

**Psychology 120**  
**Introduction to Psychology**  
**Moravian College**  
**Spring 2013**

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**Instructor:** Dr. Michelle Schmidt  
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**Meeting Time:** TR 10:20-11:30

**Office Hours:** TR 11:30-12:30; W 11:00-12:00; any other time of mutual convenience

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### **Goals and Objectives**

This course is designed to familiarize students with the kinds of questions psychologists raise about behavior and the various methods by which psychologists attempt to answer these questions. This course will expose students to a breadth of theoretical and empirical perspectives on human behavior. In addition to providing you with a specific body of information, another goal of this course is to encourage you to discover and experience how psychologists approach the process of studying behavior in a variety of areas in psychology. The specific goals of the course are as follows:

- To teach the student to think critically about research issues from a variety of theoretical and empirical perspectives within psychology.
- To teach the student analytical skills necessary to formulate scientific questions pertaining to the process of exploring behavior and mental processes.
- To teach the student the critical thinking skills necessary to answer scientific questions using a variety of methodologies used by psychologists.
- To provide the student with opportunities for interactive learning with peers and the professor.
- To familiarize the student with the most contemporary scientific research techniques employed by psychologists.
- To instill an appreciation of psychology's role within the liberal arts.
- To know specialized language of psychology, to understand basic concepts, and to grasp the complex interactions that underlie behavior.

## **Required Reading**

Myers, D.G. (2013). Psychology: Myers in modules (10<sup>th</sup> ed). New York: Worth Publishers.

## **Useful Resources**

<http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/myers10einmodules>

This site provides a wide variety of activities and study aids. Features include overviews, thinking critically exercises, psychology in the news, web links, interactive animations, simulations and demonstrations, online quizzes, and flashcards.

## **Class Structure**

Class time will be spent discussing and demonstrating portions of each module. I will not lecture on every aspect of every module; rather, I will try to provide supplements to the material in the text that you will be expected to have read before our class meeting. Intellectual discussion is expected in every class meeting!

# **Course Requirements & Grading**

## **Library Work/PsycInfo Competency**

A requirement for all students who complete PS120 is competency in using PsycInfo. There will be a library tutorial along with two small assignments. This information may appear on the first exam.

## **Exams**

There will be 3 exams over the course of the semester. The first 2 exams will be only section exams. The 3<sup>rd</sup> exam will include a section exam plus a cumulative exam, and will be administered during the final exam period. The exams may consist of multiple choice items, matching, fill in the blanks, definitions, short answer items, or essay questions. No make-up exams will be permitted.

## **Projects**

There will be a variety of “mini-projects” available for selected modules. Each project will require you to “do” something or think about something and then provide a write-up of the project. These projects are designed to give you additional opportunities to think about portions of the material in more depth.

Note: Each project has a point value depending on the amount of time that is anticipated to finish the project. You must complete a total of 10 “project points” over the course of the semester. Projects will be graded on a scale of 0-10. Late projects will not be accepted.

## **Class Participation**

Class participation is expected from all students. Students should participate on a regular basis with substantive comments/questions. All students will have read the modules before our class discussions and should be prepared to share their thoughts with their colleagues. Class attendance will contribute to class participation grades. If you come to all classes, but never participate, the highest your class participation grade can be is a C (75%). Grades will go up and down from there depending on active participation and class attendance. Everyone is here to learn (including me) and a true learning community depends on contributions from every member of the community. This is your class; make it interesting!

## **Research Participation**

See department statement on the next page. You have a minimum required number of hours and you can do one additional hour for extra credit and this may add up to 5 points on an exam grade.

## **Grading**

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3/final exam	25%
Projects	20%
Library Work/PsycInfo	10%
Class participation	5%

Note: The instructor reserves the right to apply qualitative judgment when determining final grades. Also, participation in experiments can adjust final grades—up or down.

## Statement for Students Enrolled in PS120

**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 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 3 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 may 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 1/3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1/3<sup>rd</sup> 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!

## **Class Policies**

### **Attendance Policy**

As Moravian College's Attendance Policy in the Student Handbook states, "students are expected to attend classes regularly." If you have an unavoidable situation that prevents you from being in class, please advise the instructor before the class meeting. Excused absences will require appropriate documentation (e.g., doctor's note). Otherwise, your attendance will be expected. Excessive unexcused and excused absences (more than 2) will be handled on an individual basis, and may result in a 3-point deduction per absence. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get missed material from a classmate.

### **Missed exams/Late assignments**

Make up exams will not be given. If there is an extraordinary circumstance—car accident, severe illness, hospitalization—a make up may be given with proper documentation, if advanced notice is given. This decision is purely at the discretion of the instructor. Simply not feeling well or having a cold or sleeping late will not be considered reason to miss an exam.

Late assignments will be accepted up to 1 day late and will receive a 10 point deduction. Anything to be turned in must be given to the instructor by 10:20 on the due date.

### **Academic Integrity**

The Policy on Academic Honesty states, "Moravian College expects its students to perform their academic work honestly and fairly." Therefore, students are expected to be honest in all matters pertaining to this class, without exception.

All work submitted for evaluation in this course must be original work. It may not be "borrowed" from another student, a printed source, or online source without proper credit as outlined by the APA Manual (available in the Reference section of Reeves Library). Please note that no part of your assignments may be shared with other students in this class or with students in future classes, and you may not refer to papers from previous classes. All papers submitted for this class must be original work completed to meet the requirements of this class.

Students may not plagiarize. The Moravian College Student Handbook states, "[w]hen students use the specific thoughts, ideas, writings, or expressions of another person, they must accompany each instance of use with some form of attribution to the source." Failure to do so is plagiarism, a major form of dishonesty. Specific procedures for attribution for this course are outlined in the APA Publication Manual (three copies available in the reference section of the library). If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism, please set up an appointment with the instructor. Otherwise, adherence to the guidelines set forth by APA will be expected. Students must turn in copies of all sources used for papers and are expected to "keep all notes, drafts, and materials used in preparing assignments until a final course grade is given." A student judged to have violated the policy on academic honesty will receive a grade of zero for the relevant assignment or a failing grade for the

course, at the discretion of the instructor. Any such violation will be reported in writing to the office of the Academic Dean.

You are responsible for reading the Student Handbook and adhering to all outlined policies.

### **Learning Services Office**

The Learning Services Office “provides assistance to students who are experiencing academic difficulties.” If you feel you need special services through this office, you may call 610-861-1510 or visit their offices at 1307 Main Street.

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Elaine Mara, assistant director of learning services for academic and disability support, at 1307 Main Street, or by calling 610-861-1510. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Module Number</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Introduction to the History &amp; Science of Psychology</b>	1	The History and Scope of Psychology	5/6
	2	Research Strategies: How Psychologists Ask & Answer Questions	5/6
<b>The Nature and Nurture of Behavior</b>	5	Genetic Influences on Behavior	5/7
	6	Environmental Influences on Behavior	5/7
		The Brain (Dr. Johnson)	
<b>The Developing Person</b>	7	Prenatal Development and the Newborn	5/8
	8	Infancy and Childhood	5/8
	9	Adolescence	5/8
	10	Adulthood	5/8
<b>EXAM 1 (5/9)</b>			
<b>Learning</b>	20	Classical Conditioning	5/9
	21	Operant Conditioning	5/9
	22	Learning by Observation	5/9
<b>Memory</b>	23	Introduction to Memory	5/13
	24	Encoding: Getting Information In	5/13
	25	Storage: Retaining Information	5/13
	26	Retrieval: Getting Information Out	5/13
<b>Thinking, Language, and Intelligence</b>	30	Introduction to Intelligence	5/14
	31	Assessing Intelligence	5/14
	32	Genetic and Environmental Influences on Intelligence	5/14
<b>EXAM 2 (10/23)</b>			
<b>Emotion</b>	37	Theories of Emotion	5/15
	38	Experiencing and Expressing Emotion	5/15
Health	39	Stress and Illness	5/15
	40	Promoting Health	5/15
<b>EXAM 2 (5/16)</b>			
<b>Personality</b>	41	The Psychoanalytic and Humanistic Perspectives	5/16
	42	The Trait Perspective	5/16
	43	The Social-Cognitive Perspective	5/16
<b>Psychological Disorders</b>	45	Introduction to Psychological Disorders	5/20
	46	Anxiety Disorders	5/20
	47	Dissociative and Personality Disorders	5/20
	48	Mood Disorders	5/20
<b>Social Psychology</b>	53	Social Thinking	5/21
	54	Social Influence	5/21

	55	Social Relations	5/21
<b>Overview/Summary/Review</b>			
<b>EXAM 3 (5/23) + cumulative exam</b>			