Psychology 2: General Psychology (online)

Course Syllabus – PSY 2-53781 Fall 2020

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# Course Overview

Course description

This class will examine the many ways that scientists discuss and explain human behavior and mental processes.

### Course outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

A. Explain the nature and origin of the empirical field of Psychology.

B. Describe the relationship between historical figures and appropriate

psychological theories.

C. Identify psychological concepts relating to the nervous system, sensory and

perceptual processes, states of consciousness, learning ability, memory,

motivation and emotion, human development, personality, and stress

management.

D. Explain human behavior throughout the lifespan, biologically, behaviorally,

cognitively, humanistically, psychologically, and culturally.

E. Demonstrate knowledge of the empirical data related to the aforementioned

concepts.

F. Demonstrate knowledge of basic research methodology.

G. Identify future directions in psychological research.

H. Explain the impact of cultural issues in the formation of psychological

concepts.

Text

Psychology - OpenStax

We will be using a free OER text book that you can read online, save a PDF file, read via app, download on kindle, order a print, and a few other choices. Below is the link and URL where you can access the book. On the left side of the page you can see the options as to how you can view and read the book. I recommend downloading a copy if you think you might encounter technical problems.

[Psychology-OpenStax](https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology)

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# Course Requirements

This will be a 100% online course. You will not have to log on at designated times. Lectures and class activities will be accessible on your own schedule (asynchronous course); however, there will be due dates for assignments and exams. There will be three midterms and a final. All exams will be worth 100 points and will be a combination of multiple choice, true-false, and/or fill-in questions. The lowest of the three midterms will be dropped and not counted toward your grade. However, the final will be graded for everyone. Additionally, there will be 360 points available through Canvas discussions and two psychology topic summary papers.

### Discussion Posts

A discussion topic or question will be posted each week and will correspond with the chapter or topic being discussed that given week. You WILL have to reply to the discussion post in a thorough and thoughtful manner and ALSO reply to two different reply posts made by your peers. This means you will enter a total of three replies each week (one to me and two to peers). The reply or response you make to the original post made by will be worth 10 points. The two replies to your peers will be worth 5 points each for a total of 20 points each week in discussion points. Total semester points available for discussion posts is 320 points. The discussion posts will be available by Monday mornings at 8:00 AM and will be due the same week on Friday by 11:59 PM.

#### Psychology Topic Paper

There will be two psychology topic papers assigned this semester. I will assign a topic and ask you to write a response and summarize what you have learned in the course as it relates to the topic. There will be specific questions and information to include in your paper that will be provided as we get closer to this assignment. I like to do this because there are times you have information you do not always want to share with everyone else in class or in discussion boards and this type of assignment allows for critical thinking without worry of others knowing the content. One topic paper will be due halfway through course and the second will be due at the end of the course. Each topic paper is worth 20 points for a total of 40 points.

#### Exams

There will be three midterms and a final. All exams will be worth 100 points and will be a combination of 50 multiple choice, true-false, and/or fill-in questions. **The lowest of your midterm exam scores will be dropped, but all students must take the final exam and that score will not be dropped in the final point total.** All exams will be assigned on the dates below (Friday 8:00 AM), but will be due by 11:59 PM on Monday. This gives you four days to complete the exam. Students will have 1.5 hours to complete the exam. Once you start the exam, the 1.5 hours begins. The final exam will be available from Monday, December 7, 2020 and is scheduled to be due on Thursday, December 10, 2020 by 11:59 PM. You'll have to be **flexible** if the scheduled dates/times are inconvenient for you. Because of the nature of an online course, make-up exams may be difficult to accommodate.

# Professionalism

Online learning is not everyone’s favorite BUT due to COVID-19 online courses are likely a big part of your life right now. You need to be a very self-directed and personally responsible student to be successful in online courses. Online you do not see your instructor twice a week, reminding you of what’s due next class, or discussing other projects. Therefore, you need to use your motivation and skills to successfully embark on this course. I will also make myself available through email and/or zoom to help you throughout the course. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns related to the course. We will work together! You might also find some comfort in knowing that I have been teaching online courses for several semesters now and students are usually as satisfied with online course as those who enroll in face-to-face courses. Remember that tutoring, DSP&S, counseling and other resources to help you succeed will still be readily available online.

Computer problems, electrical shortages, and other malfunctions do occur, and it is your responsibility to complete work by the deadline regardless of any of these problems. Please try to avoid having to ask for extensions because your computer crashed, or you were unable to ‘get online’ to complete the work at the last minute. You are given several days to complete an assignment, therefore, if your technology fails on the last day the assignment is due, you will not be excused from the deadline unless there was a serious issue. I recommend you always complete your work before the deadline to prevent any problem of this sort.

Course Drop Policy

If there is a waiting list students who do not complete assignments during the first week class can be dropped as that would be considered being a no show.

# Plagiarism

Please note that plagiarism is a violation of Reedley College policy. Anyone deemed to have submitted plagiarized work will automatically receive a failing grade. Plagiarism may include, but is not limited to, failing to provide complete citations and references for all work that draws on the ideas, words, or work of others, failing to identify the contributors to work done in collaboration, submitting duplicate work to be evaluated in different classes without the knowledge and consent of the instructors involved, or failing to observe computer security systems and software copyrights. Again, all assignments, tests, and quizzes are to be completed on an individual basis; collaboration with other classmates or anyone else is **not allowed** unless instructed otherwise.

Students with Disabilities:

If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (e.g. Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact your instructor as soon as possible.

# Grades

The following scale will decide final grades. There will be a total of 660 points possible from the three 100-point midterms, the 100-point final, and 360 points available from the other activities (remember, your lowest midterm test score will be dropped).

## Grading Scale

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Points | Letter Grade | Percentage |
| 594 – 660 | A | 90% |
| 528 – 593 | B | 80% |
| 462 – 527 | C | 70% |
| 396 – 461 | D | 60% |
| 0 – 395 | F | 50% |

# Course Schedule

| **Week** | **Date** | **Readings/Topic** | **Discussion Due** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Week 1 | 8/10 | Ch.1: Introduction to Psychology | 8/14 |
| Week 2 | 8/17 | Ch. 2: Psychological Research | 8/21 |
| Week 3 | 8/24 | Ch. 3: Biopsychology | 8/28 |
| Week 4 | 8/31  9/4 | Ch. 4: States ofConsciousness  **Exam 1: Chapters 1-4** | 9/4  **Due 9/08** |
| Week 5 | 9/7 | Ch. 5: Sensation and Perception | 9/11 |
| Week 6 | 9/14 | Ch. 6: Learning | 9/18 |
| Week 7 | 9/21 | Ch. 7: Thinking and Intelligence | 9/25 |
| Week 8 | 9/28  10/2 | Ch. 8: Memory  **Exam 2: Chapters 5-8** | 10/2  **Due 10/5** |
| Week 9 | 10/5 | Ch. 9: Lifespan Development | 10/9 |
| Week 10 | 10/12  10/16 | Ch. 10: Motivation and Emotion  **Psychology Topics Paper #1** | 10/16  **Due 10/19** |
| Week 11 | 10/19 | Ch. 11: Personality | 10/23 |
| Week 12 | 10/26 | Ch. 12: Social Psychology  **Exam 3: Chapters 9-12** | 10/30  **Due 11/2** |
| Week 13 | 11/2 | Ch. 13: Industrial-Organizational Psychology | 11/6 |
| Week 14 | 11/9 | Ch. 14: Stress, Lifestyle, and Health | 11/13 |
| Week 15 | 11/16 | Ch. 15: Psychological Disorders | 11/20 |
| Week 16 | 11/23 | Psychological Disorders Continued  **Psychology Topic Paper #2**  **Thanksgiving Break (11/26-11/27)** | **Due 11/25** |
| Week 17 | 11/30 | Ch. 16: Therapy and Treatment | 12/4 |
| Week 18 | 12/7 | **Final Exam: Chapters 13-16** | **Due 12/10** |

**This syllabus is subject to (very probable) change and/or revision during the academic term.**

**Have a GREAT SEMESTER-If you have any questions, just ask!**