

Foundations of Psychology

PSYC – 111-003

Spring 2012

Professor: Stacey Adams, MS
Office: Alumni Hall Room 0311
Phone: 650-2202 (psych dept)
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(the best way to reach me)

Class Location: Founders Hall 0116
Class Time: Mon, Wed, Fridays
8-8:50 am
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays
9:50-10:50 or by appt

Course Description

Psychology is the science of behavior and mental processes. Foundations of Psychology is a 3 credit hour course that will provide students with an overview of the historical and scientific roots of psychological methods and techniques, biological bases of behavior, human development and learning, memory, motivation, personality, psychological disorders, therapeutic techniques, and social psychology.

Required Text

Myers, D. G. (2007). *Psychology: Eighth edition in modules*. New York: Worth Publishers.

Course Objectives

By the completion of the course students will gain:

- A basic understanding of the science of psychology, including the scientific method, differing forms of psychological research, and contemporary approaches to psychological science.
- A basic understanding of nervous system structure and brain-behavior relationships.
- Knowledge of human development from a life-span developmental perspective.
- Knowledge of learning and memory processes, and the basics of motivation and personality.
- A basic understanding of psychological disorders, therapeutic techniques, and social psychological principles.

Expectations

To ensure the best experience for all class members students are expected to:

- Come to class prepared and ready to participate. Classes are much more interesting when students are able to draw on their own experiences to enrich the material being covered by the professor and when all readings are completed prior to entering class.
- Come to class. If you are hoping to do well in this, or any, course, regular attendance and active participation will always be the first step. The attendance policy is outlined below.

- Come to class on time and with as little amount of disruption as possible. Please keep all devices not being used for note-taking out of sight and turned down or off.
- Be courteous and respectful of fellow students' time and comments. This refers to the statement above, in regards to limiting class disruptions, as well as appreciating other students' examples or questions. The classroom should be a comfortable and safe environment that promotes class discussion.
- Be responsible for your own learning. As college students you are entering adulthood, therefore keeping records of your own grades, being aware of the class assignments, and being proactive if you are falling behind (contacting the professor to clarify confusing concepts prior to the exam, for example) is up to you. Please print and read the syllabus! Before asking the professor a question regarding due dates or assignments make sure it is not already on the syllabus.
- Turn assignments in on time. Ten points will be reduced each day an assignment is late. If an assignment is turned in to my mailbox (located in the Psychology Department Office at AH 0118) the student should have an employee in the office sign the assignment with the date and time.

To ensure the best experience for all class members students can expect the professor to:

- Be available to students to clarify or explain concepts further. See the office hours outlined above. Please do not email assignments, however emailed questions or concerns are welcome.
- Provide an enriching environment that stimulates critical thinking and thoughtful discussion.
- Return graded work in a timely manner and to be available to clarify grading policies if needed.

Assignments and Final Grades

Assignments		Final Grades (points)	
4 Quizzes (10 points each)	40 points total	A:	396 – 440
4 Exams (80 points each)	320 points total	B:	352 – 395
Written Assignment	80 points total	C:	308 – 351
Research Participation	Complete/ Incomplete	D:	264 – 307
		F:	Below 264

- **Quizzes**-Four (4) in class quizzes worth 10 points each will be given throughout the semester to assist students in preparing for their exams and to assess their retention of the material. **As these are given in class, there is no makeup option available.**
- **Exams** – Four (4) in class, “closed book” exams will be given throughout the semester. Each exam will cover only the material since the last exam. As such, the final exam is **not comprehensive**. Each exam will cover both lecture topics and information from the assigned readings, and will include any combination of

multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, or short-answer questions. **Just because a topic was not covered during class lecture, does not mean the information will not be on the exam.**

- **Written Assignment** –Students will be required to complete a 2 – 3 page research summary/reflection paper on a topic related to one discussed in class (chosen by the professor). Further information will be provided in class at a later time.
- **Research participation** – As per Department of Psychology requirements, each student is required to participate in at least six (6) hours of psychological research or complete six (6) psychological research summaries. **A grade of INCOMPLETE on this assignment will result in a reduction of one letter grade.** A detailed description of such requirements and the appropriate departmental policy are listed below.

Attendance Policy

- Although attendance at class lecture sessions is not a course requirement (with the exception of **Wednesday, January 18th, for the discussion of the Department of Psychology Research Requirement**), regular class attendance is expected. Regardless of lecture attendance, students are responsible for all material covered during each class session. As exams will cover material from both class lecture and the assigned readings, regular class attendance is strongly encouraged.
- **Class attendance on exam days is a specific course requirement.** Make-up exams will only be permitted for “excused absences” that are accompanied by proper documentation submitted to the professor. **Any makeup exam given will also be in essay format.**
- **Please be aware that this professor will not drop a student from this course for non-attendance. It is completely your responsibility to adhere to all relevant university guidelines related to officially withdrawing from this course.**

Extra Credit Opportunities

- In order to reward class attendance, throughout the semester there will be several random attendance checks that will take place during the first 3 minutes of class. Each student present during these random checks will earn 2 extra credit points. In order to earn such points, students must arrive to class on time and remain in class for the entire period (as leaving early on such days will result in the loss of the 2 bonus points). Attendance taken during the first week of class will not be considered for extra credit.

Blackboard

- Please refer to Blackboard frequently as the class lectures, study guides, and any additional materials (guide for good research papers or changes to the schedule, for example) will be posted on this resource throughout the semester.

Department of Psychology Policy on Research Participation for Psychology 111

Research is the basis of knowledge in psychology and provides the content in all areas of the discipline. The Department of Psychology requires a minimum of 6 hours of research experience of each student enrolled in Psyc 111. This requirement may be completed by active participation in a department-approved study, by report of instructor-approved library reading, or a combination of these two in accord with guidelines set by the instructor. Each accepted library research report receives one hour of research credit, and active participation in ongoing studies receives credit according to the length of time spent in the study, which can vary from half an hour up to more hours. Details of the research participation and the library assignment will be provided in the 2nd week of class. Failure to complete the minimum research requirement results in a one-letter grade drop, so if a student, for example, had a 'B' in Psyc 111 at the end of the semester but failed to complete six hours of approved research experience, the student would receive a 'C'.

Students who make an appointment for research participation, as do the investigators conducting the study, make a commitment to be at the designated place at the designated time for their appointment. If an emergency arises to prevent the participants from being able to be at the appointed time and place, they must notify the investigator no later than one hour prior to the study time. If students fail to come to the study on time or fail to cancel with sufficient notice, they will not receive credit for that study. Moreover, it is up to the investigator to decide whether and when such a participant will be allowed to make an additional appointment for that particular study. Students should be aware that making a large number of appointments at the end of the semester (at the same time that hundreds of other students are trying to complete their credits) can be difficult and it is best to fulfill the six hour requirement before the end of the semester.

Failure to meet the 6 hour requirement at the end of the semester will lead to a reduction in grade of one letter grade. Failure to complete the minimum research requirement results in a one-letter grade drop, so if a student, for example, had a 'B' average at the end of the semester, the grade the student receives is a 'C'.

Those students who do not wish to participate in research may substitute written assignments for research participation. The written assignments will give you some exposure to psychological research and acquaint you with some of the rich sources of materials where psychological studies are reported. The written assignment includes these requirements:

- Submit brief summaries of research articles published in **current** psychological journals (published in the past five years). A list of acceptable journals is given below. Research summaries must be typed, double-spaced, and should not exceed two pages. Attach a photocopy of the entire article to your summary. Each summary counts for 1 HOUR of research time.
- Research summaries are due, in class or in my mailbox, on **Friday, April 20th, 2012. No credit will be given for late summaries.**

- Each summary should be written in your own words. **I would strongly suggest a complete review of the appropriate university and departmental policies prior to turning in any written work.**
- A good summary attempts to summarize briefly who investigated what problem, by what method, and with what results. Use the following organization (two points each):
 - Author's name, year, title of article, journal, volume number, page numbers.
 - Purpose of the study (general problem, hypotheses, etc.)
 - Method or procedures used (omit technical details)
 - Results (what was found, what does it seem to mean?)
 - Personal comments (what, in your opinion, was the importance or significance of the study? Did you think the study was worthwhile?)

List of Acceptable Psychology Journals

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| • Child Development | • Journal of Educational Psychology |
| • Developmental Psychology | • Journal of Experimental Child Psychology |
| • Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology | • Journal of Experimental Psychology |
| • Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis | • Journal of Experimental Social Psychology |
| • Journal of Applied Behavior Science | • Journal of Personality and Social Psychology |
| • Journal of Applied Psychology | • Journal of Psychology |
| • Journal of Applied Social Psychology | • Journal of School Psychology |
| • Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders | • Journal of Social Psychology |
| • Journal of Child Language | • Journals of Gerontology |
| • Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry | • Psychological Bulletin |
| • Journal of Clinical Psychology | • Psychological Reports |
| • Journal of Community Psychology | • Psychology in the Schools |
| • Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology | • Psychology of Women Quarterly |
| • Journal of Counseling Psychology | • Sex Roles |

If there are other journals you wish to use, please check with me first. Only 'scientific' journals, not 'popular' journals (e.g., Discover, Psychology Today), will be accepted. These journals are located on the second floor of the library in the Education section. Some journals are on microfiche and many are available on-line.

Additional Information

Statement on Disabilities

Students with documented disabilities should notify the instructor regarding any needed accommodations at the beginning of the course. To request accommodations please contact the Office of Disability Support Services, Rendleman Hall, Room 1218 (618-650-3726).

Department of Psychology Policy on Withdrawal and Incomplete Grades

All withdrawals must be completed by the end of the 13th week of classes during fall and spring, and by the end of the 6th week of an 8-week summer term. When students discontinue attending class and do not withdraw from a course they may receive the grade of UW (Unauthorized Withdrawal). The grade of UW will only be given when a student's grade based on the course requirements is an F. The grade of UW is calculated as an F in a student's grade average. The granting of a grade of I (Incomplete) is not automatic and is available only in cases when a student has completed most of the work required for a class but is prevented by a medical or similar emergency from completing a small portion of the work not later than the end of the following semester. An I must be approved by the instructor with appropriate documentation provided by the student. If an instructor agrees to give a student an I, the instructor will fill out a Memorandum of Incomplete Grade to be kept with the student's records. If the work is not completed by the time specified on the Memorandum, the student's grade will be changed from I to F.

Statement on Plagiarism

Plagiarism includes either presenting someone else's words without quotation marks (even if you cite the source) or presenting someone else's ideas without citing that source. If you plagiarize, your instructor cannot evaluate your understanding of the topic. When paraphrasing from another source, at the very least the student should change the wording, sentence syntax, and order of ideas presented in the paper. Ideally, the student will integrate ideas from multiple sources while providing critical commentary on the topic in a way that clearly identifies whether words and ideas are those of the student or are from another source.

Plagiarism is one type of academic misconduct described in SIUE's Student Academic Code (<http://www.siu.edu/policies/3c2.shtml>). University policy states that "Normally a student who plagiarizes shall receive a grade of F in the course in which the act occurs. The offense shall also be reported to the Provost." (<http://www.siu.edu/policies/1i6.shtml>). The University policy discusses additional academic sanctions including suspension and expulsion from the University. To insure that you understand how to avoid plagiarism, we encourage you to review the information on plagiarism provided on the Department of Psychology web page at <http://www.siu.edu/education/psychology/plagiarism.shtml>.

The Psychology Department's Policy on Course Evaluations

Students will not be eligible to take the final exam in this course unless they first complete a course evaluation. The procedure for completing the confidential, anonymous

and brief course evaluation online will be described toward the end of the semester. The evaluation allows students to print a proof-of-completion page (after responses are electronically submitted) and this page should be presented to your professor before the final exam.

Tentative Course Schedule

***this schedule is subject to change**

Date	Topic	Required Reading
1/9	Course introduction & syllabus review	
1/11	Introduction to the History and Science of Psychology	Modules 1 & 2
1/13	Introduction to the History and Science of Psychology	
1/16	No Class	
1/18	Explanation of student research requirements – Dr. Meeks (attendance mandatory)	
1/20	Introduction to the History and Science of Psychology	Module 3
1/23	Introduction to the History and Science of Psychology	
1/25	Neuroscience and Behavior	Module 4
1/27	Neuroscience and Behavior	
1/30	Nature, Nurture, and Human Diversity	Module 7
2/1	Nature, Nurture, and Human Diversity	
2/3	Developing Through the Life Span	Modules 8 & 9
2/6	Developing Through the Life Span	
2/8	Developing Through the Life Span	
2/10	Developing Through the Life Span and Study Guide	Module 10
2/13	EXAM #1 (MODULES AND LECTURES)	
2/15	Learning	Module 21
2/17	Learning	
2/20	Learning	Module 22
2/22	Learning	
2/24	Learning	Module 23
2/27	Memory	Module 25
2/29	Memory	Modules 26 & 27
3/2	Memory	
3/5	Spring Break-No Classes	
3/7		
3/9		
3/12	Memory	Modules 26 & 27
3/14	Memory	Module 28
3/16	Memory and Study Guide	
3/19	EXAM #2 (MODULES AND LECTURES)	
3/21	Motivation and Work	Modules 34 & 35
3/23	Motivation and Work	
3/26	Personality	Module 44
3/28	Personality	
3/30	Personality	Module 46

4/2	Personality	
4/4	Psychological Disorders	Modules 47
4/6	Psychological Disorders	
4/9	Psychological Disorders	Modules 48 & 49
4/11	Psychological Disorders	
4/13	Psychological Disorders and Study Guide	Modules 50 & 51
4/16	EXAM #3 (MODULES AND LECTURES)	
4/18	Therapy	Module 52
4/20	Therapy***Research Summaries Due***	Module 53
4/23	Therapy***Written Assignment Due***	
4/25	Social Psychology	Modules 55 & 56
4/27	Careers in Psychology and Study Guide	Appendix A
Tuesday 5/1 from 8:00- 9:40am	EXAM #4 (MODULES AND LECTURES)	