

Psychology 401 (70205): Introduction to Psychology

Summer 2024

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Office Hours (June 24 – July 26): Wednesdays 12:00pm – 2:00pm (via email and/or Zoom)

Course Dates: June 24, 2024 (8:00am EST) -- July 26, 2024 (11:55pm EST)

COURSE SYLLABUS

This survey course is designed to give an overview of the many subtopics that collectively make up the science of psychology. Students will learn how psychologists go about studying the bases of mind and behavior as demonstrated through lectures, class discussions, selected videos, and various writing assignments.

Textbook:

The required text is an online, open-source textbook, and is free of charge! You can view the text online, or as a downloadable .pdf at the following link (or if you prefer, you can purchase a print version of the text, as well):

Spielman, R. M., Jenkins, W. J., Lovett, M. D., et al. (2020). *Psychology (2nd edition)*. OpenStax.org (ISBN-13: 978-1-951693-23-7)

Retrieved from: <https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology-2e>

Important Notes: Please note that weekend days DO count in this schedule, given our brief 5-week meeting period. Also, if you're not in the habit of regularly checking your UNH e-mail account (i.e., the account with the *Firstname.Lastname@unh.edu* format), please get in the habit! Your UNH e-mail account is the only way I have of contacting you on a consistent basis, and I may make use of this mechanism for touching-base regarding important course-related information! Note that UNH faculty are not supposed to use outside email accounts (e.g., gmail, icloud, etc.) for contacting students! Also, please do NOT contact me using the “Inbox” messaging utility within Canvas – its editor is cryptic, and it doesn’t handle email attachments as well as your UNH email account.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Overall, the main goal of the course is to help students learn to appreciate the vastness of the field of psychology. Some other minor objectives for the course include:

- to learn how psychological research is conducted (methodology)
- to learn the differences between psychology and psychiatry
- to learn how psychology relates to "everyday life"
- to learn to read psychological literature and evaluate research studies
- to learn to appreciate psychology as a science

TEACHING/LEARNING STRATEGIES

Within Canvas (<https://mycourses.unh.edu/>), students will learn about psychology through a mixture of lectures, class discussions, activities, and questions. Students are encouraged to actively pursue their education and not simply engage passively. Psychology is a fascinating subject and it lends itself to discussion quite readily. Students will be learning through a combination of textbook readings, additional readings, and thinking about the applications of psychology to everyday life. Students are strongly advised to keep up with the textbook readings as this will make the learning process more efficient and enjoyable. My job, as the instructor, will be to pique your interest in psychology by bringing various aspects of psychological thought to life throughout the course.

TEXTBOOK CHAPTER QUIZZES

You will be expected to complete an online quiz for each chapter of the textbook. These quizzes will be multiple-choice in format and you will be given immediate feedback when each quiz is completed. Links to these quizzes will be provided in the "Module" folders of the UNH Canvas site (<https://mycourses.unh.edu/>), which are arranged by date. Click on that folder, and you'll see the links for each quiz as the course progresses. There's no time limit for each quiz, *per se*, but **you must complete each assigned chapter quiz within each Module's scheduled period (between 4 and 6 days, depending on the module, where weekend days DO count!)**; hence, the quiz links will be available at the start of each new Module beginning at 8:00am EST, and the links will expire at 11:55pm EST of the final day of each Module (see course calendar for the specific dates). **Once the quiz links have expired, there will be no opportunity to make-up missed quizzes.** Note that **you may refer to your textbook and class notebook to help you complete each quiz -- hence, the online quizzes are all open-book based on these two resources!**

DISCUSSIONS

Within each module, and for each chapter, I'm going to ask you to respond to a discussion prompt that I provide in Canvas. These discussions are meant to help get you engaged in the course material, and will be based on the textbook chapters, video lectures, and/or additional readings or videos that I assign. In addition to responding to my discussion prompts, I will ask you to **post your own insightful/thoughtful question** regarding the covered material for your classmates to consider (note: these questions are not for me to answer -- they're for your classmates' consumption, so keep your audience in mind!); in addition, I will also ask you to **respond to one of your classmates' questions**. In terms of the timing, **you should post your question by the end of the SECOND day within each module, and note that weekend days DO count;** and **your response to one of your classmates' questions should be completed by the end of the FOURTH day of each module where, again, weekend days DO count!** Please note that this is the MINIMUM discussion standard, so you are encouraged to go beyond this minimum standard and post more frequently to further engage your classmates and keep the conversation flowing! Modules will always start at 8:00am of the first day listed, and end at 11:55pm of the last day (all times are EST). Please note that once an online discussion has ended for a given module, there is no way to make-up for that missed exercise.

EXAMS

There will be two major exams in the course: a midterm exam based on the first three modules of material, and a noncumulative final exam based on the last three modules (see course calendar). Both exams will be based mostly on the lecture videos in each module, since you've already been tested on the textbook material via the chapter quizzes (explained above). The exams will consist of a mixture of multiple-choice and essay questions. **Please note as a general rule, there will be no make-up exams given.** Extenuating circumstances (e.g., illness) may require approval by the Dean of the College. Problems meeting these guidelines should be brought to my attention at least five days before the scheduled exams.

While you will be allowed to use your notebook to complete the exams, be aware of the fact that the exams will be timed, and you will not have a lot of time to be flipping through pages of notes. Hence, you should study for the online exams in much the same way you would for a traditional in-class exam, and don't rely too heavily on the fact that you'll have access to your notes. I will provide further details about the exams as we approach those dates. **Note that I will NOT be looking for responses based on information that you find via Google, Quizlet, Chegg, ChatGPT, etc. – exams will be based on information that I lecture on in the videos – so you want to make sure your exam responses are based on material that we cover in class!**

SUMMARY/CRITIQUE PAPER

You will be asked to write a short (4-5 page) paper in relation to two research articles that you find in the psychological literature. I will provide you with a list of sources and more information in a separate handout. The idea behind the paper is for you to think about and respond to some published work in the professional literature. The paper should be at least four complete, double-spaced, typed/word-processed pages with one-inch margins on all four sides. Handwritten papers will not be accepted!

Please note that **FOR EVERY DAY THAT THE RESARCH PAPER IS HANDED IN LATE, THE GRADE WILL BE LOWERED BY ONE LEVEL (E.G., A GRADE OF "B-" WILL BE DROPPED TO A "C+" ON THE FIRST DAY, A "C" ON THE SECOND DAY, A "D" ON THE FOURTH DAY, ETC.).**

STUDENT EVALUATION

Final grades will be based on the 12 chapter quizzes, the midterm and final exams, participation in the discussion forums, the summary/critique of the research articles, and finally, your overall class participation. Moreover, extra credit will be available. The extra credit option is explained below. The grading will be weighted as follows:

CHAPTER QUIZZES	15%
DISCUSSIONS	20%
MIDTERM EXAM	20%
FINAL EXAM	20%
SUMMARY/ CRITIQUE PAPER	15%
PARTICIPATION	10%
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	100%

Grades will be calculated based on the following percentage cutoff points:

A	=	93 - 100%	C	=	73 - 76%
A-	=	90 - 92%	C-	=	70 - 72%
B+	=	87 - 89%	D+	=	67 - 69%
B	=	83 - 86%	D	=	63 - 66%
B-	=	80 - 82%	D-	=	60 - 62%
C+	=	77 - 79%	F	=	00 - 59%

EXTRA CREDIT

There is one way to earn extra credit in this class: Find a web article relevant to the material covered in class and write a 2-page, double-spaced summary. Make sure you include the article's web link in the paper when you submit the assignment. Extra credit papers must be at least 2 complete pages in length to receive credit. Papers can be longer than 2 pages, if you so desire, but not less than 2 pages.

You may do only 2 of these extra credit assignments. Please speak to me if there are questions concerning the extra credit option. The extra credit options are to be word-processed, double-spaced, and uploaded to the appropriate link in Canvas in order to receive credit! Extra-credit assignments will not be accepted via email! The extra credit papers are due no later than July 22! You will receive 1 point per article (assuming the above guidelines have been met), which will be added to your final average – so while the extra-credit points won't change your average dramatically, it could conceivably raise final your grade to the next higher grade bracket (e.g., from a grade of B+ to A-).

CHEATING

Cheating will not be tolerated in this class. Students caught cheating on the quizzes, exams, discussions, or the paper assignment will automatically receive a course grade of "F" and his/her name will be forwarded to the Dean's office in accordance with University policy. Hopefully, this information goes without saying.

A FINAL WORD...

If you have taken other classes with me in the past you know that I expect a great deal from my students. You should take your work very seriously and make a strong attempt at keeping up with the video lectures, reading assignments, paper assignments, etc. Also, you should be aware that I keep all student examinations on file; hence, you will not be able to keep hardcopies of your online examinations. If you would like to discuss your examination performance in more detail, you are welcome (and encouraged!) to contact me for clarification.

Please note that all of the information outlined in this syllabus is subject to slight modification throughout the course. If any substantive changes in the syllabus are warranted, I will let you know well ahead of time. Let's work on having both an educational and enjoyable summer of "Introduction to Psychology"!

TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR

For each module (see below), you should do the following:

- 1) Read assigned chapters;
- 2) Complete chapter quizzes;
- 2) Watch assigned lecture videos;
- 3) Read additional articles and/or watch additional videos, if assigned;
- 4) Post discussion question within the first two days;
- 5) Post discussion response to classmate's question by the end of the fourth day;
- 6) Be mindful of additional exam and research paper due dates.

Module/Dates	Topic	Chapters
Module 1: (Monday, June 24 – Thursday, June 27)	Introduction: What is Psychology? Tools of the Psychological Researcher	1 2
Module 2 : (Friday, June 28 – Wednesday, July 3)	Physiology of Behavior Sensation & Perception	3 5
Module 3: (Thursday, July 4 – (Tuesday, July 9)	Developmental Psychology Learning	9 6
(Wednesday, July 10)	MIDTERM EXAM (LECTURES FOR CHS. 1,2,3,5,9,6)	
Module 4: (Thursday, July 11 – Tuesday, July 16)	Memory Thinking & Language [ARTICLE .PDFs DUE]	8 7
Module 5: (Wednesday, July 17 – Monday, July 22)	Personality Abnormal Psychology [EXTRA CREDIT DUE]	11 15
Module 6: (Tuesday, July 23 – Friday, July 26)	Therapy Social Psychology [PAPER DUE]	16 12
(Saturday, July 27)	FINAL EXAM (LECTURES FOR CHS. 8,7,11,15,16,12) (Note that the class actually ends on <u>July 26</u> , but I'm giving you an extra day to complete the final exam if needed)	