

Psychology 120 A

Introduction to Psychology

Fall, 2007

Instructor: Stacey B. Zaremba, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: Monday 9:00 – 10:30

Wednesday 9:00 – 10:30

Thursday 10:00 – 11:00

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: To be announced

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 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.

Note: Exams will be given only on the days scheduled. There will be no make-up exams given.

Critical Thinking Paper:

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 one 2-page Critical Thinking Papers on pre-selected controversial topics. This assignment is 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 date is 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.

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|------------------------------|-----|
| Exams..... | 60% |
| Presentation & Paper..... | 20% |
| Critical Thinking Paper..... | 10% |
| 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. (2007). *Exploring Psychology*, 6th 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. 28 (T)

Organizational Meeting and Syllabus Review

Aug. 30 (Th)

Introduction to Psychology &
Frequently asked Questions in Psychology

Module 1 & 2 (pages 22 – 29)

Sept. 4 (T)

History and Scope of Psychology

Module 1

Sept. 6 (Th)

Research Methods in Psychology

Module 3

Sept. 11 (T)

Exam I

Sept. 13 (Th)

No class - Rosh Hashanah

Sept. 18 (T)

Biology and Behavior: The Brain

Module 5

Sept. 20 (Th)

Biology and Behavior: Interplay of Nature and Nurture

Module 6

Sept. 25 (T)

Environmental influences on Behavior

Module 7

Sept. 27 (Th)

Library Session

Oct. 2 (T)

Exam II

Oct. 4 (Th)

States of Consciousness: Wakefulness

Module 18

Oct. 9 (T)

Fall recess- no class

Oct. 11 (Th)

States of Consciousness: Sleeping

Module 18

Oct. 16 (T)

States of Consciousness: Drugs

Module 20

Oct. 18 (Th)

Exam III

Oct. 23 (T)

Student Presentations: Developing Through the Lifespan

Module 8, 9, & 10

Oct. 25 (Th)

Student Presentations: Stress and Health

Module 41, 42, & 43

Oct. 30 (T)

Learning: Classical Conditioning

Module 21

Nov. 1 (Th)

Learning: Operant Conditioning

Module 22

Nov. 6 (T)

Learning: Observational Learning

Module 23

Nov. 8 (Th)

Exam IV

Nov. 13 (T)

Student Presentations: Psychological Disorders

Modules: 48, 49, 50, & 51

Nov. 15 (Th)

Student Presentations: Social Psychology

Modules: 56, 57, & 58

Nov. 20 (T)

Critical Thinking Paper Discussion: Papers Due

Is Love a Mechanism of Evolution?

Do Rewards Facilitate Learning?

Is Treating Homosexuality Ethical and Effective?

Does the Internet have Psychological Benefits/

Is Pornography Harmful?

Nov. 22 (Th)

No Class – Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 27 (T)

Memory: An Introduction

Modules 24 -27

Nov. 29 (Th)

Memory: Encoding, Storage, and Retrieval

Modules 24 - 27

Dec. 4 (T)

Memory: Encoding, Storage, and Retrieval

Modules 24 -27

Dec. 6 (Th)

Closure & Course Evaluations

Finals Week

Exam V

Student Presentation Topics

Oct. 23 (T)

Student Presentations: Developing Through the Lifespan

Module 8, 9, & 10

Prenatal Development
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
Piaget's Theory
Autism
Stranger Anxiety
Morality
Child Rearing Practices
Deprivation of Attachment
Identity Development
Emerging Adulthood

Oct. 25 (Th)

Student Presentations: Stress and Health Topics

Module 41, 42, & 43

The Stress Response System

Type A / Type B Personality
Stress and AIDS
Social Support and Stress
Exercise and Mood
Biofeedback
Meditation
Smoking
Obesity
Dieting and Losing Weight

Nov. 13 (T)

Student Presentations: Psychological Disorders Topics

Modules: 48, 49, 50 & 51

Panic Disorder
Phobias
Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
Anti-Social Personality Disorder
Bipolar Disorder
Depression
Schizophrenia: Symptoms and Subtypes
Explaining Schizophrenia

Nov. 15 (Th)

Student Presentations: Social Psychology Topics

Modules: 56, 57, & 58

Prejudice
Stereotypes
Conformity
Obedience
Social Facilitation
Ingroup / Outgroup
Just-World Phenomenon
Aggressive Behavior
Attraction
Altruism
Peacemaking

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 Personality
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