



Introduction to Psychology

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SHORT COURSE DESCRIPTION

Psychology as a field has had a rather short history. However, its impact on our current understanding of the human experience is quite significant.

Clive Wearing is an accomplished musician who lost his ability to form new memories when he became sick at the age of 46. While he can remember how to play the piano perfectly, he cannot remember what he ate for breakfast just an hour ago. John Nash is a brilliant mathematician and Nobel Prize winner. However, while he was a professor at MIT, he would tell people that the *New York Times* contained coded messages from extraterrestrial beings that were intended for him. Soon thereafter, Nash was diagnosed with schizophrenia and admitted to a state-run mental institution.

Why did these people have these experiences? How does the human brain work? And what is the connection between the mind processes and people's external behaviors? This course will introduce you to various ways that the field of psychology has explored these questions. Psychology contains several different subfields, such as sensation and perception, memory, personality, learning, group/social/community psychology, and biological psychology. This course will survey many of these subfields through fun-filled class activities rather than "boring" lectures.

READING MATERIALS

The textbook for this course is called *Psychology*. This book is part of the OpenStax initiative. This is a nonprofit organization, affiliated with Rice University, that is dedicated to providing quality textbooks and resources for students for little to no cost. The textbook is entirely online but you can download the book as a pdf, if you prefer. The online resource and pdf are completely free to you. The website for the book is here: <https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology>.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Class meetings include discussion of the readings, some brief lectures, workgroups, and student presentations and/or facilitation of discussions and activities. They are interactive, and participation in class is an essential part of the learning process. Active engagement and open communication about ideas are critical for growth and development in this course!

Evaluation

In-Class Quizzes	20 points
Exam 1 (in-class exam)	30 points
Exam 2 (presentation)	30 points
Class participation	20 points

Grading

60-100%	Pass
Less than 60%	Fail

- There will be more than 10 quizzes taken in class across the course, each worth 2 points. Ten highest quizzes will be used for the final grade, totaling 20 points.
- Exam 1 will consist of definitions, short answer questions, and psychological case study. Detailed instructions will be provided in class. It is OPEN-BOOK!
- Each of you will be randomly assigned to a small group. At the end of the final week, each group

will discuss/present the key ideas from their group projects. Detailed instructions will be provided in class.

- **Students must attend at least 80% of all classes to pass.** Arriving late or leaving early will be considered missing. Each class missed with non-emergency will result in a two point reduction per each from the final grade. It is expected that students will notify the instructor in advance or after when and why they miss a class. The instructor will decide whether any missing is an emergency.
- **Academic honesty is required at all times.** Plagiarism is unacceptable. Plagiarism is using another person's ideas or creative work without giving credit to that person. It includes 1) paraphrasing information from a source without referencing the source, 2) copying and pasting Internet information, graphics or media into your work without citing the source, 3) using someone else's homework, papers you or someone else has written for another class, or buying papers or research you did not do and turning it in as if you had done the work yourself, and 4) not putting quote marks around parts of sources you copy exactly. If your instructor believes you have committed an act of academic misconduct, s/he may give you a penalty grade, which is defined as any grade based on a charge of academic misconduct. A penalty grade may include, but is not limited to, a failing grade on an assignment or in the course.

COURSE SCHEDULE

– WEEK I –

Thursday (27 June)

Course introduction

- Reading: Ch 1 – Introduction to psychology

Friday (28 June)

Research methodology

- Reading: Ch 2 – Psychological research introduction

– WEEK II –

Monday (1 July)

Biology and behavior

- Reading: Ch 3 – Biopsychology

Tuesday (2 July)

Sensation and perception

- Reading: Ch 5 – Sensation and perception

Wednesday (3 July)

Learning

- Reading: Ch 6 – Learning

Thursday (4 July)

Memory

- Reading: Ch 8 – Memory

– WEEK III –

Monday (8 July)

Lifespan development

- Reading: Ch 9 – Lifespan development

Tuesday (9 July)

Mid-term in class exam (open book)

Wednesday (10 July)

Personality

- Reading: Ch 11 – Personality

Thursday (11 July)

Health and well-being

- Reading: Ch 14 – Stress, lifestyle, and health

– WEEK IV –

Monday (15 July)

Psychological disorders 1

- Reading: Ch 15 – Psychological disorders

Tuesday (16 July)

Psychological disorders 2

- Reading: Ch 15 – Psychological disorders

Wednesday (17 July)

Group psychology

- Reading: Ch 12 – Social psychology

Thursday (18 July)

Community psychology

- Reading: Extra reading – Community psychology

Friday (19 July)

Final exam – In class presentations

Course wrap-up; Celebrations of your achievement!!!