

Psychology 120

## **Introduction to Psychology**

Fall, 2006

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Office Hours: Monday 10:00 – 11:30

Wednesday 10:00 – 11:30

Thursday 10:00 – 11:30

Tuesday & Friday by appointment only

Please stop in during my office hours if you have a question, concern, or if I can help out in anyway. If none of these times are convenient for you, other times may be arranged. Please feel free to call me to set up an appointment.

Class Time: Tuesday & Thursday (5b: 12:50 – 2:00)

Class Room: Room 233 PPHAC

### Course Description:

Overview of research drawn from biological, perceptual, cognitive, developmental, clinical, social, and personality traditions in the discipline.

## Course Requirements

### Examinations:

There will be several exams given during the term. The exams will be administered after we complete the selected modules (see outline below) for each chapter that is covered. The dates for each of the exams are listed on the course schedule below.

The exams are non-cumulative and will be comprised of multiple-choice, definitional and short answer questions. All of the exams will be given during normal class time.

Your lowest exam grade will be dropped. If you miss an exam—that exam will count as your lowest grade. Note: Exams will be given only on the days scheduled. There will be no make-up exams given.

### Critical Thinking Papers:

There are many controversial issues in Psychology (i.e., Is the media harmful to children?, Should animals be used as subjects?, and Is Drug Addiction a choice?). Each student will be responsible for writing two 3-page Critical Thinking Papers on pre-selected controversial topics. The papers are designed to get you to think critically about the material you are learning about in the Introduction to Psychology. The paper topics and readings will be distributed in class. The reading material is presented in a debate format. There are two essays on each topic (point-counterpoint). You will read the essays on each side of the debate and write a paper on your thoughts/reactions to the issue discussed. Your Critical Thinking paper due dates are on the schedule below. You should also be prepared to discuss your paper with your classmates.

### Student Presentations:

Each student will have an opportunity to make a presentation to the class on a pre-selected topic. The presentations should be no longer than 5-minutes in length. Your presentation will be graded on the following dimensions: clarity, organization, educational value, and presentation skills. In addition to your presentation you must submit a 2 page paper on the topic you researched.

### Attendance and Class Participation:

Attendance for all regularly scheduled class meetings is expected. Missed classes will lower the student's grade. The lectures will cover material that is not covered in the assigned readings, and you will be held responsible for this material. The lectures are intended to supplement the readings. As such, the lectures will not duplicate the reading materials but will emphasize the most central aspects of the chapter and/or discuss particularly difficult concepts. The lectures will presuppose familiarity with the reading assignment for that lecture. In addition, projects will be completed during class sessions and in order to obtain credit the student must be present.

You are strongly encouraged to ask questions at any time during the class to help clarify points. Discussion of any portion of the class materials is encouraged and welcomed.

### Evaluation:

Grades for this course will be determined according to your performance on the quizzes, the critical thinking papers, student presentation, and class participation.

Exams.....	55%
Presentation & Paper.....	15%
Critical Thinking Papers.....	20%
Participation.....	10%

### Policy on Plagiarism:

The Moravian College faculty has become increasingly concerned by the problem of plagiarism on campus. The Psychology Department's policy on this subject is important for students to understand. Simply put, plagiarism is the intentional misrepresentation of someone else's work as your own. This includes such diverse situations as quoting directly from a published work without giving the author credit, having your roommate write the paper, "borrowing" from fraternity or sorority files, buying a paper from a professional service, and so on. The policy of the department is that the student must keep all note cards and rough drafts on a paper until the grade is assigned. The instructor may request these materials, along with the source materials, at any time. Evidence of plagiarism will be dealt with in accordance with the College policy on academic honesty, copies of, which are available at the departmental secretary's desk.

### The Subject Pool:

In order to facilitate student research in Psychology and to expose students to the research process each student must serve as a participant in for one hour during the semester. If you choose not to participate an alternative assignment will be administered.

Extra credit may be obtained for serving as a subject (beyond the required one hour) in approved experiments. Each student may earn up to 4 points of extra credit (2 points for every hour).

### Information Literacy:

You will be required to attend a tutorial at the Library on information literacy in Psychology. The date and time will be announced in class.

### Required Texts:

Myers, David, G. (2005). *Exploring Psychology*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Worth Publishing.

Note: Each chapter in the Myers text is broken down into modules.  
You are only responsible for the material in the modules listed below.

Additional Readings- will be placed on reserve in  
the library or handed out in class.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

(Subject to Change)

**Aug. 29 (T)**

Organizational Meeting and Syllabus Review

**Aug. 31 (Th)**

Introduction to Psychology

Module 1

**Sept. 5 (T)**

History and Scope of Psychology

Module 1

**Sept. 7 (Th)**

Research Methods in Psychology

Module 2

**Sept. 12 (T)**

Exam I (Modules 1 & 2)

**Sept. 14 (Th)**

Biology and Behavior: The Brain

Module 4

**Sept. 19 (T)**

Biology and Behavior: Interplay of Nature and Nurture

Module 6

**Sept. 21 (Th)**

Exam 2 (Modules 4 & 6)

**Sept. 26 (T)**

The Developing Person: Student Presentations

Modules 7,8,9,&10

**Sept. 28 (Th)**

The Developing Person: Student Presentations

Modules 7,8,9,&10

**Oct. 3 (T)**

No class Yom Kipper

**Oct. 5 (Th)**

States of Consciousness: Wakefulness

Module 17

**Oct. 10 (T)**

Fall recess- no class

**Oct. 12 (Th)**

States of Consciousness: Sleeping

Module 17

**Oct. 16 (T)**

States of Consciousness: Drugs

Module 19

**Oct. 19 (Th)**

Exam IV (Module 17 & 19)

**Oct. 24 (T)**

Critical Thinking Paper Discussion: Papers Due

Should Animals be used in Psychological Research?

Is Love a Mechanism of Evolution?

Does Viewing Television Increase Aggression?

Do Adults Repress Childhood Sexual Abuse?

**Oct. 26 (Th)**

Trustee Meeting – no class

**Oct. 31 (T)**

Learning: Classical Conditioning

Module 20

**Nov. 2 (Th)**

Learning: Operant Conditioning

Module 21

**Nov. 7 (T)**

Exam V (Modules 20 & 21)

**Nov. 9 (Th)**

Memory: Introduction and Encoding

Module 23 & 24

**Nov. 14 (T)**

Memory: Storage and Retrieval

Module 25 & 26

**Nov. 16 (Th)**

Exam VI (Modules 23, 24, 25, & 26)

**Nov. 21 (T)**

Critical Thinking Paper Discussion: Papers Due

Do Rewards Facilitate Learning?  
Is Treating Homosexuality Ethical and Effective?  
Does the Internet have Psychological Benefits/  
Is Pornography Harmful?

**Nov. 23 (Th)**

No Class – Thanksgiving Break

**Nov. 27 (T)**

Film and Discussion

**Nov. 30 (Th)**

Stress and Health: Student Presentations

Modules 39 & 40

**Dec. 5 (T)**

Social Psychology: Student Presentations

Modules 54 & 55

**Dec. 7 (Th)**

Closure & Course Evaluations

Student Presentations:

The Developing Person (Modules 7, 8, 9, & 10)

Topics: Prenatal Development  
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome  
Piaget's Stages of Cognitive Development  
Attachment and Stranger Anxiety  
Day Care

Moral Development in Adolescence  
Identity Development  
Gender and Social Connectedness  
Adolescence and Parents (separation)  
Menopause  
Life Expectancy  
Alzheimers Disease  
Death and Dying

Stress and Health (Modules 39 & 40)

Topics: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder  
Optimism and Pessimism  
Type A and Type B Personalities  
Stress and Cancer

Exercise and Mood  
Spirituality  
Smoking  
Obesity  
Alternative Medicine

Social Psychology (Modules 54 & 55)

Topics:      Conformity  
                  Obedience  
                  Social Loafing  
                  Prejudice and Just World Phenomenon  
                  Mere Exposure Effect  
                  Physical Attractiveness  
                  Altruism  
                  Peacemaking