

Psychology 120B: Introduction to Psychology
Spring 2009

Instructor:	Dr. Sarah Johnson	When:	M/W 7:30-8:40am
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Office:	224 PPHAC	Office hours:	M 2-3:30pm
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Website:	http://blackboard.moravian.edu/		R 1-2pm, or by appt.
	Pwd: psyche		

Textbook: *Introduction to Psychology*, 8th ed., by Kalat. Additional readings will typically be journal articles available via Blackboard.

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 the similarities and differences between sub-disciplines within Psychology, as well as 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 be able to:

1. Discuss important theories and findings from major areas in psychology—e.g., perception, memory, development, personality, social, and abnormal—including knowing some of the important researchers, paradigms, and findings 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. Discuss how research in many areas of psychology is relevant to everyday life.
5. Discuss how different areas of psychology look at the same question in different ways.
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 and be prepared to be engaged and to participate for the entire session. 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 that is said word-for-word; instead, try to determine the main point and come up with your own examples. You can always ask me to slow down or repeat something.
3. Read all assigned readings carefully and thoroughly in advance of class. Contact me ahead of time 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 contact me 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!*

Course Evaluation:

Class Participation/Attendance: You will earn CP points throughout the term by performing in-class activities such as writing a response to a topic question, filling out a handout, participating in a group discussion of an issue, or sometimes by completing an activity outside of class. 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 those absences, any remaining CP points missed will result in a lower class participation grade, regardless of the reason for the absence—exceptions may be made in cases of extreme emergency, as determined by me on a case by case basis. If you have a legitimate reason for missing class frequently, please see me. You are responsible for obtaining any information you miss.

Homework assignments: Over the course of the term you will be given three homework assignments, in conjunction with assigned readings. The assignments will be handed out at least one week before they are due, and readings will typically be available on Blackboard at least 1 ½ weeks ahead of the due date. Each homework assignment is worth 5% of total grade. Homework assignments will be available in class, but will also be posted online.

Choice module: Each student will choose from a set list of topics and conduct a project as delineated by a handout provided by me. The project will take the form of a journal-esque paper, discussing how the project was undertaken, problems encountered, how activities related to material from the book, etc. These topics will correspond to chapters not covered in class and will give students a chance to tailor their coverage of topics to suit their own interests.

Exams: There will be four exams during the course of the semester; the lowest of these scores will be dropped. Test format will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer/identification, and essay, and can include questions on anything in the assigned chapters, handouts, or readings even if not discussed in lecture. Study guides laying out important terms and sample questions will be posted on Blackboard as each test approaches. If you have a legitimate excuse for missing a test, contact me as soon as possible and we will arrange for a make-up or to use that exam as your dropped score. For some excuses, I may request documentation. If you know in advance that you will be absent during a test then you need to let me know as soon as possible before the exam. Each test is worth 15% of your final grade.

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.

Note that it is within my purview as instructor to use qualitative judgments in determining grades for homework assignments, reaction papers, or test answers (e.g., essays).

Late policy for assignments: Late assignments and papers will be accepted for up to four days after the due date and, unless otherwise noted, will be *penalized one letter grade for every calendar day late* beginning at the specified time on the due date. After the 4-day period, a paper will not be accepted and a grade of 0 will be applied. No exceptions will be made for minor technical difficulties (printer or email mishaps), but other circumstances may allow for exceptions as determined by me on a case-by-case basis.

Overall grades- breakdown:

Class participation points	10%
Homework assignments (3 @ 5% each)	15%
Choice module	15%
Exams (3 @ 15% each)	45%
Creative presentations (group grade)	5%
<u>Disorder paper</u>	<u>10%</u>
Total	100%

Unless otherwise noted, I will use the following scale for translating letter grades and calculating final grades:

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

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 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. I will spend class time discussing plagiarizing, but ultimately it is your responsibility to come see me with questions about use of sources or collaboration with other students.

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 Mr. Joseph Kempfer in the Office of Learning Services. Accommodations cannot be provided until I have received authorization from Mr. Kempfer. You should also consider taking advantage of the Learning Services Office if you are having difficulty academically in this (or any other) class. The office is located at 1307 Main St. (phone: 610-861-1510).

Participation in experiments: You will be required to participate in 1 hour of experimental research as part of your participation in this class. See the full description of this policy at the end of the syllabus.

Schedule (This plan is tentative. I reserve the right to make announced changes or additions):

Week:	Topic:	Text Chs/Assignments:
1		
Jan 19 M	Introduction and course overview	
Jan 21 W		Ch. 1
2		
Jan 26 M	Ethics	Milgram (1963)
Jan 28 W	Scientific Methods	Ch. 2
3		
Feb 2 M	Perception	Ch. 4; <i>Assignment 1 (ethics)</i>
Feb 4 W		Simons & Levin (1998)
4		
Feb 9 M	Social Psychology	Ch. 13
Feb 11 W		Replicating Milgram handout
5		
Feb 16 M	Exam 1	
Feb 18 W	Motivation	Ch. 11
6		
Feb 23 M		Fallon & Rozin (1985)
Feb 25 W	Development: Cognitive	Ch. 5
7		
Mar 2 M	Spring break	
Mar 4 W	No class this week	
8		
Mar 9 M	Development: Social/Emotional	
Mar 11 W	Memory	Ch. 7; <i>Choice module selection</i>
9		
Mar 16 M		DRM article
Mar 18 W	Consciousness	Ch. 10 (module 10.2 only); <i>Assignment 2 (memory exp't)</i>
10		
Mar 23 M	Exam 2	
Mar 25 W	Library tutorial	<i>Disorder project assignments given</i>

Week:	Topic:	Text Chs/Assignments:
11		
Mar 30 M	Personality	Ch. 14
Apr 1 W		Choice modules due
12		
Apr 6 M	Learning	Ch. 6 (skip module 6.2)
Apr 8 W	Emotion and Stress	Ch. 12; <i>Assignment 3 (commonsense Ψ)</i>
13		
Apr 13 M	No class – Easter break	
Apr 15 W		
14		
Apr 20 M	Exam 3	
Apr 22 W	Abnormality, Therapy, & Social Issues	Ch. 15; Disorder papers due
15		
Apr 27 M	Start Disorder presentations	Ch. 3 (pp. 84-87); Ch. 16
Apr 29 W	Finish Disorder Presentations	
Finals Wk	Exam 4 schedule TBA	

Exam 1: Chs. 1-2, 4, 13

Exam 2: Chs. 5, 7, 10 (module 10.2 only), 11

Exam 3: Chs. 6 (skip module 6.2), 12, 14

Exam 4: Chs. 3 (pp. 84-87), 15, 16, and info from Disorder summary sheets

Required Research Participation: You will be required to participate in 1 hour of research being conducted by students in PS212, Experimental Methods and Data Analysis II (or by honors or independent study students or 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 8 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 very end of the semester, so 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-).

Extra Credit Opportunities: In addition to the one required hour, you may also earn extra credit by completing up to 1.5 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.