

Introduction to Psychology

Course Syllabus

Course Information

PSY 2301 (Honors) – Introduction to Psychology

Fall 2016

Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 10:00-10:50, GR 4.204

Professor Contact Information

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

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 11:00 – 12:00 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.**

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.

Required Textbooks and Materials

1. Schacter, D. L., Gilbert, D. T. & Wegner, D. M. (2014) *Introducing Psychology* (3rd Edition). New York: Worth
2. Additional assigned readings provided throughout the semester **via eLearning: to be announced**
3. Each exam will require a BlueBook, available in the UTD bookstore and free at the off-campus bookstore. **You are required to provide your own BlueBook for each examine.**
4. eLearning will be an important resource throughout the semester. Your grades will be posted through eLearning, supplemental readings will be provided, and homework assignments will be submitted this way. Make sure you have access to eLearning.
5. No electronic devices are permitted during class (**this includes laptops and cell phones**).
6. 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.

Grading Policy

Class Participation:	10%
Discussion Points & in-class activities:	15%
Exams 1, 2, 3 & 4:	55% combined
Homework essays:	20% 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 also be based on participation in class discussions, in-class activities, as well as coming to class. Two specific rules about participation:

- 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, regardless of the reason**, so use your freebies wisely. I frequently hear from students (frequently enough in fact, that I've added it to this syllabus) after missing the first three classes that they had an excellent reason for the fourth class they missed, such as illness, family emergency, or car trouble. I highly recommend saving up your freebies for unforeseen circumstances that may indeed arise.
- Students do not need to submit any documentation for missed days of lectures, the first three missed days will simply be dropped, and all subsequent missed days will result in a deduction, regardless of the reason (this does not apply to Exams; see below).

Discussion Points:

Students will need to submit two (2) questions, comments, or "psychology in the news" items based on the readings and/or topics assigned for the **upcoming** week. When supplemental readings are assigned, the questions/comments **MUST** be about these readings. When there are no supplemental readings, the questions should be on the textbook chapter. These questions/comments will be used to guide the lecture content and may be used to facilitate class discussions and/or in-class writing activities. Accordingly, these questions/comments

must be submitted to eLearning *before Monday's class* begins at 10am. Students may skip submitting questions/comments **two** times throughout the semester with no penalty to their grade.

Exams:

Four non-cumulative exams will cover all material since the previous test. The exams will focus on material covered in the textbook, lectures, supplemental readings and classroom activities. Tests will consist primarily of essays with 8-10 fill-in-the-blank 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 personal 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. 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 2-3 page response paper, possibly based on a brief supplemental reading. The specifics of the assignments will be posted on eLearning. Assignments are due by **10am** 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.

Research Exposure Credits:

One requirement of all students enrolled in this class is completion of two research exposure credits. Details about this requirement can be found on a separate handout distributed on the first day of class, the BBS Information Center on eLearning or at <http://bbs.utdallas.edu/undergraduate/rec.html>. Research exposure credits must be completed by May 2nd or your course grade will be lowered. For each credit you fail to complete, your course grade will be reduced by 1/3 of a letter grade (e.g., for 2 missing credits, a B+ will become a B-).

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.

Schedule:

Date	Class	Day	Topic	Reading	Assignment
08/22		Mon.	Introduction - What is Psychology?	Chapter 1	Michael LaCour Readings (2)
08/24	1	Wed.	Methods and Ethics	Chapter 2	
08/26		Fri.	Methods and Ethics		
08/29		Mon.	Methods and Ethics	Chapter 2	ASSIGNMENT#1 Due
08/31	2	Wed.	Neuroscience and Behavior	Chapter 3	
09/02		Fri.	Neuroscience and Behavior		
09/05		Mon.	NO CLASS - SCHOOL CLOSED		
09/07	3	Wed.	Neuroscience and Behavior	Chapter 3	
09/09		Fri.	Sensation & Perception	Chapter 4	
09/12		Mon.	Sensation & Perception	Chapter 4	
09/14	4	Wed.	Sensation & Perception		
09/16		Fri.	Test 1		
09/19		Mon.	Emotion & Motivation	<u>Chapter 8</u>	Buying Happiness article
09/21	5	Wed.	Emotion & Motivation		
09/23		Fri.	Emotion & Motivation		
09/26		Mon.	Memory	Chapter 6	
09/28	6	Wed.	Memory		
09/30		Fri.	Memory		ASSIGNMENT #2 Due
10/03		Mon.	Learning	Chapter 7	
10/05	7	Wed.	Learning		
10/07		Fri.	Learning		
10/10		Mon.	Consciousness	<u>Chapter 5</u>	
10/12	8	Wed.	Consciousness		
10/14		Fri.	Test 2		
10/17		Mon.	Development	<u>Chapter 10</u>	
10/19	9	Wed.	Development		
10/21		Fri.	Development		
10/24		Mon.	Language & Thought	<u>Chapter 9</u>	
10/26	10	Wed.	Language & Thought		
10/28		Fri.	TMCD - NO CLASS		
10/31		Mon.	Personality	Chapter 11	
11/02	11	Wed.	Personality		ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE
11/04		Fri.	Personality		
11/07		Mon.	Social Psychology	Chapter 12	
11/09	12	Wed.	Social Psychology		
11/11		Fri.	Social Psychology		
11/14		Mon.	Test 3		
11/16	13	Wed.	Stress & Health	Chapter 13	
11/18		Fri.	Stress & Health		
11/21		Mon.	THANKSGIVING BREAK - NO CLASS		
11/23	14	Wed.			
11/25		Fri.			
11/28		Mon.	Abnormal Psychology	Chapter 14	Unreality Star Reading
11/30	15	Wed.	Abnormal Psychology		
12/02		Fri.	Abnormal Psychology		
12/05		Mon.	Treatment	Chapter 15	No Discussion Points this
12/07	16	Wed.	Treatment		week
12/09		Fri.	FINAL EXAM - NOTE DIFFERENT TIME: 11:00-12:00		