

Psychology 2 - General Psychology

Fall 1999

Instructor: Todd Martinez
Office: Humanities Bldg., Room 56 (next to the Tutorial Center)
Phone: 638-3641 ext. 3648 (my number cannot be dialed directly from off-campus)
Office Hours: M & W 10:00 - 11:00
T & TH 9:30 - 11:00
(or by appointment)

Required Text:

Weiten, W. (2000). *Psychology: Themes and Variations - Briefer Version (4th Edition)*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company.

Required CD:

Weiten, W. -- *Psyk.Trek: A Multimedia Introduction to Psychology*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company.

Course Objectives:

This course is designed to provide you with:

- an overview of the field of psychology, including its historical roots, major theories, research findings, and current issues within the field
- an understanding of how psychological research is conducted and how psychological research is applied in everyday life
- an appreciation for the value of applying the scientific method to the study of human behavior

Grading:

Your grade in the course will be based on your performance on the following:

1. Exams (4 worth 100 pts. each)	400 pts.
2. Psyk.trek Simulation Papers (3 worth 20 pts. each)	60 pts.
3. Attendance	90 pts.
4. In-class Papers (6 worth 5 pts. each)	<u>30 pts.</u>
	580 pts.

90 - 100 % = A
80 - 89.9 % = B
70 - 79.9 % = C
60 - 69.9 % = D
0 - 59.9 % = F

Course Requirements:

Exams

There will be four exams throughout the semester. The fourth exam is the final exam, and it will **NOT** be comprehensive. Each exam will contribute to your course grade. Exams may include all types of questions.

You are expected to take the exams on the scheduled exam dates.

It is **YOUR** responsibility to notify me at **least one week in advance** when you have a **valid conflict** with the scheduled exam date.

If you fail to notify me about a potential conflict and you cannot document your absence **in writing**, you **CANNOT** take a make-up exam.

If a make-up exam is allowed, the exam must be taken **after** the scheduled exam date and **before** the next class meeting.

Sometimes unexpected events occur at such a time that you miss an exam. In those instances, you should notify me as soon as is reasonably possible. Also, to take the make-up exam you **must verify** your required school activity, serious illness, or bereavement **in writing**. You should be prepared to take the exam immediately upon your return to school. **NOTE:** If you do not verify the reason for your absence in writing, you **CANNOT** take a make-up exam.

Psyk.trek CD Simulation Papers

You will be required to complete three (3) Psyk.trek Simulation papers. For each paper you will explain the psychological concept or phenomena demonstrated, describe what the simulation required you to do, and summarize your data. Each paper is to be no more than two pages long (typed or computer-generated). **Handwritten papers will not be accepted.** Due dates are on the course schedule. The first Simulation paper is due at the end of the 7th week, and I will provide more detail as the first due date approaches.

Reading Assignments

You are expected to complete all reading assignments on time, and to be prepared to participate in class discussions and activities.

Attendance and Class Participation

Attending class is essential for your success in this course. Naturally, lecture material will appear on exams. However, this course will include any number of other **in-class exercises** (for example, discussions, debates, small group activities), and the **exams will include questions related to those exercises.**

Attendance will be taken each class period, and you will gain (or lose) points that count toward your overall course grade. For courses that meet twice a week, each class session is worth three (3) points. For courses that meet three times a week, each class period is worth two (2) points. To protect yourself against any discrepancies regarding your attendance, I encourage you to **date your lecture notes** from each class meeting.

Also, periodically you might be asked to write **brief papers in class**. The in-class papers will be graded on a **credit/no credit** basis, with each paper contributing **five points** toward your overall course points.

Absences

School policy permits you to miss **no more than the equivalent of two weeks of class**. Therefore, you can have no more than six (6) absences for courses that meet three times a week, and no more than four (4) absences for courses that meet twice a week. If you miss the equivalent of two weeks of class before the official drop date, **September 3**, and you do not make up the absences (see below), **you will be dropped from this course**. Excessive absences after the official drop date can also result in your being dropped from the course.

Making Up an Absence

It is **YOUR** responsibility to obtain the material you missed, and to clear your absences.

If you miss a class, I strongly suggest that you ask at least two people for their lecture notes and that you take the steps necessary to make up the absence.

A maximum of two weeks worth of absences can be made up -- six (6) for classes that meet three times a week; four (4) for classes meeting twice a week.

An absence can be made up by writing a summary and critique of an article selected by your instructor. One critique makes up for one absence. The critique must be written in paragraph form, and it must be either typed or computer-generated. Handwritten papers will not be accepted. The critique(s) must be turned in **within one week** of your return to school.

Demonstrating Satisfactory Progress:

Students are expected to complete the assigned reading and other course assignments, attend class, be prepared to participate in class discussions and/or activities, and be able to demonstrate knowledge of the course material on exams. If, **after the first two exams**, a student has **less than 55% of the total possible points**, he or she may be dropped from the course for **NOT MAKING** satisfactory progress.

Cheating and Plagiarism:

Reedley College has a written policy regarding cheating and plagiarism which **YOU SHOULD READ**. The policy describes the specific steps that will be taken when an incident of cheating or plagiarism is suspected.

Cheating is defined as the willful and intentional practice of fraudulent and deceptive acts for the purpose of improving a grade or obtaining course credit. Cheating is **NOT** limited to examinations only. It includes **any** act in which you engage for the purpose of obtaining **unearned academic credit**.

Plagiarism involves fraudulently representing someone else's writing or other scholarly material as your own. In other words, plagiarism is when you try to take credit for someone else's work. The simple rule is that you must give credit to whatever reference source you are using, including those found on the Internet.

Course Schedule:

WEEK	CHAPTER	TOPIC
1 Aug. 16 - Aug. 20	1	The Evolution of Psychology
2 Aug. 23 - Aug. 27	2	The Research Enterprise in Psychology
3 Aug. 30 - Sep. 3	Appendix B	Statistical Methods

EXAM 1 - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

5 Sep. 13 - Sep. 17	3	The Biological Bases of Behavior
6 Sep. 20 - Sep. 24	4	Sensation and Perception
7 Sep. 27 - Oct. 1	5	Variations in Consciousness (pp. 131 - 142 ONLY)
<i>Psyk.trek Simulation Paper Due - Tuesday, October 5</i>		
8 Oct. 4 - Oct. 8	10	Motivation and Emotion

EXAM 2 - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12

10 Oct. 18 - Oct. 22	6	Learning Through Conditioning
11 Oct. 25 - Oct. 29	7	Human Memory
12 Nov. 1 - Nov. 5	8	Language and Thought
<i>Psyk.trek Simulation Paper Due - Tuesday, November 9</i>		
13 Nov. 8 - Nov. 12	9	Intelligence and Psychological Testing

EXAM 3 - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18

15 Nov. 22 - Nov. 26	12	Personality: Theory, Research, and Assessment
<i>Psyk.trek Simulation Paper Due - Thursday, December 2</i>		
16 Nov. 29 - Dec. 3	14	Psychological Disorders
17 Dec. 6 - Dec. 10	15	Psychotherapy

FINAL EXAM - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16 1:00 - 3:00
