

General Psychology
PSY 120
Course Policy and Evaluations
Fall 2008
Dr. Daniel F. Werner

Psychology Department
Moravian College
dwerner@moravian.edu

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours will be scheduled as needed. I will be available both immediately before and after classes. Feel free to schedule an appointment with me as needed.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the science of behavior and cognitive processes. It provides the student with an understanding of contemporary psychological concepts and theories, and focuses on a bio-social view of man and other animals. In addition, the course offers a survey of psychological methods and history with an emphasis on the role of organismic, environmental and social factors in the psychological process.

EXAMINATIONS

Students will have several opportunities to demonstrate, in examinations, their knowledge of the course content. The examinations will be objective and will consist of material from the text and class/lecture discussions. In addition to general knowledge of the material in the course, the examinations will also test the application of the knowledge.

My policy is not to give make-up examinations. Exceptions to this policy include (1) student's illness (must have a doctor's note), (2) severe illness of close relative, or (3) death in the family.

GRADES

Your grade in the course will be the mean of all the examinations on the following scale:

A = 93 - 100	C+ = 77 - 79
A- = 90 - 92	C = 73 - 76
B+ = 87 - 89	C- = 70 - 72
B = 83 - 86	D = 60 - 69
B- = 80 - 82	F = 59 and below

CLASS PARTICPATION

Students are expected, encouraged and welcomed to ask questions, make comments, and begin discussions. Please feel free to participate in class. You will maximize your learning through this process. Your grade will reflect class participation; having questions answered or points clarified will assist you on the exams.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Students are required to participate in and understand the research process. With this in mind, students will be expected to complete three assignments.

1. *Library Tutorial*: To foster your learning, you will be required to attend a tutorial session in Reeves Library on information literacy specific to psychology. The tutorial will take place during a regularly scheduled class time. As part of the assignment, student will pull five sources on any chosen topic.
2. *Research Experience*: You are required to participate in one hour of research as a subject in Psychology Student research. This will allow you to experience research methods in action and learn about the type of research conducted within the field of psychology. After participating you will submit a short one-page reaction summary focusing on your experience as a subject and the methodology of the experiment.
3. *Primary Source Reading*: You will have the opportunity to read an article related to the field of psychology in any subject matter. Following, you will write a 1-2 page paper on the research conducted. Type of methodology and hypotheses of the research must be highlighted. This paper will be due at the last week of class.

EVALUATION

Your grades will be based on the following chart:

Exams:	60%
2 research papers:	30%
Participation:	10%

ATTENDANCE

The student is expected to attend all classes. Classes will begin on time. No differentiation is made between excused and unexcused absences. You will be permitted 3 absences before your grade will be affected. If you are late 3 times, it will count as one absence.

There will be a deduction of 2 percentage points from your grade for each class missed after the three allowed. For example, 4 absences = -2 percentage points; 4 absences = -4 percentage points; and 6 absences = -6 percentage points.

REQUIRED TEXT

Davis, S.F., & Palladino, J.J. (2006) Psychology (5th edition). Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall.

SCHEDULE

- Test # 1 – Chapter 1 – Psychology, Research and You
Chapter 2 – Behavioral Neuroscience
Chapter 3 – Sensation and Perception
- Test # 2 - Chapter 4 – States of Consciousness
Chapter 5 – Learning
Chapter 6 – Motivation and Emotion
- Test # 3 - Chapter 7 – Memory
Chapter 8 – Thinking, Language and Intelligence
Chapter 9 – Development Across the Lifespan
- Test # 4 - Chapter 10 – Sex and Gender
Chapter 11 – Personality
Chapter 12 – Psychological Disorders
Chapter 13 – Therapy

Statement for Students Enrolled in PSY120

Required Research Participation: You will be required to participate in 1 hour of research being conducted by students in PSY212, Experimental Methods and Data Analysis II (or by honors or independent study students, or occasionally by faculty). This experience allows you to view the research process first hand and to support other students who will in turn support you when you are ready to conduct your own PSYC 212 experiment.

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 your professor to arrange it **by week X of the semester**. After that point, you may still have the opportunity to complete the research requirement by participating in experiment sessions, but you will not be able to do a written assignment. Please be aware that experiments will not be offered at the end of the semester, so please be sure to sign up early!

More information about research participation (e.g., how to sign up) will be provided later in the semester, when experiment opportunities start to become available.

When you sign up for a research experiment, please be sure to record the time and location of the session. As many experiments require that students begin a task at the same time, please plan to show up on-time for your sessions. Showing up late may result in your not being able to participate in the experiment!

Failure to complete the required participation (or the alternative assignment) will result in a **reduction of your class grade by 1/3rd letter grade** (e.g., from a B to a B-). The entire required hour needs to be completed to avoid this deduction (i.e., completing ½ hour only will still result in the full deduction).

If you fail to attend an experiment session for which you signed up, the required hours of research participation will increase to 2 hours. If you then fail to show up a second time for a scheduled experiment session, then you will forfeit all extra credit opportunities (including extra research hours you already completed for extra credit in the course) and will face a **reduction of your class grade by 1/3rd letter grade** (e.g., from a B to a B-).

Thanks very much for helping the research process! Both students and faculty appreciate your participation!