

Introduction to Psychology

Course Syllabus

Course Information

PSY 2301 (Section 002) – Introduction to Psychology

Spring 2013

Tuesday & Thursday 4:00 – 5:15, GR 4.428

Professor Contact Information

Professor: Dr. Samuel Ehrenreich (pronounced “Aaron-rike”)

Phone Number: 972-883-2309

Email: sam@utdallas.edu

Office Location: GR4.110a

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:00 – 11:00 or by appointment

Other Information: Email is the fastest and most reliable way to get a hold of me. **Please put “Intro Psychology” in the subject line, and email from your UTD email address.**

Teaching Assistant Contact Information

TA: Sunny Patel

Email: slpatel@utdallas.edu

Available to meet by appointment

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or other restrictions

None

Course Description

This course introduces students to the phenomena, principles, and theories of psychology. Psychologists study how biological, cognitive, social, and cultural factors interact to determine how we develop such a complex range of behaviors, emotions, and cognitions. Psychologists seek to understand why and how risk factors lead some individuals to suffer from psychological disorders, while others are resilient in the face of adversity.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- 1.1 Describe and explain the nature of psychology as a scientific discipline
- 1.2 Describe and analyze major theoretical perspectives and overarching themes of psychology and their historical development.
- 2.1 Identify and explain different research methods used by psychologists.

- 2.2 Explain and apply basic statistical analyses and employ critical thinking to evaluate the appropriateness of conclusions derived from their use.
 - 3.1 Use critical thinking to evaluate popular media and scholarly literature.
 - 4.1 Demonstrate effective writing skills in summarizing and evaluating technical reports.
 - 5.1 Apply psychological concepts, theories, and research findings to issues in everyday life.
 - 5.2 Identify appropriate applications of psychology to mental health and organizational problems.
 - 80.1 Explain and apply major theoretical and scholarly approaches, empirical findings, and historical trends in a social/behavior science.
 - 80.2 Explain and apply basic research methods in social/behavioral science.
 - 80.3 Apply modes of critical thinking used in social/behavioral science.
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Required Textbooks and Materials

1. Schacter, D. L., Gilbert, D. T. & Wegner, D. M. (2011) Psychology (2nd Edition). New York: Worth
 2. Additional assigned readings provided throughout the semester **via eLearning: to be announced**
 3. Students will respond to in-class activities using a response clicker, the Response Card RF – LCD (made by Turning Point). These can be purchased in the UTD bookstore.
 4. Each exam will require a Pearson Scantron #229630 (pink form) and a #2 pencil, both available in the UTD bookstore and free at the off-campus bookstore. **You are required to provide your own scantron for each examine.**
 5. eLearning will be an important resource throughout the semester. Your grades will be posted through eLearning and supplemental readings will be provided. Make sure you have access to eLearning.
 6. No electronic devices—with the exception of the Response Clicker—are permitted during class (**this includes laptops and cell phones**).
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Grading Policy

Final course grade will be based on the following criteria. Grades will be reported as percentages and will correspond to the letter grades listed below.

Class Participation:	20%
Exams 1, 2 & 3:	55% combined
Activities:	25% combined

A+: 100-98	A: 97-94	A-: 90-93
B+: 89-87	B: 86-83	B-: 82-80
C+: 79-77	C: 76-73	C-: 72-70
D+: 69-67	D: 66-63	D-: 62-60
F: Below 60		

Course & Instructor Policy

Class Participation:

Classroom attendance is required and necessary for success in this course. Lecture material and classroom activities will supplement material covered in the reading. Your Class Participation grade will be based on participation in class discussions, in-class activities, as well as coming to class. The Turning Point Response Card will be used to conduct in-class questions, which will represent the majority of your Class Participation grade. Students can miss up to **three (3)** classes with no penalty to their Class Participation grade. **There will be no opportunities to make-up missed Class Participation credit, no matter how good of an excuse you have** (so use your freebies wisely). It's worth noting that Class Participation should be the easiest and most enjoyable component of your final grade. This stuff's interesting!

Exams:

Three non-cumulative exams will cover all material since the previous test. The exams will focus on material covered in the textbook and lectures, however material from supplemental readings and classroom activities will also be fair game. Tests will consist primarily of multiple choice questions along with a few short answer questions.

You must be present for all exams. Make-up exams will be given **only** if: (1) you were seriously ill with verifying documentation, (2) you were unavoidably detained the day and time of the exam, or (3) you made arrangements prior to the exam for an urgent family matter (e.g., a funeral). In any of these cases, **you must notify the professor in advance of the time of the exam (even if that simply means leaving a voicemail)**. Appropriate documentation will be required prior to taking the exam. Missing an exam for any other reason will result in a "0" for that test. For an approved absence with proper documentation, you will have 1 week to make up the test. It is your responsibility to get in contact with the Professor about arranging the make-up. Keep in mind that make-up exams are intended to be more comprehensive to compensate for additional study time. Make-up exams will not necessarily be multiple choice format.

If you are concerned about an exam grade, please contact the Professor within one week of the grades posting to schedule a time to discuss the issue.

Assignments:

Three writing assignments will be assigned throughout the semester. Each essay will address a particular topic based on classroom discussions and supplemental readings. All three assignments will involve a brief supplemental reading and a 2-3 page response paper. The specifics of the assignments, including a rubric for grading criteria, will be posted on eLearning. Assignments are due by **4:00pm** on the day listed on the Schedule below (however I welcome early work). All submitted assignments must be original work.

Extra Credit:

No individualized extra credit will be given out.

Schedule

Date	Class	Day	Topic	Reading	Assignment
1/15	1	Tuesday	Introduction - What is Psychology?	Chapter 1	
1/17	2	Thursday	Methods - Psychology as a Science	Chapter 2	
1/22	3	Tuesday	Methods - Explanation and Ethics	Chapter 2	
1/24	4	Thursday	Neuroscience and Behavior	Chapter 3	
1/29	5	Tuesday	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 4	ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE
1/31	6	Thursday	Consciousness	Chapter 5	
2/5	7	Tuesday	Consciousness	Chapter 5	
2/7	8	Thursday	Test 1 - Bring your Scantron		
2/12	9	Tuesday	Memory	Chapter 6	
2/14	10	Thursday	Memory	Chapter 6	
2/19	11	Tuesday	Learning	Chapter 7	
2/21	12	Thursday	Learning	Chapter 7	
2/26	13	Tuesday	Intelligence	Chapter 10	
2/28	14	Thursday	Language and Thought	Chapter 9	
3/5	15	Tuesday	Emotion & Motivation	Chapter 8	ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE
3/7	16	Thursday	Emotion & Motivation & Catch-up	Chapter 8	
3/12		Tuesday	Spring Break		
3/14		Thursday	Spring Break		
3/19	17	Tuesday	Development	Chapter 11	
3/21	18	Thursday	Development & Catch-up	Chapter 11	
3/26	19	Tuesday	Test 2 - Bring Scantron		
3/28	20	Thursday	Personality	Chapter 12	
4/2	21	Tuesday	Social Psychology	Chapter 13	
4/4	22	Thursday	Social Psychology	Chapter 13	
4/9	23	Tuesday	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 14	
4/11	24	Thursday	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 14	ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE
4/16	25	Tuesday	Treatment	Chapter 15	
4/18	26	Thursday	Treatment	Chapter 15	
4/23	27	Tuesday	Stress & Health	Chapter 16	
4/25	28	Thursday	Stress & Health	Chapter 16	
4/30	29	Tuesday	Catch-up and Course Wrap-up		
5/2	30	Thursday	Test 3 - Bring Scantron	Final Class	

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the link below constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.