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Psychology 120

Introduction to Psychology

Fall 2014

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Office Hours: Monday 11:15 – 11:15
Tuesday 2:30 – 4:00
Wednesday 11:15 – 11:15
Thursday & 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: Monday & Wednesday (11:45 – 12:55)
Class Room: TBA

Course Description:

Overview of research drawn from biological, perceptual, cognitive, developmental, clinical, social, and personality traditions in the discipline.

Course Objectives:

1. To become knowledgeable of the major theories and concepts in the field of Psychology.
2. To become familiar with the research methodology commonly used by psychologists and to become familiar with the scientific method.
3. To develop an appreciation of the important contributions that Psychology can make in understanding one's own and other's thoughts and behavior.
4. To apply critical thinking skills within the field of Psychology.

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Course Requirements

Examinations:

There will be several exams administered during the course of the semester. The dates for each exam can be found on the course schedule below. The exams are non-cumulative and are comprised of multiple-choice, definitional, short answer, and essay questions.

Note: Exams will be given only on the days scheduled. There will be no make-up exams. The lowest exam grade will be dropped - if you miss an exam that will count as your lowest grade.

Critical Thinking Papers:

There are many controversial issues in the discipline of 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 a Critical Thinking Paper on pre-selected controversial topic. This assignment is designed to get you to think critically about your perspective on major issues within Psychology. The paper topics are listed on the syllabus below and readings on the issues will be distributed in class prior to the assignment due dates.

The reading material is presented in a debate format. There are two essays on each topic (point - counterpoint). You should read both essays and identify your position and thoughts on the topic. **The papers must focus on your thoughts/reactions about the issue discussed.** Your paper will be graded for the quality, strength, and substance of your position. I will grade these based on depth of thought and clarity and conciseness of your writing. You are NOT to summarize the positions. The Critical Thinking Paper due date is listed on the schedule below. You should also be prepared to discuss your paper with your classmates on the day that your papers are due.

Student Presentations:

Each student will have an opportunity to make an oral presentation to the class on a pre-selected topic (topics are listed on the syllabus below). The presentations should be no longer than 8- 10 minutes in length. At least four perspectives are key to understanding the study of human behavior: biological, cognitive, learning, and sociocultural. For this assignment you are to synthesize and integrate at least two of these perspectives into your understanding of your topic.

Your presentation will be graded on the following dimensions: clarity, organization, educational value, presentation skills, and your ability to connect your topic to the key perspectives within psychology. In addition to your presentation you must submit a 2-3 page paper on your research topic. Be sure to research your topic beyond

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the textbook -- including at least one empirical reference. You must also hand in a hard copy of your Powerpoint presentation on the day you present.

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.

NO CELL PHONES!!!!!!! If you use your cell phone during class your class participation grade will be impacted significantly.

Evaluation:

Grades for this course will be determined according to your performance on the quizzes, the critical thinking papers, student presentation, and class participation.

Exams.....	55%
Presentation & Paper.....	20%
Critical Thinking Paper.....	15%
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.

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Required Research Participation:

See Departmental Policy (at the end of syllabus).

Requests for Accommodations:

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Ms. Elaine Mara, Assistant Director of Academic & Disability Support, located on the first floor of Monocacy Hall (extension 1401). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the office of Learning Services.

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. This session will be used to help you gather information/references in support of your presentation topic (see above).

Required Texts:

Myers, David, G. (2010). *Psychology*, 9th 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.

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COURSE SCHEDULE
(Subject to Change)

Aug. 25 (M)

Organizational Meeting, Introductions, and Syllabus Review
How is Psychology Relevant to Your Life?

Aug. 27 (W)

Introduction to the Discipline of Psychology

Module 1 & 2

Sept. 1 (M)

History and Scope of Psychology: The Timeline
APA Division Assignment

Module 1

Sept. 3 (W)

Research Strategies: Naturalistic Observation and
Correlation

Module 3

(RR) Schwartz, B. The Tyranny of Choice.

Sept. 8 (M)

Research Strategies in Psychology: The Experiment

Module 3

Sept. 10 (W)

Exam I

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Sept. 15 (M)

Biology and Behavior: The Brain and Our Divided Brain

Module 5 & 6

(RR) Bower, J. M. & Parsons, L.M. Rethinking the Lesser Brain.

Sept. 17 (W)

Our Divided Brain & Consciousness

Module 6 & 7

Sept. 22 (M)

Consciousness & Sleep and Dreams

Module 7 & 8

Sept. 24 (W)

EXAM II

Sept. 29 (M) and Oct. 1 (W)

Reeves Library Sessions

Oct. 6 (M)

Memory: An Introduction

Modules: 24-27

Oct. 8 (8)

Memory: Encoding, Storage, and Retrieval

Modules: 24-27

Oct. 15 (T)

EXAM III

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Oct. 20 (M)

Student Presentations: Developing Through the Lifespan

Modules: 13, 14, 15, & 16

Autism
Attachment
Puberty
Moral Development
Life Expectancy
Alzheimer's

Oct. 22 (W)

Student Presentations: Emotions, Stress, and Health

Modules 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44

Lie Detection
Nonverbal Communication
Happiness/Subjective Well-Being
Aggression
Social Support and Stress
Optimism and Health

Oct. 27 (M)

Mindfulness and Health

Oct. 29 (W)

Personality: Various Perspectives

Modules: 45 & 46

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Nov. 3 (M)

Personality: Contemporary Research

Module: 47

(RR) J. Rotter: Are you the master of your fate?

Nov. 5 (W)

EXAM IV

Nov. 10 (M)

Student Presentations: Social Psychology

Modules: 56, 57, 58, & 59

Obedience
Group Influence
Prejudice
Aggression
Attraction
Altruism

Nov. 12 (W)

Critical Thinking Questions/Discussion

Nov. 17 (M)

Video on Psychological Disorders

Nov. 19 (W)

Student Presentations: Psychological Disorders

Modules: 48, 49, 50, 51, & 52

Phobias
Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
Anti-Social Personality Disorder
Bipolar Disorder
Schizophrenia

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Nov. 24 (M)

Hot Topic in Psychology: TBA

Nov. 26 (W)

Thanksgiving Break – Enjoy and Stay Safe!!

Dec. 1 (M)

Student Presentations: Motivation

Modules: 36, 37, 38, & 39

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

Taste Preferences

Eating Disorders (Select One)

Teen Pregnancy

The Need to Belong

Achievement Motivation

Dec. 3 (W)

An Attempt at Closure & Course Evaluations

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**Required Research Participation:
For Students Enrolled in PS120**

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 Dr. Zaremba to arrange it **by the third week 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!