

Psychology 100
Introductory Psychology
Spring 2008

Instructor: Dr. Sharon Lewis
Office: 214B Seney Hall, Office Tel 4-8374
Office Hours: Mon/Wed: 11:00-12:30
Tues/ Thurs: 2:15-3:15

These hours are subject to change. Other times by appointment.

“Body and soul are not two different things, but only two different ways of perceiving the same thing. Similarly, physics and psychology are only different attempts to link our perceptions together by way of systematic thought.”
- Albert Einstein



Texts

Wade, C. & Tavris, C. (2006) Psychology (8th edition).

Tavris, C. (2001) Psychobabble and Biobunk: Using Psychology to Think Critically About Issues in the News (2nd edition)

Learning to Think Critically: The Case of Close Relationships (Available via electronic reserve through the library)

Class Organization

My goals for you:

- 1) I hope you will gain a better understanding of the science of psychology. I think this will be an advantage to you no matter what your chosen occupation. Psychological information is often critical in understanding the many feelings and experiences you will have throughout your life.
- 2) I hope that your ability to analyze and evaluate scientific information will grow enabling you to utilize this information in your everyday life.
- 3) Finally I hope you have a great time in this course; learning about why people and animals behave the way they do should be a lot of fun. So relax, (but not too much), get ready to question all those “truths” you hold so dear, and have a good semester.

Attendance: The class will meet 2 times a week and although attendance is not required, it is strongly recommended. It is rare for a student to earn an “A” in my class without attending class regularly because the exams will include items based on information found only in my lectures and I will often give you hints as to what might appear on the exam. I will take attendance so that I can learn everyone’s names and to possibly help you earn a higher grade (See below for explanation). In addition, from time to time, there will be some fun and interesting class exercises you can participate in which will help you understand some of the basic concepts in psychology.

Blackboard: Everyone is required to sign on to the Introductory Psychology - 2:00-3:15 MW Blackboard conference within the first three weeks of the semester (i.e. by Wed, Feb 6) and write a 1-2 paragraph essay reflecting your thoughts on something you’ve learned in Introductory Psychology. I will post your syllabus, review sheets, and any changes in assignments, test dates, and office hours on this conference. I hope our class conference will also be a place where we can continue discussions started in class, so visit often and post frequently.

Calculating your grade: The final grade will be based on 4 exams, none of which will be comprehensive and each worth 100 points for a possible total of 400 points. I give **make-up tests** (which are all essays) only for officially excused absences. I will assign a letter grade to the total points accumulated during the semester so at no point will I compute an average grade. An A requires a minimum of 360 points, a B 320, a C 280, a D 240, and anything below 240 points is an F. If your total puts you a few (2-3) points below a higher grade, I will take into consideration your attendance and participation (in class and on Blackboard) when assigning your grade. Please make sure you are familiar with the College's Honor Code.

Knowledge fills a large brain; it merely inflates a small one.

Sydney J. Harris

The mind is like a parachute - it works best when it is open.

Unknown

Reading Assignments

Chapters are from your text, Psychology, and Tavis #s refer to article numbers in Psychobabble and Biobunk.

Section I (6 lecture days)

Chapter 1. What is Psychology

Chapter 2. How Psychologists Do Research, Tavis # 1-6

Chapter 3. Genes, Evolution, and Environment, Tavis # 17

Chapter 4. The Brain: Source of Mind and Self

Exam I - Monday, February 11

Section II (6 lecture days)

Chapter 5. Body Rhythms and Mental States, Tavis # 29

Chapter 6. Sensation and Perception

Chapter 11. Emotion, Tavis # 24

Handbook. Learning to Think Critically - On reserve in the library

Chapter 12. Motivation, Also pp. 82-86, Tavis # 26

Exam II - Wednesday, March 5

Section III (6 lecture days)

Chapter 7. Learning and Conditioning

Chapter 10. Memory

Chapter 9. Thinking and Intelligence

Chapter 14. Development Over the Lifespan, Tavis # 9-12, 16

Chapter 13. Theories of Personality, Tavis # 13-15

Exam III - Monday, April 7

Section IV (6 lecture days)

Chapter 8. Behavior in Social and Cultural Context, Tavis # 23

Chapter 15. Health, Stress, and Coping, Tavis # 7

Chapter 16. Psychological Disorders, Tavis # 18, 20, 29

Chapter 17. Approaches to Treatment and Therapy, Tavis # 8, 27, 28, 30

Epilogue: Taking Psychology With You

Exam IV - Monday, May 5 - 2:00 - 3:30