

FOUNDATIONS OF PSYCHOLOGY (PSYC 111--003)

Fall 2009

Founder's Hall 0116

Lecture: Tuesday/Thursday 9:30 -10:45 AM

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Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 2-3:30, and by appointment



COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

Psychology is the science of behavior and mental processes. *Foundations of Psychology* is a course which will provide an overview of the historical and scientific roots of psychology, the biological foundations of behavior, motivation, development, learning, memory, personality, psychopathology, and social psychology. At the end of this course, you should be able to provide accurate and intelligent responses to three questions:

What is psychology? This course will survey the broad field of psychology and examine how the many areas of psychology are similar and different in their study of people's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors.

What do psychologists do? As we are learning about the various areas of psychology, we will examine how psychologists come to their conclusions. We will see the various techniques scientists use (experiments, surveys, observation) to study psychology, and we will develop a critical eye about inaccurate, biased, and over-generalized conclusions.

How is psychology a part of my life? Psychology is ultimately the study of people, so it's important for everyone to see how the topics covered in this course apply to the real world of everyday life. We will see that there are some basic psychological processes (biological, perceptual, and emotional) that apply to everyone and other aspects of psychology that vary across different people. In the end, you should be able to incorporate psychology into your life on many different levels.

REQUIRED READINGS

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

Supplement to Text (not required): Straub, R.O. (2007). *Study guide to accompany David G. Myers Psychology: Eighth edition in modules*. New York: Worth Publishers.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Lecture. Attendance at lectures is not a specific course requirement, but you are strongly encouraged to be present for lectures. Whether you are present or absent, you will be responsible for any material covered in lecture and any relevant announcements (for example, regarding exams). Exams will cover material from the text and from lecture, which will not always overlap. That is, you will be responsible for some material that is presented in lecture, but not in the text. It is unlikely that you will be able to do well in this course without regular lecture attendance.

Exams. Attendance at exams is a specific course requirement. Make-up exams will only be offered in the case of an "excused" absence. An excused absence from an exam must be verified by presenting proper documentation to me. If you know before the excused absence is to occur that you will be absent, you must contact me before the exam. An unexcused absence from an exam, or even an excused absence

without proper documentation, will result in a grade of zero for that particular exam. For more information, please see the section below titled “Make-Up Policy”.

MAKE-UP POLICY

Lecture. If you miss lecture (for any reason, excused or unexcused), you will be responsible for obtaining any notes from class from other students.

Exams. Any unexcused absence from an exam will result in a grade of zero and no opportunity for a make-up exam. If you miss an exam due to an excused absence, you must present documentation of the absence to me by the time you return to class. All make-up exams will be taken the day of the Final. The make-up exam will not be the same as the in-class exam (although it will be the same level of difficulty). Failure to make up an exam will result in a grade of zero on that exam.

DEPARTMENTAL POLICY ON INCOMPLETE GRADES AND WITHDRAWAL OPTIONS

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.

DEPARTMENTAL POLICY ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

In the event of any cheating on exams, the chair of the psychology department will be notified for disciplinary procedures. The minimum punishment for any cheating will be an “F” for the course. You should consult the University’s policy on cheating.

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. 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.siue.edu/POLICIES/1i6.html>). 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.siue.edu/education/psychology/plagiarism.shtml>.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

	<u>Modules</u>	<u>Due</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Aug 25			Introduction to the course	Syllabus Quiz
Aug 27	1 & 2	Syllabus Quiz	The Science of Psychology	Brain Quiz
Sept 1	4 & 5	Brain Quiz	The Brain and Behavior	
Sept 3			Explanation of Research Requirements -- Mandatory	
Sept 8	4 & 5		The Brain and Behavior	Development Quiz
Sept 10	9-11	Dev. Quiz	Human Development	
Sept 15	9-11		Human Development	
Sept 17	9-11		Human Development	<i>Review</i>
Sept 22			Exam One	Learning Quiz
Sept 24	21-23	Learning Quiz	Learning	
Sept 29	21-23		Learning	Memory Quiz
Oct 1	25-27	Memory Quiz	Memory	
Oct 6	25-27		Memory	Mot./Emot. Quiz
Oct 8	34, 38, 39	Mot/Emot Quiz	Motivation and Emotion	
Oct 13	34, 38, 39		Motivation and Emotion	<i>Review</i>
Oct 15			Exam Two	Personality Quiz
Oct 20	44-46	Pers. Quiz	Personality	
Oct 22	44-46		Personality	
Oct 27	44-46		Personality	Disorders Quiz
Oct 29	47-51	Dis. Quiz	Psychological Disorders	
Nov 3	47-51		Psychological Disorders	
Nov 5	47-51		Psychological Disorders	<i>Review</i>
Nov 10			Exam Three; Therapies Quiz	Therapies Quiz
Nov 12	52-54	Ther. Quiz	Therapies	
Nov 17	52-54		Therapies	
Nov 19	52-54		Therapies	
Nov 24			THANKSGIVING BREAK	
Nov 26			THANKSGIVING BREAK	
Dec 1	52-54		Therapies	Social Quiz
Dec 3	55-58	Social Quiz	Social Psychology **Research/Articles due	
Dec 8	55-58		Social Psychology	
Dec 10	55-58		Social Psychology	<i>Review</i>
FINAL EXAM		Monday, December 14, 8-9:40 AM		

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT POLICY ON RESEARCH PARTICIPATION

Research is the basis of knowledge in psychology and provides the content in all areas of the discipline. So that students can learn in depth the nature and content of research, and to become familiar with research in ways that are available only outside the classroom, the Department of Psychology requires students to have a minimum of 6 hours of research experience. This may be obtained by active participation in department-approved studies, by reading research articles and reporting the content in a library report, or by a combination of these two. 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 two hours. Details of the research participation and the library assignment will be provided in the 2nd or 3rd week of class. At that time, you will be given Participant Pool Cards, which you will use to keep track of and tally the number of hours you have completed. These are the cards that must be turned in to me at the end of the semester. **DO NOT LOSE THESE CARDS**, as they are your only record/receipt of your involvement in research studies.

Students who sign up for research participation, as well as the investigators conducting the study, make a commitment to be at the designated place and time. 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 or fail to cancel with sufficient notice, they will be penalized for the time of that study, which means that if students fail to show up or to cancel in time for a one hour study, they must make up one hour as penalty. Thus, a student who completed 5 research hours and fails to show up at the appointed time and place for the 6th hour of a study is required to complete 1 research hour as penalty and then still make up the 6th hour for completing the minimum research requirement. 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”.

Again, failure to meet the 6 hour requirement at the end of the semester will lead to a reduction in grade of one letter grade.

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:

1. 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 first page of the article to your summary. Each summary counts for 1 HOUR of research time.
2. Research summaries are due, in class or in my mailbox, on **Thursday, December 3rd**. **No credit will be given for late summaries.**
3. Each summary should be written in your own words. I would suggest thoroughly reviewing the departmental policy on plagiarism before turning in any written work, or speaking with me if you have any doubts or concerns.

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?)

All research participation and/or summaries are due by **Thursday, December 3rd**.

Listing of approved psychological journals:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child Development• Developmental Psychology• Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology• Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis• Journal of Applied Behavior Science• Journal of Applied Psychology• Journal of Applied Social Psychology• Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders• Journal of Child Language• Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry• Journal of Clinical Psychology• Journal of Community Psychology• Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Journal of Counseling Psychology• Journal of Educational Psychology• Journal of Experimental Child Psychology• Journal of Experimental Psychology• Journal of Experimental Social Psychology• Journal of Personality and Social Psychology• Journal of Psychology• Journal of School Psychology• Journal of Social Psychology• Journals of Gerontology• Psychological Bulletin• Psychological Reports• Psychology in the Schools• Psychology of Women Quarterly• Sex Roles |
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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. Many are simply available on-line.

STATEMENT ON DISABILITIES

SIUE offers a range of resources to support students with disabilities. At SIUE every effort has been made to eliminate barriers to learning and help you reach your educational goals. If you are a student with a disability and wish to request accommodations, please contact Disability Support Services located in the Student Success Center, Room 1270 (phone: 650-3726). Furthermore, according to SIUE safety and procedures policies, students with disabilities have the option of developing a written plan for evacuation in the unlikely event of an emergency that requires evacuation. If any student with a disability would like to develop a written evacuation plan for this class, please contact the instructor.

IMPORTANT DETAILS

- Please turn off all cell phones before class. NO cell phones are allowed during exam times.
- Please avoid coming to class late, and do not sleep or do other work in class.
- Only hard copies of assignments will be accepted, i.e., they *cannot* be e-mailed to the professor.
- Absolutely no work will be accepted after the Final Exam is given in class.
- Do not hesitate to stop by my office or contact me if you have any comments, questions, or concerns about this course.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Exams. In general, each exam will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions. Each exam will be worth 100 points. The Final Exam will NOT be cumulative.

Reading quizzes/Writing assignments. Part of your grade will be based on ten (10) reading quizzes, which are to be completed prior to the material being discussed in class, as well as two (2) larger writing assignments. Specific information on each of these larger assignments will be given to you as they are assigned. The make-up policy regarding the reading quizzes can be found on the last page of this syllabus.

GRADES

<u>Task:</u>	<u>Points Possible:</u>	
10 Quizzes @ 10 pts/each	100	Grading Scale:
Exam One	100	A = 495-550 points
Exam Two	100	B = 440-494 points
Exam Three	100	C = 385-439 points
Final Exam	100	D = 330-384 points
		F = fewer than 330 points
Reflection Paper	25 (due before 10/8)	
Critical Analysis Paper	25 (due before 11/19)	

Please note: There is no curve for this course, and there will be no rounding of points. You are starting this course with 0 points and you will have to earn every point to get up to an “A” (or whatever your goal is). Students will not be able to turn in any assignment for course credit after the Final Exam has been given in class.

Advice on how to do well in this course, as taken from former students:

You will do well in this class if you pay attention and go to class.

Spend plenty of time studying the review sheets for exams.

Don't put off research until the end of the semester. After every class, walk to Alumni Hall and sign up for every study you qualify for. You will be surprised how quickly you will accumulate credits.

Read the modules before coming to class, and then take good notes in class. Most of the tests are directly from the notes.

Read the book so you have some background on the material. Enjoy the class—it's very interesting.

Always come to class. There is a lot of information you need to learn.

Take very good notes during class. Write down all examples given and print PowerPoints and add additional notes to them from the book and lecture.

Read the textbook modules, study the notes excessively, and participate in class as well as taking thorough notes.

Start the psych experiments early! Read the book, come to class, and ask if in need of help.

Study hard and try to apply some of the things you learn in class to your everyday life.

Read all the material, study for the exams, do all the assignments, attend all classes, and do all the extra credit assignments. If you do this, you will succeed in this class.

My advice to you on how to do well in this class is COME TO CLASS. He does not take attendance, but we learn a lot in class that cannot be understood by just reading the notes offline. Also, take good notes. Don't just write down what the slide says—write down things that will help you remember the concepts.

Take extra notes, attend as many extra credit events as possible, and study for exams prior to the night before.

The best way to do well in this class is to show up to class and pay attention. The examples used in class are very helpful in remembering the principles covered on exams.

Always come to class, always do the readings, always ask questions, don't sleep in class.

Take detailed notes, and write down examples that he tells you and writes down on the board. He uses his own examples on the test.

Read the book and study your notes when you are studying for a test. Also, start your research studies early rather than later.

Fulfill the research requirement early! Aim for Week 9 or 10. Study everyday for at least 10 minutes.

Do the exam review sheets, and review your notes from the previous class before the current class.

When studying at home, don't just memorize the material—analyze it and apply it because psychology is not just about memorizing, it's about understanding.

Make-up policy for missed quizzes on Blackboard

If you are unable, for any reason, to complete a Blackboard quiz throughout the semester, you may complete an alternate assignment for each quiz that you missed. Admittedly, the make-up opportunity requires more work than simply taking the quiz itself. This policy is not meant to penalize students, but rather to strongly encourage students to keep up with the reading and to complete the Blackboard quizzes on time. Students who are not already familiar with lecture material before coming to class will most likely not do as well on exams as students who are familiar with the material.

To earn up to the same amount of points for each quiz that is missed, you may write an article summary relevant to the material discussed in the chapter covered by the quiz. Specifically, throughout each module are several research articles that are cited to provide empirical support for the theories and concepts discussed in psychology. If you miss a Blackboard quiz for a particular unit, carefully read through the modules for that unit and pick one of the research articles that is cited in the text to accompany the psychological concepts being discussed. You will need to access this article online via PsycINFO or another search engine to complete the make-up assignment. Please let me know if you need help using such search engines.

After finding the research article cited in the text, carefully read through the article and write a three (3) page summary of the article. Your summary should include a brief overview of the purpose of the study, the hypothesis/hypotheses of the author(s), how the study was conducted, what the results of the study were, and what implications the results of the study have for the field of psychology.

When writing your article summary, take careful note to use only **your own words** when describing the above components. No direct material should be taken from the article itself, even if cited appropriately with quotation marks and page numbers. I am truly interested in reading what your thoughts and ideas are after having read the article. Citing material that was written by the author(s) does not allow me to gauge your true understanding of the purpose and results of the research being described. Also, keep in mind that even minimal paraphrasing or slight rewording of the ideas of the authors constitutes plagiarism. If you have any questions or concerns regarding whether or not your article summary includes plagiarized material, please contact me **before** you turn in the assignment. I will be more than happy to read through your summary and discuss with you any questionable instances, which you can then revise before turning in your assignment for credit. However, once the summary is turned in, there will be no opportunity to revise or change your work; if plagiarism is detected, the departmental and university policies will be followed.

In addition to your three-page summary, you must turn in a copy of the first page of the article you are summarizing. This will indicate to me that you did locate the article, and will serve as a reference page for your summary. A cover page will not be necessary. APA style will not be necessary.

Final notes:

- 3 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman font, size 12, no more than 1" margins
- Must include a copy of the first page of the research article (not the whole article).
- Only hard copies of summaries will be allowed; I cannot accept e-mailed summaries.
- Summaries are due no later than one week after the class period when the quiz was due.