

Psychology 120
Introduction to Psychology
Fall 2015

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00-10:20 and 11:30-12:00. If these times are not convenient, please feel free to email or call me to set up an appointment.

Class Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:20-11:30 AM
Class Room: PPHAC 233

Course Objective:

Psychology strives to deepen our understanding of human and animal behavior. In this course, students will develop an understanding of basic principles and theories of psychology. Students will learn both classic studies and recent developments in the field of psychology. The study of psychology involves active thinking, questioning and problem solving skills. Students will be guided in thinking critically about psychological issues. Students will demonstrate application of critical thinking skills and knowledge of psychological theories and concepts.

Examinations:

There will be three exams given during the term. All exams will be non-cumulative. The first two exams will be given during class time. The third exam will be given during final exam week. Questions will test your knowledge of both lecture and textbook material. Exams will be given only on the days scheduled. The only excuse for missing an exam is documented illness or death in the family. All makeup exams will be scheduled at the convenience of the instructor. Any inexcusable absence from an exam will be recorded as a zero.

Paper/Projects:

It is your responsibility to be sure to have your printed paper/project in on time. Please note that late papers will be dropped ½ a letter grade for each day after the paper is due. Papers will be graded for content, clarity and grammar, the Writing Center is recommended.

Critical Thinking Response Papers:

By analyzing assumptions, considering alternatives and supporting or rejecting an argument, these papers provide you an opportunity to think like a psychologist. There are critical thinking questions listed in each chapter of your textbook. You are required to select two questions with each question coming from a different chapter. You will need to write a paper(a total of two papers) for each question that should be 2-4 pages. You will be required to let me know which chapters you have selected by September 8. Additionally, you will be expected to share some of your ideas and thoughts when the chapters you selected are discussed in class. The paper is due on the date the chapter is discussed. Therefore, your paper will likely be due at different times than your classmates. It is your responsibility to have your paper in one time.

Pamphlet and Presentation:

The goal of this project is to reduce the stigmatization of mental illness by increasing knowledge and awareness of mental health disorders. This three part project will help you gain knowledge of a mental health disorder and to develop your research, analytical, team building and presentation skills.

As a class we will break into small groups and each group will select a mental health disorder as a group topic. Using your group's topic, you will be expected to complete the following three project components.

1. *Primary Source Reading and Reaction Paper:* You will have an opportunity to read a primary source research article. This article needs to be related to your group's topic. Reading this article will not only provide you with information for your group's project, it will allow you to see, understand and analyze how Psychologists present their research. You will be expected to write a 2-3 page reaction paper to the selected article.

2. *Pamphlet:* As a group, you will create an educational pamphlet about the mental health disorder your group selected. The pamphlet should be geared toward high school students. Information needs to be accurate, well researched, written clearly, with your audience in mind.

3. *Presentation:* Your group will have the opportunity to present your pamphlet to the class. This presentation should be 5-7 minutes long and will serve as springboard for class discussion and lecture material.

Learning Experience Requirements:

Learning and application of knowledge occurs both in and out of the classroom.

Library Tutorial: To foster your learning, you are required to attend a tutorial in Reeves Library on information literacy, specific to Psychology. Our class will meet on October 20th in Reeves Library for this tutorial. You will have an opportunity to research the article for your Primary Source Reading.

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 October 6th. 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-).

Attendance and Class Participation:

Attendance for all classes is expected. You are responsible for the material and activities presented in class, as the lecture material is meant to supplement your readings. You are expected to read assigned texts prior to each session, as your

participation in classroom discussion is encouraged. Please note that showing up for class does not count as participation, active participation is recorded as participation. At midterm, you and I will have an opportunity to complete a participation form to help you understand your participation grade at that point.

Classroom Etiquette:

This class will be lecture and discussion based and I expect all students to be respectful listeners and contributors. While the use of technology makes our lives easier in many ways, it also creates distractions in the classroom. Please set all cell phones to silent or vibrate during class. If you receive a call that is an emergency, please take your call outside the classroom. Additionally, if you choose to take notes on your laptop or tablet, please be sure to only use your device for note taking. It is quite obvious if you are on the internet or checking email or Facebook.

Evaluation:

Your grade for this course will be comprised of exams, Critical Thinking papers, Pamphlet Project and your class participation. The breakdown is as follows:

Exams	60% (3 @ 20%)
Critical Thinking Response Papers	15%
Pamphlet Project	15%
Participation	10%

Policy on Plagiarism:

Evidence of plagiarism will be dealt with in accordance with the College Policy on academic honesty which can be found at <http://www.moravian.edu/studentLife/handbook/academic2.htm>.

Learning Accommodations:

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Elaine Mara, Assistant Director of Academic and Disability Support, located in the lower level of Monocacy Hall, or by calling 610- 861-1401. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

Required Texts:

Morris, C.G. & Maisto, A.A. (2016). Understanding Psychology. (11th ed.) New York, NY: Pearson.

Any additional readings will be on reserve in the library or handed out during the class.

Class Schedule

(Please note the schedule is subject to change. Any change will be noted in an addendum to the syllabus and explained by the instructor)

September 1	Introduction to Course What is Psychology?
September 3	Enduring Issues in Psychology Chapter 1
September 8	History of Psychology Chapter 1
September 10	Research Methods and Application Chapter 1
September 15	Ethical Issues Critical Thinking Response Discussion
September 17	Biological Basis Chapter 2
September 22	Biological Basis Chapter 2
September 24	Biological Basis Critical Thinking Response Discussion
September 29	Exam 1
October 1	States of Consciousness Chapter 4
October 6	States of Consciousness & Critical Thinking Discussions Chapter 4
October 8	Learning Chapter 5

October 13	Fall Break
October 15	Group Meetings
October 20	Library Tutorial Meet in Reeves Library
October 22	Learning Chapter 5
October 27	Critical Thinking Discussions Memory Chapter 9
October 29	Memory Chapter 9
November 3	Memory Application & Critical Thinking Discussions
November 5	Exam 2
November 10	Personality Chapter 10
November 12	Personality Chapter 10
November 17	Personality Assessment Application & Critical Thinking Discussions
November 19	Psychological Disorders Chapter 13 Pamphlet Presentations Due
November 24	Psychological Disorders Chapter 13 Pamphlet Presentations
November 26	Thanksgiving Break

December 1	Psychological Disorders The Case of Fiona
December 3	Therapies Chapter 14
December 8	Therapies Chapter 14
December 10	Critical Thinking Discussions Closure: Recognizing the Enduring Issues
Finals Week	Thursday, Dec. 17, 1:30PM