

General Psychology (PSY 101A) Spring 2013

MWF 8:30-9:20am, Sloan 201

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Office Hours: Mon, Wed 9:30am – 11:30pm, Tues 2pm-4pm, or by appointment

Mailbox: Psych office (Watson 1st floor)

Required Textbook:

Myers, D. G. (2013). *Psychology* (10th ed.). New York: Worth.
ISBN# 978-1-4292-6178-4

Websites:

Course Website: <https://moodle.davidson.edu/> (log in with ID and password, click on General Psychology). Additional readings, assignments, and the most-up-to-date syllabus can be found here. All grades will be posted in the Moodle Gradebook so that you will have up-to-date information about your class performance. Please check the website frequently for any announcements regarding syllabus changes, class cancellations, etc.

Book Website: Worth Publishers has developed a really helpful supplementary site to accompany the textbook. The site includes study materials (flashcards, quizzes), a glossary of terms, etc. Use of this website is not required, but you may find it helpful when studying for exams. The link (http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/myers10e/default.asp#t_746145____) will also be posted on our Moodle website.

Course Description:

This course will provide an overview of the major topics in psychology, with an emphasis on psychological research. Throughout the semester, we will discuss many of the sub-disciplines of psychology, exploring the major research findings within each discipline as well as the ways in which psychological research is applicable to our everyday lives. Course topics will include basic research methods, biopsychology, consciousness, human development, sensation and perception, learning, memory, intelligence, personality, psychotherapy, and social psychology. Together, these topics will illustrate the diversity of research within the overarching field of psychology.

Psychology is the study of human beings – their thoughts, feelings, and behavior. Thus, the topics we will cover will often directly relate back to your own experiences. To emphasize this connection, we will use in-class exercises as well as out-of-class assignments designed to help you draw connections between psychological research and the world around you. This

course will follow a lecture/discussion format. Lectures will provide an in-depth look at some of the topics covered in your text. However, some of the lecture material will not be covered in the text, and some of the text material will not be covered in lecture. You are responsible for knowing all material presented in lecture and in the text. There will be time during class for discussion and questions related to the readings. Class participation is important; you will be asked to think critically about the topics covered in class and voice your opinions in class. There will also be films, in-class exercises, and projects that will provide interactive examples of psychological concepts.

Course Goals:

- Develop an understanding of the major subfields of psychology, including psychological vocabulary and concepts
- Understand basic research methods used in psychological research
- Gain the ability to critically evaluate psychological research with regard to design and ethics
- Apply psychological concepts to life outside of class
- Be prepared for further study in psychology

Grading:

Grades will be based on three non-cumulative exams, a final exam, scrapbook project, research credits, and participation.

The breakdown will be as follows:

Assignment	Percentage of Final Grade	Final Grade	Percentage
Exam 1	10%	A	93.0 – 100%
Exam 2	15%	A-	90.0 – 92.9%
Exam 3	15%	B+	87.0 – 89.9%
Final Exam	15%	B	83.0 – 86.9%
Papers	25%	B-	80.0 – 82.9%
Moodle Quizzes	10%	C+	77.0 – 79.9%
Research Credits	5%	C	73.0 – 76.9%
Participation	5%	C-	70.0 – 72.9%
		D	60.0 – 69.9%
		F	0 – 59.9%

Exams: Three non-cumulative exams will be held during regular class hours, as specified on the schedule. Tests will consist of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short essay questions. Test material will be taken from required readings and class lectures. **Make-up exams are not permitted without advance permission.** It is

unacceptable to miss an exam for any reason other than an out-of-town game/tournament, a serious illness, or personal emergency. Students should contact me as soon as possible to make alternate arrangements for the exam. Making up an excuse for missing an exam is a clear honor code violation.

Final Exam: A cumulative final exam will be given during the self-scheduled exam period at the end of the semester. The format of the exam will be similar to those given earlier in the semester, but the final will assess students' knowledge of material covered throughout the duration of the course.

Papers: During the semester students will complete 2 brief papers (approx. 4 pages). The first will require students to summarize a primary research article of their choice and evaluate how the article is similar or different from the presentation of that topic in the textbook. The second will require students to use psychological research to debunk a popular psychological myth. Detailed instructions for each assignment will be provided on a separate sheet. Due dates are listed on the course schedule.

Moodle Quizzes: To help students space their studying and improve exam grades, semi-weekly quizzes will be given using our Moodle site. Quizzes will be brief (10 to 15 multiple choice questions) and will be due by Sunday night at 11:59pm following the class indicated on the course schedule. After finishing each quiz, students will see the correct answers and can use that information to study for the exams.

Research Credits: One of the objectives of this course is to give students an opportunity to be involved with current research in psychology. **You must complete 3 research credits and may choose any combination of the following options:**

(1) Participate in a Davidson student research project.

The psychology department has an active research program. If you choose this option you will be a participant in a research study conducted by Davidson students. Experiments take approximately 40 minutes to complete. Write a one-page summary of the research including any comments or critiques about your experience.

(2) Attend an approved psychology talk.

There are many opportunities to hear psychologists talk about research that is being conducted. You may choose to attend a psychology department sponsored talk to fulfill a research credit requirement. The exact dates and times of these talks will be announced in class and posted on Moodle. Write a one-page summary of the research including your thoughts and reactions to the talk.

You are enrolled in a Moodle site that explains the Psychology Department Participant Pool, and includes instructions on how to sign up for experiments as well as dates of approved psychology talks. **All research credits must be turned in (hard copy, pledged) within 2 weeks of completing the experiment or attending the talk.**

Participation: Students are expected to regularly attend class. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class by passing around the roster. Students are honor-bound to accurately record only your attendance. All students will be given three “free” missed classes. Additional absences will result in a decreased participation grade, so use your free absences wisely (i.e., save them for sick days). Students requiring additional absences due to emergency circumstances should contact me as soon as possible. College policy states that if a student misses more than 25% of the scheduled class meetings for a course (11 classes for this course), the student will receive an automatic F.

In addition to attendance, participation means being respectful of others in the classroom. Thus, students should arrive to class on time, prepared, and ready to participate in class. Students arriving late to class must sign in with an “L” on the roster at the end of class.

Laptops are permitted, but studies suggest that they lower student performance and grades (e.g., from surfing the web in class, answering email, and other multitasking), so I wouldn't advise bringing one unless you really need it. Cell phones are not permitted (that includes texting!). If it seems that students are not reading the assigned material, I reserve the right to implement “pop” reading quizzes.

Throughout the semester you will read some compelling research, as well as engage in in- and out-of-class activities. The more fully you participate in class discussions and activities, the more you will enjoy the class, and likely the better your performance will be.

GRADING NOTE: If you believe that there was a mistake in the calculation of your final grade at the end of the class, you must speak to me about it within two weeks of your final grade being posted. *After two weeks, your final grade cannot be adjusted for any reason.*

Late Assignment Policy: Papers are due at the beginning of class, on the dates specified on the class schedule. Papers will be penalized one letter grade (i.e., B to a C) for each 24 hours they are late. Papers more than 3 days late will not be accepted. Quizzes will be available on Moodle until 11:59pm on the Sunday following the class indicated on the course schedule. Quizzes cannot be made up past that date.

Academic Accommodations: Accommodations are the legal right of students with all kinds of disabilities. If you are a student who might need special accommodations, contact Student Life (Dean Bray – [kabray@davidson.edu](mailto:kabray@ davidson.edu)) to document your disability with the College. Please let me know as soon as possible so that we can explore appropriate accommodations. All such discussions will be fully confidential unless you stipulate otherwise. You must contact me prior to the first exam if you need special testing accommodations on that exam.

Honor Code: The honor code at Davidson is both a privilege and a responsibility. Academic dishonesty of any type will not be tolerated. All work turned in for this class must be *fully*

pledged and signed; the entire pledge should be written out and signed. **Unpledged work will not be graded.** Students may discuss ideas or study for exams with other students, but all exams and assignments are to be completed independently. You are Honor bound to not use any “spots” or assignments from students who have preceded you in the course, or to reuse any work written for a previous course. No copies of prior tests should exist and none should be made. If you find or are offered any, you must report this as an honor code violation. If in doubt, don’t do it.

The honor code pledge can be found at: <http://www3.davidson.edu/cms/x8918.xml>

To help clarify the situation, I have provided specific details about what is and what is not acceptable:

You May:

- Consult the textbook and other students when completing scrapbook entries
- Use the internet to look up study guides or to do research for scrapbook entries
- Study for exams with other students
- Ask me for extra help with a concept

You May Not:

- Use the textbook, your notes, or “cheat sheet” on an exam
- Turn in another student’s work as your own
- Represent someone else’s idea as your own
- Contact anyone during an exam – cell phones OFF
- Use a previous copy of an exam to study, or give your exam to another student
- Discuss the final exam until the end of the self-scheduled exam period

YOU MUST:

- Cite your sources in all written work and provide complete references

Office Hours: Students are encouraged to ask questions during class or meet with me during office hours. Students should feel free to drop by any time during my scheduled office hours, with no appointment necessary. If students have other classes during office hours, I am happy to arrange appointments to meet with students individually for extra help. Office hours are not a substitute for coming to class, but can be a helpful supplement for students struggling with course material. Do not wait until the night before an exam; if you have questions, come to me ahead of time.

Audio & Video Recording of Classes: Davidson College policy prohibits audio/video recording of classes by students without permission of the instructor. You may not record class sessions or portions thereof unless the Dean of Students has authorized recording as an academic accommodation for a qualified student with a disability and has notified me of that authorization. All such recordings are for the sole use of the individual student and may not be reproduced, sold, posted online, or otherwise distributed.

Course Schedule: The following is a *tentative* schedule. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on the Moodle.

Date	Topic	Reading Assignment	Assignment
Week 1			
1/14	Course Introduction	Prologue (pp. xxxi-15)	
1/16	Psychology as Science	Chapter 1 (pp. 16-29)	
1/18	NO CLASS		
Week 2			
1/21	NO CLASS – MLK Jr. Day		
1/23	Correlation and Causation	Chapter 1 (pp. 29-35)	
1/25	Statistics and Research Ethics	Chapter 1 (pp. 36-45)	
Week 3			
1/28	Biopsychology	Chapter 2 (pp. 46-60)	
1/30	Brain Structure & Lateralization	Chapter 2 (pp. 61-83)	
2/1	Consciousness & Attention	Chapter 3 (pp. 84-92, 109-127)	Quiz (1&2)
Week 4			
2/4	Sleep & Dreams	Chapter 3 (pp. 92-109)	
2/6	Sensation & Perception	Chapter 6 (pp. 216-226)	
2/8	Sensation & Perception (Vision)	Chapter 6 (pp. 226-243)	Quiz (3&6)
Week 5			
2/11	Sensation & Perception (Other Senses)	Chapter 6 (pp. 243-263)	
2/13	EXAM 1		
2/15	Classical Conditioning	Chapter 7 (pp. 264-274)	
Week 6			
2/18	Operant Conditioning	Chapter 7 (pp. 275-290)	
2/20	Observational Learning	Chapter 7 (pp.290-297)	
2/22	Nature/Nurture	Chapter 4 (pp. 128-147)	Quiz (7)
Week 7			
2/25	Culture & Gender	Chapter 4 (pp. 148-165)	
2/27	Child Development	Chapter 5 (pp. 166-190)	
3/1	Adolescent Development	Chapter 5 (pp. 190-200)	Paper #1

			due
Week 8 SPRING BREAK			
Week 9			
3/11	Adult Development	Chapter 5 (pp. 201-215)	
3/13	Memory (Encoding & Storage)	Chapter 8 (pp. 298-313)	
3/15	NO CLASS		Quiz (4&5)
Week 10			
3/18	Memory (Retrieval & Forgetting)	Chapter 8 (pp. 314-325)	
3/20	Memory Construction	Chapter 8 (pp. 325-335)	
3/22	Cognition	Chapter 9 (pp. 336-349)	Quiz (8&9)
Week 11			
3/25	Language	Chapter 9 (pp. 349-365)	
3/27	EXAM 2		
3/29	Types of Intelligence	Chapter 10 (pp. 366-377)	
Week 12			
4/1	NO CLASS – Easter Break		
4/3	Intelligence Testing & Controversy	Chapter 10 (pp. 377-401)	
4/5	Emotion	Chapter 12 (pp. 458-486)	Quiz (10)
Week 13			
4/8	Stress	Chapter 12 (pp. 486-511)	
4/10	Personality (Freudian Theory)	Chapter 13 (pp. 512-523)	
4/12	Personality (Humanists & Trait Theorists)	Chapter 13 (pp. 523-544)	Quiz (12&13)
Week 14			
4/15	Psychological Diagnosis & Anxiety Disorders	Chapter 15 (pp. 604-620)	
4/17	Mood Disorders & Schizophrenia	Chapter 15 (pp. 621-649)	
4/19	Psychotherapy	Chapter 16 (pp. 650-675)	Quiz (15&16)
Week 15			
4/22	Biomedical Therapy	Chapter 16 (pp. 675-687)	
4/24	EXAM 3		

4/26	Social Thinking & Influence	Chapter 14 (pp. 552-572)	
Week 16			
4/29	Social Relations	Chapter 14 (pp. 572-603)	
5/1	Motivation	Chapter 11 (pp. 402-440)	
5/3	Work	Chapter 11 (pp. 441-457)	Quiz (14&11)
Week 17			
5/6	Careers in Psychology	Appendix A (pp. A1-A5)	Paper #2 due
5/8	Optional Final Exam Review		