# PSYCH 120: Introduction to Psychology Fall, 2007

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Office Hours: M, W, F 2pm - 2:45pm

Monday 10am – 11am Thursday 3pm – 4pm

#### **Course Overview:**

Psychology has assumed an increasingly crucial role in understanding ourselves and others as our society and our world become increasingly more complex. This course is designed to serve as an introduction to the field of psychology. Students should come to a thorough understanding of, and respect for psychology as the scientific study of human and animal behavior and mental processes (e.g., thoughts and emotions). With theory and research as the foundation, we will explore the topics of the course which shed light on the basic processes underlying our thoughts and actions. Consequently, it should provide a framework for students to begin thinking independently about such phenomena, and the implications of these basic processes for themselves and the world around them.

This particular introductory psychology course focuses upon the internal or micro-psychological dynamics (biological bases, sensation & perception, learning, memory, consciousness, etc.) as opposed to Principles and Applications (PS105) which moves more toward more "macro" issues. However, as an introductory course I will try to optimize a balance between depth in exploring the core chapters outlined in the course schedule and breadth of the psychological discipline.

#### **Course Objectives:**

- 1) To become <u>knowledgeable</u> of theories, concepts, and principles pertaining to the relevant topics.
- 2) To develop greater <u>critical thinking skills</u>, and a greater ability to view and interpret phenomena from multiple theoretical perspectives.
- 3) To understand and appreciate the basics of rigorous <u>scientific research</u>, and its contribution to knowledge in psychology and in the social sciences in general.
- 4) To gain a <u>life long interest in exploring, learning, and using</u> psychological insight to better understand, cope, and thrive in our life.
- 5) To improve <u>communication skills</u> (writing, speaking, and listening) through various opportunities offered during the course.

#### Required text:

Haddon, M. (2003). The curious incident of the dog in the night time. Doubleday Publishers.

Meyers, D. (2007). *Psychology* (8<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York, NY: Worth Publishers. (referred to in syllabus as Modules)

Marcus, G. (Ed.) (2006). *The Norton psychology reader*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Co. (Referred to in syllabus as Norton)

Some assigned readings may also be distributed in class.

#### **Course Structure & Policies:**

- 1) **Make-up exams:** In order to avoid receiving a zero on a missed exam you must provide notification and verification. Notify me beforehand, or as soon as possible. Notification more than 2 days after the exam is not acceptable. If you miss an exam please provide the appropriate documentation (Drs.' note, court order, etc.). I expect this to be done without my requesting such documentation. Without this documentation you will be penalized by a reduction of 50% of your score. I reserve the right to use essay format for make-up exams. Exams will be re-scheduled on a weekday at 7:30AM.
- 2) **Cheating and plagiarism** will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is the intentional misrepresentation of someone else's work as your own. This includes such instances as quoting directly from a published work without giving the author credit (i.e. proper citation), inserting the author's words as your own, using or "borrowing" another student's work, buying a paper from a professional service, etc. The policy of the department is that the student must keep all note cards and rough drafts on a paper until given a grade for that course. Evidence of plagiarism and cheating will be dealt with in accordance with the college policy on academic honesty. Copies are available from the departmental secretary. In the event of a suspected infraction in fairness to your peers it is my job to send the materials in question to the Dean's Office at which time you are given the chance to provide your perspective on the matter.
- 3) **Attendance** Class attendance is expected. Class lectures and demonstrations will supplement the material in the text. In the event that you miss a class, you are responsible for getting the notes from a fellow student and reviewing them before you see me about questions concerning that material. Excessive absences (more than three) will result in detraction of two points per missed class from your final grade.
- 4) Late Assignments Assignments and projects may be handed in up to two days late (points deducted from the grade each day late) ONLY IF when handing in an assignment late you indicate the amount of days late on the front cover along with your signature. Assignments may not be handed in after the third day late. Please, do not ask me to deviate from this policy. If you must miss class drop off the assignment earlier, send it with a classmate, or fax it to me (861-1577). In other words, there should be no valid excuse for a late assignment. I encourage you not to procrastinate such that last minute emergencies (e.g. computer down, ribbon broke, etc.) interfere with getting assignments in on time. Also, be sure to back up your computer disks!

#### 5) Summary of Grading System:

SEMESTER EXAMS: 4 @ 15% each = 60%

FINAL EXAM: 20% ASSIGNMENTS: 20%

6) The following **grading scale** will be used in the course:

6) **Extra Credit:** Students will have the opportunity to earn extra credit by participating as subjects in approved experiments. Students may earn up to five hours of extra credit. Each hour of credit earned will increase your FINAL EXAM GRADE by 3 points.

#### **Course Requirements:**

#### **SEMESTER EXAMS** (4 @ 15% each):

The format for the exams during the semester will be multiple choice and short answer. In addition, you should carefully note the make-up policy above.

#### **FINAL EXAM** (16%):

The final exam will consist of three components. It will be cumulative in two ways: 1) a take home portion will require you to complete some reflective questions, and 2) there will be questions drawn from the rest of the material covered during the semester as part of the in-class portion of the exam. The third component of the final exam will be multiple choice and short answer questions on the new material.

### **ASSIGNMENTS** (32%):

Written assignments will introduce students to a variety of learning experiences and require students to demonstrate critical and analytical thinking about the material. The details for these assignments will be outlined on a separate handout and discussed further in class.

DATE	TOPIC	REQUIRED READINGS / ASSIGNMENTS*		
Monday 8/27	Introduction and Course Organization Overview			
Wednesday 8/29	History & Scope of Psychology Careers in Psychology	Module 1 Appendix A		
Friday 8/31	Thinking Critically with Psychological Science	Module 2	Norton: Freud	
Monday 9/3	LABOR DAY			
Wednesday 9/5 Research Strategies		Module 3	Norton: Stanovich	
Thurs. 9/6: Bill Ayers lecture sacrosanct				
Friday 9/7	Neural & Hormonal	Module 4		
Monday 9/10	The Brain	Module 5		
Wednesday 9/12	The Brain continued	Norton(2): Damasio and Sacks		
Friday 9/14	EXAM ONE			
Monday 9/17	Behavior Genetics & Evolutionary Psychology	Module 6	Norton: Pinker (p. 39 - 44)	
Tues. 9/18 Mark Harris Lecture				
Wednesday 9/19	Environmental Influences on Behavior	Module 7	Norton: Richardson & Boyd	
Friday 9/21	Sensation & Perception	Module 12		
Monday 9/24	Vision	Module 13	Norton: Hoffman	
Wednesday 9/26	Perceptual Organization			
Friday 9/28	Perceptual Interpretation Social Thinking	Module 17 Module 55		
Monday 10/1	Review Exam two material			
Wednesday 10/3 Friday 10/5	EXAM TWO TBA			

## Monday 10/8 FALL BREAK

Wednesday 10/10	Library Tutorial Memorial – Room 202 Waking & Sleep Rhythms	Module 18
Friday 10/12	Waking & Sleep (Cont'd) Hypnosis	Module 19
Monday 10/15	Drugs & Consciousness	Module 20
Wednesday 10/17	Learning: Classical Conditioning	Module 21 Norton: Watson & Rayner
Friday 10/19	Learning: Operant Conditioning	Module 22
Monday 10/22	Learning: Observational / Social Learning	Module 23
Wednesday 10/24	Review for Exam Three	APA Intro Due – 2 copies
Friday 10/26	EXAM THREE	
Monday 10/29	Introduction to Memory & Encoding	Modules 24 & 25
Wednesday 10/31	Memory Storage & Retrieval	Modules 26 & 27
Friday 11/2	Memory (cont'd)	Norton: Schacter
Monday 11/5	Forgetting, Memory Construction & Improvement	Module 28
Wednesday 11/7	Intro to Emotion / Expressed Emotions	Modules 38 & 39
Friday 11/9	Emotions (cont'd)	Norton: LeDoux
Monday 11/12	Experienced Emotion	Module 40 Norton: Goleman
Wednesday 11/14	Emotion (cont'd)	APA Method section due
Friday 11/16	Review for Exam Four	
Monday 11/19	EXAM FOUR	
Wednesday 11/21 Friday 11/23	THANKSGIVING BREAK	
Monday 11/26	Intro to Motivation / Hunger	Modules 34 & 35

Wednesday 11/28 Sexual Motivation & the Need to Belong Module 36

Friday 11/30 Motivation at Work Module 37 Norton: Csikszentmihalyi

Monday 12/3 Intro to Disorders & Therapy Modules 47 & 52 pg. 147 on autism

Completed Reaction paper for Haddon's book "The curious incident. . ."

Wednesday 12/5 Disorders & Therapy Norton: Grandin

Friday 12/7 (cont'd) Norton: Nasar and Jamison

Monday 12/10 Review for Final Exam

EXAM WEEK ---- Final Exam to be scheduled by the Registrar

<sup>\*</sup> Syllabus requirements and assignments subject to change based on the dynamics of the course at the discretion of the instructor.