

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 Wednesdays from 2:30-3 PM.

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

Online Requirements:

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

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

Every week, you will need to answer Discussion Questions related to your reading. These are due by 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 #. 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.

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.

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 (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 are not allowed to receive any help from anyone or anything when taking the exams.

You will need to go into the "Assignments, Tests, and Surveys" tab to do the exams. Access to the exams 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. Note again that this is also true of the weekly discussion questions.

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.

Your paper is due Sunday, May 31, and must be sent to me as an 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 carefully watch the power point on plagiarism.

Academic Honesty:

You are NOT allowed to use your textbook, the modules, notes, old exams, friends, 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 aggressive, rude, condescending, or "challenging" emails.

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, 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:

April 13: Chapter 1 - Psychology's Roots and Chapter 2 - Biology of Mind and Consciousness

EXAM 1 must be completed by Wednesday, April 22, at midnight

April 23: Chapter 3 - Developing Through the Life Span and Chapter 4 - Gender and Sexuality

EXAM 2 must be completed by Saturday, May 2, at midnight

May 3: Chapter 6 - Learning, Chapter 7 - Memory, and Chapter 8 - Thinking, Language, and Intelligence

EXAM 3 must be completed by Wednesday, May 13, at midnight

May 14: Chapter 9 - Motivation and Emotion, Chapter 10 - Stress, Health, and Flourishing, and

Chapter 11 - Personality

EXAM 4 must be completed by Sunday, May 24, at midnight

May 25: Chapter 12 - Social Psychology, Chapter 13 - Psychological Disorders, and Chapter 14 - Methods of Therapy

PAPER DUE Sunday, May 31, by midnight!

EXAM 5 must be completed by Thursday, June 4, at midnight

FINAL EXAM must be completed by Saturday, June 6, at midnight