Chapter 3: Consciousness EXAM 01: To be announced
WK 06	Review Exam 01 Chapter 7: Learning; Chapter 8: Memory; Chapter 11: Motivation Behavioral, Social Cognitive, Information Processing, and Motivation Theories of Learning
WK 07	Review Exam 02 ; Chapter 10: Intelligence EXAM 02: To be announced
WK 08	Chapter 12: Emotion, Stress and Health
WK 09	Stress and Health Continued Chapter 13: Personality
WK 10	Personality continued Review for Exam 03
WK 11	Personality continued EXAM 03: To be announced
WK 12	Chapter 15: Psychological Disorders; Chapter 16: Therapy
WK 13	Chapters 15, & 16 Continued. Video series
WK 14	Chapters 15, & 16 Continued. Video series con't.
WK 15	Chapters 15, & 16 Continued; Video series con't. Review for Final Exam – Comprehensive
WK 16 - 18	Last day(s) of classes; Followed by Final Examinations Yes, it is a comprehensive exam covering all chapters from the semester.