

Reedley College

GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY SYLLABUS

MARY ANN VALENTINO
HOME 638-1169

Fall 1999
Sat. 9:00am - 11:50am

Textbook:

Weiten, W. (2000). Psychology: Themes and variations (briefer version, 4th ed.) Brooks/Cole Publishing: Pacific Grove.

Course Objectives:

1. To encourage an interest in psychology.
2. To proffer a well-rounded introduction to the most significant concepts and findings of contemporary psychology.
3. To impart a basic understanding of how psychologists study behavior, conduct their research, and evaluate their findings.
4. To cultivate a sensitivity and understanding of ourselves and others.
5. To provide a firm foundation for students who will take other courses in psychology or who would like to study further on their own.

Attendance:

The faculty places strong emphasis on attendance in all classes. You are expected to attend all class meetings. You will earn points for each class attended. You are expected to be in the classroom at the time that class begins. If you are tardy (i.e., if you are not in your seat at the time attendance is taken), you will be given a half absence for that day. If you leave before class is dismissed, you will be given a half absence for that day.

I will take attendance at each class session. If you are absent for two (2) consecutive class sessions within the ~~50% drop deadline~~, or you are making unsatisfactory progress due to irregular or lack of attendance, I may drop you from the class. If you are dropped from the class due to a poor grade, you may continue to attend and to participate in an attempt to improve your standing in the class. When you have succeeded in improving your grade, I will reinstate you into the class.

Lack of regular attendance after the 50% drop deadline may result in an unsatisfactory grade. If you want to withdraw from the course, it is your responsibility to notify the Records Office by the drop deadline.

Exams: You will need to bring a scan-tron 882 and #2 pencil for all tests.

There will be seven tests. The tests may be made up of multiple choice, matching, true/false, short answer, and essay questions. Test questions may come from material presented in your textbook, my lectures, extra assigned

readings, videotapes, etc. Some lecture material may not be found in the text; you are responsible for this material on the tests also. Therefore, if you miss a lecture, it would be wise to obtain a copy of someone else's notes for that day. You will be able to throw out the lowest of your test scores.

GIVEN THAT YOU ARE ABLE TO DROP YOUR LOWEST TEST SCORE, THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP TESTS GIVEN DURING THE COURSE OF THE SESSION. If you must miss an exam and you wish to take it at a later date, you must let me know within three days of that exam. Your name and missed exam will be noted, and you will be given the opportunity to take an alternative make-up test on Saturday, December 11. Make-up exams may be more difficult than the regularly scheduled exams.

In-Class Assignments and Homework:

Periodically, I will have an in-class writing assignment or exercise for you to complete, or I will give brief homework assignments. Due to the nature of these assignments, you may not be able to make-up missed assignments. Thus, the total points available will surpass the total points allotted for this portion of your grade. In other words, it will be possible to earn some extra credit points by completing all of these or to earn 100% of the points allotted to this portion of your grade even if you missed one (or maybe two.)

Extra Credit:

I will have the book Forty Studies that Changed Psychology: Explorations Into the History of Psychological Research (3rd edition) on reserve in the library. Extra credit assignments will be fastened to the inside front cover. I will discuss this further in class. Please do not hesitate to inquire about this at any time during the course of the semester.

Final Grades:

Your final grade for the course will be based on the following:

1. six of the seven tests, which will be worth 14% (140 pts) each;
2. in-class assignments/homework, which will be worth 10% (100 pts);
2. attendance and participation, which will be worth 6% (60 pts);
3. extra credit, which will be worth up to 10% (100 pts).

Letter grades will be earned as follows:

90% - 100%	=	A
80% - 89%	=	B
70% - 79%	=	C
60% - 69%	=	D
below 60%	=	F

Office Hours:

As an adjunct faculty member, I do not have an office; therefore, in order to meet with me to discuss class/test issues, you must set up an appointment. Please feel free to speak with me before or after class. You may also call me at home at 638-1169 or leave a message on my voice mail at 285-6510.

COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>Dates:</u>	<u>Agenda/Reminders:</u>
August 21	Chapter 1: The evolution of psychology
August 28	Chapter 2: The research enterprise in psychology
September 4	Chapter 6: Learning through conditioning <i>(Last day to drop class with receiving a W on transcript)</i>
September 11	Test One: Chapters 1 & 2; Chapter 7: Human Memory
September 18	Chapter 3: The biological bases of behavior
September 25	Test Two: Chapters 6 & 7; Chapter 4: Sensation and perception
October 2	Chapter 9: Intelligence and psychological testing
October 9	Test Three: Chapters 3 & 4; Chapter 8: Language and thought
October 16	Chapter 5: Variations in Consciousness; Chapter 10: Motivation and emotion <i>(Last day to drop the class)</i>
October 23	Test Four: Chapters 8 & 9; Chapter 13: Stress, coping, and health
October 30	Chapter 11: Human development across the life span
November 6	Test Five: Chapters 5, 10, & 13; Chapter 12: Personality
November 13	Chapter 14: Psychological Disorders
November 20	Test Six: Chapters 11 & 12; Chapter 15: Psychotherapy
November 27	No Class
December 4	Chapter 16: Social Behavior
December 11	Test Seven: Chapters 14, 15, & 16

The course schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Any changes that are made will be announced during the class session.