

Psychology 120B: Introduction to Psychology
Fall 2006

Instructor: Dr. Sarah Johnson	When: M/W 2:20-3:30pm
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Overall Course Goal: This course will introduce you to the broad field of psychology, focusing on important research and theories about how people think, feel, act, etc., and emphasizing how this info can be useful to you in understanding the world and people around you on a daily basis.

Specific Course Objectives: By the end of this course, you should:

1. Be able to discuss important theories and findings from major areas psychology—e.g., perception, learning/memory, language, development, motivation, personality, biological, social, and abnormal psychology—including knowing some of the important researchers and paradigms in these areas.
2. Better understand psychological mumbo-jumbo, aka psycho-babble, aka the language and terminology of psychology.
3. Understand how researchers go about investigating psychological processes, esp. knowing some of the important criteria of good scientific research and understanding what ethical issues are most relevant to this research as it pertains to psychology.
4. Be able to discuss how research in many areas of psychology is relevant to everyday life.
5. Be able to research a topic in an area of psychology using PsycInfo.
6. Develop an enjoyment of psychology both as a field of scientific study and in reference to your own life.

My expectations of you:

1. Arrive on time for every class session and be prepared to be engaged and to participate. If I ask for comments, participation, or feedback during class, I expect active responses.
2. Take good notes where necessary and ask questions when you need clarification. **DON'T TRY TO COPY DOWN EVERYTHING** (the posted lecture notes should mitigate the need for copying during lectures); instead, try to determine the main point and come up with your own examples. Try to approach the material from multiple viewpoints, e.g., write a verbal description of diagrams or create a visual representation of text material.
3. Read all assigned readings carefully and thoroughly in advance of class. Come and see me if you do not understand part or all of the reading.
4. Read instructions for assignments carefully and if you do not understand any part of the instructions come see me well before the assignment is due.
5. Turn in assignments on time! Assignments should be checked thoroughly and edited for clarity, conciseness, spelling and grammar before they are turned in to me.
6. All work (assignments, papers, tests) should be *your own!* Your work that makes reference to other sources should be paraphrased in your own words! My goal is not to assess your ability to QUOTE others; I want to see that you UNDERSTAND their words.

What you should expect from me:

1. I will arrive on time, or if possible early, for every class session and will be prepared to be engaged and to participate.
2. I will provide lecture notes via Blackboard (*password = psyche*). To the best of my ability I will post these in advance of lectures. If not, the notes will be up on Blackboard later that day. These handouts will give you an outline of what we will be covering but you will need to fill in additional information or expand on the outline during class. I am not responsible for giving you this info in the event that you miss class. If you miss class, you should arrange to get missing info from a classmate who attended class on that day.
3. I will be available in my office during office hours, and can be reached outside of office hours via email for questions and concerns. I am on email frequently and can usually answer simple questions very quickly. I will typically wait for you to tell me that you need help, but I will be more than happy to meet with you when you do.
4. I will announce ahead of time any changes from the syllabus to readings, assignments, or projects. I may occasionally make minor changes in topic without announcement.

Textbook: *Introduction to Psychology* (7th ed.) by James W. Kalat; any additional readings will either be handed out during class or will be available via our course Blackboard site. Readings may be added that are not currently listed on the class schedule.

Course Evaluation:

Class Participation/Attendance: You will have the opportunity to earn CP points throughout the term by performing in-class activities such as writing a few sentences in response to a topic question or participating in a group discussion of an issue, or sometimes by completing an activity outside of class (e.g., an online demonstration). Your class participation grade will be based on the percentage of CP points that you earned out of the total number of CP points offered. Every student will get 2 freebie CP points, each of which can make up for one absence (excused or unexcused). After two absences, any remaining CP points missed will result in a lower class participation grade, regardless of the reason for the absence. If you have a legitimate reason for missing class frequently, please see me. In either case, you are responsible for obtaining the info you miss when you are absent. I will keep the blackboard site updated with lecture notes and assignment updates.

Exams: There will be 4 exams over the course of the term. None of the exams will be cumulative and you will be allowed to drop your lowest exam grade. Exam format will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer/identification, and short essay. Exams can include questions on the assigned text chapters, handouts, and readings, even if not discussed in lecture. Study guides will be posted on Blackboard as each exam approaches and will include important terms to know for the exam as well as sample exam questions.

Missed exams: If you miss an exam and have a *legitimate* and *documentable* excuse, you can use that grade as your dropped exam grade. If your excuse was unforeseeable, I expect you to contact me *within 3 days* after the exam to arrange to drop that exam. If you know in advance that you will need to miss an exam (e.g., for sports-related travel or for an interview) then you must let me know as soon as possible before the exam. You may not drop an exam grade if you skipped the exam without legitimate reason for absence (i.e., if you do not arrange it with me, the 0 for that exam will automatically be counted as one of your exam grades).

Article Assignments: There will be 2 take-home assignments that involve reading and responding to an article. These assignments should be typed and proofread for clarity, spelling, grammar, etc. More info about the requirements and grading will be provided in a handout later.

Creative Presentations/Disorder Paper: There will be one larger paper and a corresponding group presentation, both of which will be organized around a particular disorder. The paper will address a series of questions regarding the disorder and will require the use of multiple, documented sources. These papers will be completed and graded individually, while the presentation will be a group project, earning a group grade. Handouts providing more detailed information about these assignments will be distributed later in the semester.

Late Policy: Late assignments and papers will be accepted for up to three days after the due date and, unless otherwise noted, will result in a reduction of ***1 letter grade for every calendar day late*** beginning at 5pm on the day the assignment is due. After the three-day period, an assignment will not be accepted and a grade of 0 will be applied. **NO** exceptions will be made to this rule, including situations involving legitimate and documentable excuses and technical difficulties. In addition, I will only accept assignments that are turned in by email if you have arranged with me to do so for a particular assignment.

Note that it is within my purview to use qualitative judgment in assigning grades for various components of the course, including assignments, papers, presentations, or other aspects of the course (e.g., exam essays).

Overall grades- Breakdown:

Class Participation	15%
Article Assignments (2 @ 10% each)	20%
Exams (3 @ 15% each)	45%
Creative Presentations (group grade)	5%
<u>Disorder Paper</u>	<u>15%</u>
Total 100%	

Unless otherwise noted, I will use the following scale for calculating grades:

Letter	Score	Grade range
A	100	95-100
A-	92	90-94
B+	88	87-89
B	85	83-86
B-	81	80-82
C+	78	77-79
C	75	73-76
C-	71	70-72
D+	68	67-69
D	65	63-66
D-	61	60-62
F	0	0-59

Required Research Participation: You will be required to participate in *one hour* of research being conducted by students in 212 (Research Methods). This experience allows you to view the research process first hand. If you have objections to participating in research, you may arrange to complete an alternative, written assignment, which will involve reading a psychological article. In order to do the alternative assignment, you must meet with me to arrange it. More information about research participation will be provided later in the semester, when experiment opportunities start to become available. Failure to complete the required participation (or the alternative assignment) will result in a **reduction of your class participation grade by 10%** (i.e., one letter grade) **per half hour**.

Extra Credit Opportunities: In addition to the one required hour, you may also earn extra credit by completing up to 2 hours of additional research participation. Other extra credit opportunities may also be provided. More info will be provided about requirements for obtaining the extra credit and the amount of extra credit points offered as the term progresses.

Plagiarism and cheating: Any work that you turn in for this class must be entirely your own work. Any sources used must be properly documented, and I will ask you not to use any direct quotes in assignments. For more information on plagiarism and cheating, refer to the Student Handbook and the following website regarding academic responsibility at Moravian College: <http://www.moravian.edu/studentLife/handbook/academic2.htm>. As this site clearly explains, the consequences for cheating or plagiarism can range from failing the assignment to receiving an F for the final course grade to expulsion, depending on the severity of the case and prior history of offenses. Although I am not generally opposed to your discussing assignments with fellow students from the class, all of the work you submit to me must be entirely your own, and in some cases I may ask you not to collaborate with fellow students.

I will spend class time discussing ways to avoid plagiarizing, but apart from this it is your obligation to come see me if you have any questions about your use of sources or when/in what way it is okay to collaborate with other students in the class.

Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provides for some accommodations to be made for students with certain disabilities. If you have such a disability and are willing to disclose it, you may take advantage of such accommodations. In order to do so, you are required to meet with Mrs. Laurie Roth in the Office of Learning Services (for learning disabilities and/or ADD/ADHD) or Dr. Ronald Kline in the Counseling Center (for all other disabilities). Accommodations cannot be offered until I have received authorization from one of these centers based on documentation of your disability.

It is your obligation to come and see me if you have any questions or concerns about class in general or about your performance in this class. I am always willing to meet, so don't let things snowball; if you are having trouble, come and see me as soon as possible!

Class Schedule (This schedule is tentative. I reserve the right to make announced changes or to add readings with sufficient notice.):

Week:	Topic:	Text Chs/Assignments:
1 – Aug 28	M Introduction and course overview	Ch. 1
	W	
2 – Sept 4	M No class Mon [Labor Day]	
	W Scientific Methods	Ch. 2
3 – Sept 11	M	
	W Biological Psychology	Ch. 3; Ethics article assignment due
4 – Sept 18	M	
	W Exam 1	
5 – Sept 25	M Motivation & Emotion	Ch. 11 & Ch. 12 pp. 451-468
	W	
6 – Oct 2	M States of Consciousness	Ch. 5
	W	
7 – Oct 9	M No class Mon [Fall break]	
	W Sensation and Perception	Ch. 4
8 – Oct 16	M	
	W Exam 2	
9 – Oct 23	M Learning	Ch. 6
	W	
10 – Oct 30	M Memory	Ch. 7 & Ch. 8 pp. 279-289
	W	
11 – Nov 6	M	Commonsense article assignment due
	W Human Development	Ch. 10 & Ch. 8 pp. 310-322
12 – Nov 13	M	
	W Exam 3	

13 – Nov 20	M	Personality	Ch. 13 & Ch. 12 pp. 477-482
	W	No class [Thanksgiving break]	
14 – Nov 27	M	Social Psychology	Ch. 14
	W	Disorder papers due	
15 – Dec 4	M	Abnormality, Therapy, & Social Issues	Ch. 15
	W	Creative Presentations	
16 – Dec 11	M	Creative Presentations	
Finals Wk		Final exam schedule TBA – Exam 4	

Exam 1: Chs. 1-3

Exam 2: Chs. 4-5, 11, 12 (451-468)

Exam 3: Chs. 6-7, 8 (279-289, 310-322), 10

Exam 4: Chs. 12 (477-482), 13-15, Disorder material covered in presentations (Ch. 16)