

PSYC 1105EL 04 – Introduction to Psychology -- Course Outline

PSYC 1105 Sec EL04
Fall / Winter, 2006
T, Th 8:30-10:00 am (E4)

Instructor: Dr. Robert C. Sinclair
Office: A361
Office Hours: Tue 10:30-11:30
and by appointment
Phone: 675-1151 ext. 4250

TA: TBA
Office: TBA
Office Hours: TBA
and by appointment
Phone: TBA

Text

Bernstein, D. A., Penner, L. A., Clarke-Stewart, A., & Roy, E. J. (2003). *Psychology* (6th ed.). Houghton Mifflin Company: Boston, MA.

Goals

The course is designed to introduce you to many different major areas of psychology. The course is a review of theory and research about the basic smorgasbord of topics in psychology: research methods, biological aspects of psychology, sensation, perception, learning, memory, cognition, motivation, personality, development, abnormal, clinical, social, emotion, and the like, as well as their relationship to the psychological functioning of the individual as a social being. It is hoped that you 1) gain an understanding of how psychologists conduct research; 2) increase your awareness of how our selves and our acts depend upon, and fit into, psychological processes; 3) gain some sense of how psychological theory and research methods can be applied; 4) become prepared students for more advanced psychology courses; and, 5) gain the ability to evaluate real-world claims like those presented in the media (e.g., Does breast feeding increase IQ? Does an increase in water temperature cause shark attacks? Does playing bridge maintain cognitive ability?).

The course will be taught primarily in a lecture format, with some discussion. From time to time, you will have an in-class demonstration, lab, or film. **NOTE:** If you have questions during class about the material, you're probably not alone--don't be embarrassed--ask! **HOPEFULLY, THE CLASS WILL BE FUN AND YOU'LL LEARN A LOT.**

Grading

You are responsible for all material in your reading assignments, films, labs, demonstrations, as well as from lectures. Readings and lectures will not necessarily cover the same material. There will be 4 exams (3 exams will be worth 20 points each; the final exam will be worth 30 points [20 points from lecture / text and 10 points from laboratory work / information learned from research participation]). There will be a laboratory report worth 10 points. The exams will assess factual knowledge and the ability to apply and integrate concepts. These will be in a multiple-choice format and are noncomprehensive (i.e., noncumulative). I try hard to avoid trick questions. Some of the questions that I write are longer than the typical multiple-choice question. These require careful reading, and a few of them may actually require that you think rather than spit back something you read or you were told. There will be between 50 and 100 questions on each exam. If you miss an exam without a proper excuse (i.e., a doctor's certificate), you will receive a grade of 0 for the exam (I expect you to contact me via phone on the day of a missed test – the doctor's certificate can follow within a one week period). In addition to the exams, I **may**, on occasion, assign smaller graded assignments (sometimes these are a surprise; if you are not in class when an assignment is given, you may receive 0 for the assignment [depending on its nature]). The point values of these assignments will be announced in class, but will not total more than 5 points (which are part of a 5 point slush fund).

Always, always, always make copies of assignments! I'm not infallible (nor is my TA) and sometimes lose things. The burden, unfortunately, is on you--I expect you to have copies if this happens.

Extensions will be granted only under exceptional circumstances (remember that most of you have only two grandmothers). These circumstances are ones that are beyond the students' control like illness or a death in the family (too much work, another paper due that day, "I want to go to New York with my friends," etc. don't count). Requests for extensions must be made in advance. Assignments turned in late (without an extension) will be penalized one point per day (up to 1/2 the worth of the assignment). No work will be accepted after the last day of class (April 5, 2007).

Final grades are based on your total scores (out of 105 – 3 exams worth 20 points each, a final worth 30 points, a laboratory report worth 10 points, a 5 point slush fund):

$((x/105) * 100) + \text{up to 3\% bonus for research participation (described below)}$

The grading criteria are subject to change.

Appeal Policy

Answers are not always etched in stone. You will be given one week after any test or assignment is returned in order to submit written appeals to answers that you felt were unfairly marked incorrect. Beyond a week, forever hold your peace. This policy does not apply to the final test.

NOTE: I reserve the right to deduct points for appeals that I consider to be off the wall and entirely wrong (i.e., don't waste my time). In order to submit an effective appeal, you must cite the page, paragraph, and line from your text or photocopy the appropriate section of your lecture notes and demonstrate how these support the answer that you chose. Remember, if the lecture and text conflict, always pick the answer from the lecture.

Attendance and Class Participation

You are adults and can prioritize your lives accordingly. I do not take attendance, but encourage you to attend since you are responsible for all material (and occasionally get slush points for remembering punch lines to bad jokes). I will not provide notes for missed classes. Class participation is encouraged. Your comments, questions, and ideas will help you, and others, understand the material. Exceptionally good (implying quality, not quantity) participation may result in slush fund points.

Research Participation

You will have the opportunity to sign up to serve as participants in research projects throughout the course (**SOME OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS**). You will be given a research participation credit for each hour (or part of an hour) that you participate. Each of these is worth one point. You may earn up to 3 points (%) that will be added to your final grade. **IF YOU SIGN UP FOR A STUDY AND DO NOT SHOW UP (WITHOUT A LEGITIMATE EXCUSE), 2 POINTS WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM YOUR FINAL GRADE FOR EACH MISSED APPOINTMENT.** There **may** be other types of opportunities for research-related extra credit.

Academic Integrity

You must maintain academic integrity. Cheating on a test is an obvious violation. This may result in a 0 on the test, a 0 in the course, or other penalties. Plagiarism is another violation. You must cite material **and** ideas that are not your own. If you are caught ripping articles from journals, you are in deep trouble.

Course Schedule

The course schedule reflects the work that we will be doing each week. The schedule is tentative and subject to change. Changes will be announced in class. **You are responsible for all announcements made in class, whether you are present or not (often things are announced once only and apply to the next class period.)**

Week 1, September 4:	Introduction and Overview; Introduction and Chapters 1, 2, Appendix A-10, pp. 281-303
Week 2, September 11:	
Week 3, September 18:	
Week 4, September 25:	Biological Aspects of Psychology; Ch. 3
Week 5, October 2:	Sensation; Ch. 4
Week 6, October 9:	Happy Thanksgiving; Perception; Ch. 5
Week 7, October 16:	Test 1 – Thursday
Study Week, October 23-27	
Week 8, October 30:	Learning; Ch 6.
Week 9, November 6:	Memory; Ch. 7
Week 10, November 13:	Cognition and Language; Ch. 8
Week 11, November 20:	Consciousness; Ch. 9
Week 12, November 27:	Cognitive Abilities; Ch. 10
Week 13, December 4:	Catch up / Review Test 2: Scheduled by the Registrar during the examination period
Week 14, January 8:	Motivation and Emotion; Ch. 11
Week 15, January 15:	Lab 1
Week 16, January 22:	Human Development; Ch. 12 LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY – January 26, 2007
Week 17, January 29:	Health, Stress, and Coping; Ch. 13
Week 18, February 5:	Personality; Ch. 14
Week 19, February 12:	Lab 2
Study Week, February 19-23	
Week 20, February 26:	
Week 21, March 5:	Test 3 -- Thursday
Week 22, March 12:	Psychological Disorders; Ch. 15
Week 23, March 19:	Treatment of Psychological Disorders; Ch. 16
Week 24, March 26:	Social Cognition; Ch. 17
Week 25, April 1:	Social Influence; Ch. 18
Week 27, April 5:	Catch up / Review Lab report due on Thursday Test 4: Scheduled by the Registrar during the examination period

NOTE: Tests cover the material above the test, and below the previous test, on the course outline.