

Psychology 1: Introduction to Psychology

Dr. Carrie Canales

You can reach me through "private message" in the discussion tab or call me during office hours at 310.287.4588, Mondays from 3:00 to 5:00 PM and Wednesday 2:30-3:00.

Please keep in mind that this syllabus is an approximation of the way the course will proceed & is subject to change.

Course Objectives:

This course will introduce students to the study of human behavior, specifically as it relates to research, human development, the senses and brain functions, mental illness, motivation, emotion, learning, intelligence, personality, and social interactions.

Student Learning Outcomes

Think critically about historical theories in psychology and tie them to current research methodology and research outcomes.

Required Text: David Myers and Nathan DeWall, "Psychology in Everyday Life" 3rd edition, 2014, Worth Publishing

Online Requirements:

This is an online course, so you must have daily access to a computer with the internet.

Make sure you have an accurate email address in the system and that it is linked to Etudes because that is the most efficient way of receiving announcements as I make them throughout the semester. All of this information is critical to helping you succeed as an online student.

Please go to www.wlac.edu/online and review the tabs on the left side of that page. Pay specific attention to "Course Login" and "Technical Requirements."

Course Requirements:

Lecture, Reading, Discussion Questions, Quizzes, Tests, Research Paper

It is imperative that you are online regularly in order to do the work. If you have never taken an online class, you should spend time quickly getting familiar with the tabs on the left side of the home page of the class. We will be utilizing almost all of the tabs.

Lecture/Readings

Essentially, the lectures are in the "Modules" tab, and each week you will be responsible for a chapter, just as you would have been in a classroom (See calendar below). You need to read all of the modules associated with the assigned book chapters each week.

Discussion Questions

Almost every week, you will need to answer a Discussion Question related to your reading. These are due by Sunday night at 11:45 PM.

After reading the modules and the textbook, you will go to the "Discussion and Private Messages" tab, then click on "Discussion Questions," then the appropriate DQ # for that week. After reading the question, you hit "post reply" and write your answer in the space provided. Try to avoid cutting and pasting from Word because it does not transmit to Etudes very well. Your grade on these discussion questions will be dependent on how thoroughly and thoughtfully you answer them as well as if you properly cite your answer and do not plagiarize.

Important: Do not copy other classmates' work; answers are posted for everyone to see in this format, and I do not want you to receive no credit because your answer is similar to another post. The best way to avoid this is to answer your question, *then* read what other people wrote.

Also, do not copy word-for-word from a website or your textbook - this will also result in no credit for your answer because it is plagiarism. If you choose to use words that are not your own, then you must put them in quotes and cite the source.

When you answer a DQ and use a source for your answer, such as the textbook, you **MUST** give that source credit for the information. If you don't, you are saying that the answer came from you, and that is also plagiarism. This too will result in no credit for your answer. For further clarification, read the information in the research paper module on plagiarism (again, note that you can't use a "wiki" site for DQs or the research paper).

I will not grade DQs that are posted after the deadline. You cannot answer or post DQ's after they have closed. There are no make-up DQs.

Your classmates can see what you post in the discussion section as well as the "Chat Room." Please feel free to chat with each other as much as possible as this helps with the discussions, and you can ask each other for help, etc. You will see when others are in the chat room because a blue dot will appear by their name in the users list on the left side of the site page.

Exams

There are five exams that are 40 multiple choice questions, and they will be every 2 to 3 chapters. They are based on the modules as well as the textbook reading. The sixth exam is 50 multiple choice questions, and it is the cumulative final exam.

You will need to go into the "Assignments, Tests, and Surveys" tab to do the exams. Access to the exams will open one week before they are due and will be *closed at midnight* the night they are due. You will not be able to go back to take an exam after it has closed. In other words, there are **no** make-up exams because you have a full week to take each exam. Do not wait until the last minute to take the exams.

Research Paper

The psychology department requires that each student in Psychology 1 complete a paper.

You may choose any topic covered in the textbook to write about. It needs to be at least 5 complete, typed, double-spaced pages with 1.0" margins in Times New Roman font, 12 point size. Do not skip spaces between paragraphs. The paper can be longer than 5 pages, but it must be a minimum of four pages of research, plus one page of autobiographical information related to your interest in the topic.

Your paper is due Sunday, November 29, and must be sent to me as a .doc or .docx attachment in the assignment section in Etudes by midnight. After midnight, and each day it is late after that, points will automatically be deducted.

Please note that I am more than happy to give you feedback if you send me a partial rough draft through private messages several days before the paper is due. The paper is worth a total of 100 points. Please read the "Research Paper" section of Module 1 for further instructions on how to format the paper and for important information about plagiarizing.

Academic Honesty:

You are NOT allowed to use your textbook, the modules, notes, exams, friends, your cell phone, or **anything** else when you take the exams. Utilizing any part of another person's work, the internet, the text, etc. on exams constitutes "cheating." This is completely unacceptable and will result in an automatic ZERO on the exam or assignment. If you allow your work (or any part of it) to be copied by another person, this too is considered cheating and is grounds for a ZERO.

Professional Conduct in Our Virtual Classroom Community

One of the unifying objectives in this course is to familiarize you with best practices and give you exposure to becoming a member of a professional community such as the psychology profession. I also have the responsibility to insure that our virtual community is a conducive learning environment for all students. As such, all students will please follow these policies of our classroom community for all emails, private messages, discussion groups, and chat rooms:

1. No profanity or foul language, either in writing or pictures, of any kind at any time.
2. Please address everyone politely by their name.
3. Under no circumstances may you ask for a classmate's personal contact information or in any way ask for a personal meeting or date.
4. Unless I specifically ask you to do so as part of an assignment, do not include in your email signatures, avatars, or other material in your messages any type of sales solicitation, information about a business, or a political or religious message of any kind. Do not include a blind or other kind of hyperlink to such information. Violators will be excluded from the course.
5. Please use common sense and common courtesy when sending messages between each other and also to me. I will not tolerate rude, condescending, or "challenging" emails, and I may report them to the Dean of Discipline if they contain inappropriate verbage.

If you choose to disregard these rules, there are college policies that I can follow that may eventually lead to you being dropped from this course. Please check with me first if you have any questions about what is appropriate.

Special Instructional Accommodation

To receive accommodations for a special need or disability, students must register with the Office of Disabled Student Program and Services, SSB 320, (310) 287.4450.

Grading

Each exam is worth 80 points. The online discussion questions are worth 10 points each. The research paper is worth 100 points, and the final exam is worth 100 points. This totals a maximum of 700 points. Grades will be determined as follows:

A = 700-630 pts D = 489 - 420

B = 629-560 F = below 420

C = 559 - 490

Calendar:

Week 1 - Aug 31: Chapter 1 - Psychology's Roots

Week 2 - Sep 7: Chapter 2 - Biology of Mind and Consciousness

Week 3 - Sep 14: Chapter 2 continued

TEST1 must be completed by Sunday, Sep 20, at midnight

Week 4 - Sep 21: Chapter 3 - Developing Through the Life Span

Week 5 - Sep 28: Chapter 3 continued

Week 6 - Oct 5: Chapter 4 - Gender and Sexuality

TEST 2 must be completed by Sunday, Oct 11, at midnight

Week 7 - Oct 12: Chapter 6 - Learning

Week 8 - Oct 19: Chapter 7 - Memory

Week 9 - Oct 26: Chapter 8 - Thinking, Language, and Intelligence

TEST 3 must be completed by Sunday, Nov 1, at midnight

Week 10 - Nov 2: Chapter9 - Motivation and Emotion

Week 11 - Nov 9: Chapter 10 - Stress, Health, and Flourishing

Week 12 - Nov 16: Chapter 11 - Personality

TEST 4 must be completed by Sunday, Nov 22, at midnight

Week 13 - Nov 23: Chapter 12 - Social Psychology

PAPER DUE Sunday, Nov 29, by midnight!

Week 14 - Nov 30: Chapter 13 - Psychological Disorders

Week 15 - Dec 7: Chapter14 - Methods of Therapy

TEST 5 must be completed by Sunday, Dec 13, at midnight

FINAL EXAM must be completed by Thursday, Dec 17, at midnight