

Psychology 1010: Introduction to Psychology
Weber State University
Syllabus and Course Outline

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SPECIAL NOTE TO THE STUDENT:

Please note that this syllabus is a contract between you and me. Your decision to stay in this course is a statement that you are agreeing to abide by the policies described in this syllabus.

TEXTBOOK:

Myers, D. G. & Dewall, C. N. (2016). Exploring Psychology in Modules, 10th Edition. Worth Publishers, NY.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this course is to provide a survey of the discipline of psychology. This course also may fulfill general education and/or lower division requirements.

OBJECTIVES:

Knowledge and Application of the Various Areas of Psychology

You will find that the field of psychology is diverse and constantly growing. It is expected that you will leave this course with a general knowledge of the field.

Development of Critical Thinking Skills

The ability to think and evaluate incoming information critically is a highly valuable skill. There will be many opportunities over the course of this class to begin or continue developing this ability.

Personal Development

I hope that the knowledge learned and critical thinking will carry over into your everyday life. It is difficult, if not impossible, for the principles learned in this course not to affect and enhance your daily functioning.

GRADING:

All students have the potential to earn an "A" in this course. I make no effort to grade according to a "bell curve." Please note that while I might adjust exam scores according to overall class performance, I will not "bump up" borderline grades or make special arrangements with individual students to improve their grades. All students will be graded according to the following point system:

<u>Modality</u>	<u>Point Value</u>
Exam I	50
Exam II	50
Exam III	50
Exam IV	50
Exam V	50
Research Participation	30
Signature Assignment	30
10 In-Class Assignments	50
<u>20 Homework Assignments</u>	<u>200</u>
Total	530

A 92+%, A- 90-91.9%, B+ 88-89.9%, B 82-87.9%, B- 80-81.9%, C+ 78-79.9%, C 72-77.9, C- 70-71.9%, D+ 68-69.9%, D 62-67.9, D- 60-61.9%, E 0-59.9%

Exams:

The exams will consist of approximately 50 multiple-choice questions. They are not comprehensive, and will be designed to last approximately 1 hour. You will be able to access the exams on WSU's ChiTester system in any WSU Testing Center, or if you are taking this course online and live far away from WSU, you can make arrangements to take the exams via remote proctor. It will be your responsibility to make remote proctor arrangements in time to meet each exam deadline.

Each exam will be available to you from the beginning of the semester until the deadline noted in Canvas. If you miss an exam deadline, you will have two business days to complete the exam, but a 20% penalty will be deducted from your score. After the two days have elapsed, your score will be a zero. Exceptions to these policy will only be given in emergency circumstances that are well-documented (e.g. a doctor's note). It will be your responsibility to contact me **PROMPTLY** to discuss postponing an exam. **The decision to allow postponement of an exam or whether to impose a penalty is at the sole discretion of the instructor.**

Please note that you will need to bring a picture ID (e.g. driver's license, WSU ID) and arrive at least 1 hour prior to closing time in order to be allowed to take the exam. It is your responsibility to make sure that you know the hours of operation for the WSU Testing Center you intend to use. Please see <https://www.weber.edu/TestingCenter/> for more information. Failure to follow these guidelines does not constitute a sufficient excuse to take an exam late without penalty.

The class period on the day of or before an exam is due will be held in reserve. If we need that class session to complete necessary content for the exam, I will hold class. However, I won't hold class on such a day if we finish the necessary content. On such a day, I will plan on

being on campus during that class period, and I will communicate relevant plans to you in class and/or via Canvas announcement.

Exam Missed Item Reviews:

Test preparation and taking are skills that can be strengthened with practice. Reviewing missed test questions can help you determine why you are missing items and how you can improve future performance. To that end, you can earn $\frac{1}{4}$ credit for each missed exam item you review, and these points will be extra credit. Please refer to Canvas for directions and deadlines. **I do not accept late Missed Item Reviews.**

Homework Assignments

Homework assignments for each module will be available on Canvas. Each quiz will be available from the beginning of the semester until the date noted Canvas. You will have unlimited time to complete each assignment, and you can repeat each assignment as many times as you need to get the score you want. You will be able to access the assignments from any computer that has an internet connection. Since you will have so much time to complete the assignments, and since you have tremendous flexibility in terms of where you work on them, **late assignments will NOT be accepted.**

In-Class Activities

A large body of research suggests that there is a significant relationship between class attendance and course grades. To that end, I will randomly conduct approximately 12 in-class assignments. My hope is that these assignments will be fun ways to engage with course content on a deeper level.

Ten assignments will count officially toward your semester grade. Any assignments you submit after 10 will be extra credit. This means you can miss roughly 2 assignments without any penalty.

Each time you submit an in-class assignment, I will enter 5 points in the grade book. This means that when I enter the score for your first assignment, you will see that the 5/50 points will result in a deceptively low grade on Canvas. Do not be alarmed! Your grade will improve as the semester progresses because you will accumulate in-class assignment points.

Research Participation

Part of your grade will be based on participating in research experiments conducted by psychology faculty and students. Please refer to this requirement in Canvas for more information and directions. **All research participation MUST be completed by the date listed on Canvas. No late research participation will be accepted.**

Signature Assignment Psychology 1010

You are enrolled in the WSU General Education course Introductory Psychology, which is designed to tackle the following big question (BQ) "*How does scientific psychology help us understand our experiences?*" through a 350-400 word signature assignment (SA) Reflection Paper. Please refer to this assignment in Canvas for more information, directions, and a rubric.

Extra Credit:

Completing Missed Item Reviews and more than 10 In-Class Assignments are the only ways to earn extra credit in the course. **There will be no other extra credit opportunities.**

MISCELLANEOUS:

While every effort will be made to adhere to the course outline, all times, topics, and subjects covered will be at the professor's discretion and could change at any time. Advance notice will be given if a change is necessary.

From time to time, I may need to be absent to participate in a professional conference. Please note that such participation is part of my job. If such an absence is necessary, you will be notified of it and any changes to the course schedule as soon as possible.

You have my permission to make audio recordings of my lectures for class purposes only. Using such recordings for any other purpose is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, and may result in disciplinary action under PPM 6-22.

Email is the best way to communicate with me. I will try to respond to emails within 24 hours during the week and within 48 hours on weekends. Please be professional when you send email messages to your professors. Such emails should include a) an appropriate subject line (e.g. Psych 1010 and brief reason for email), b) address to the recipient (e.g. Dear Dr. Kay), c) the use of full sentences in the body of your email, d) and ending (e.g. Sincerely, Thank you) with your name.

I use the gradebook through Canvas. You are strongly encouraged to check your grades on a regular basis to ensure that you are properly receiving credit for your work. It is much easier to correct errors during the semester. If you notice an error, I will be happy to correct it once you provide evidence of the mistake. **Please keep everything your instructor returns to you, as this will be the only proof you have that you completed an assignment.**

I use the Announcements tool in Canvas to convey information (e.g. the need to cancel class if I am sick) to all students. I recommend that you check Canvas on a regular basis to receive these announcements. **YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING THE INFORMATION COMMUNICATED IN CLASS AND ON CANVAS.**

At WSU, we value the diversity of the campus community, and we try to create an environment that encourages freedom of expression. Because a university is a setting in which inquiry and testing of new ideas occurs, it is essential that every person feel safe to express ideas that may differ from other WSU community members. This balance of respect for others and freedom of expression is not always easy to achieve, but we must challenge ourselves and each other in an atmosphere of mutual concern and respect. Consequently, expressions or behaviors that disparage one's ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, age, or disability are in conflict with WSU's mission and will not be acceptable in classroom discussion.

Emergency Closure: If for any reason the university is forced to close for an extended period of time, we will conduct our class via Canvas. Look for announcements on Canvas. Code Purple is a good way to be alerted to campus closures, and you are encouraged to sign up for it.

It is the instructor's expectation that the work you submit is in fact your work. Cheating on exams will result in immediate failure of the course, as well as other possible disciplinary action. Plagiarism is representing the work of someone else as your own by taking sentences, paragraphs, or sections from other sources without using quotation marks or appropriate references. I will use Turnitin on written assignments to detect plagiarism. Please consult the instructor if you have any questions about appropriate referencing of material.

Appropriate classroom behavior is vital to a productive learning environment. Behaviors such as a) arriving late, b) leaving early, c) holding private conversations, d) sleeping, e) reading other material, f) playing games with or communicating via cell phone or PDA, or g) doing other work are very rude and distracting to the instructor and your peers. The same principle holds true for cell phones and pagers going off in class. The instructor will intervene with such behaviors as appropriate. If they persist, offending students will be encouraged to drop the course.

Disability Notice:

Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in Room 181 of the Student Services Center (or Room 221 at the Davis Campus). SSD can also arrange to provide course materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats upon request. Please refer to SSD's website for more information: <http://weber.edu/ssd>

Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Content	Deadlines
1	1/6-1/10	Intro to course, Science of Psych.	
2	1/13-1/17	Science of Psych., Development	
3	1/20-1/24	Development	
4	1/27-1/31	Finish Development, start Neuroscience	Exam I & Homework 1/28
5	2/3-2/7	Stress	Exam I Missed Item Review 2/5
6	2/10-2/14	Stress	
7	2/17-2/21	Classical Conditioning	Exam II & Homework, 2/18
8	2/24-2/28	Operant Conditioning	Exam II Missed Item Review, 2/25
Spring Break	3/2-3/6		
9	3/9-3/13	Language	Exam III & Homework, 3/12
10	3/16-3/20	Psychological Disorders	Exam III Missed Item Review, 3/19
11	3/23-3/27	Disorders and Treatment	
12	3/30-4/3	Treatment	Exam IV & Homework, 4/1 Signature Assignment, 4/3
13	4/6-4/10	Gender and Social Psychology	Exam IV Missed Item Review, 4/8
14	4/13-4/17	Social Psychology	Research Participation, 4/17
Finals Week			Exam V & Homework, 4/22 Exam V Missed Item Review, 4/23