Psychology 2: General Psychology (online)

Course Syllabus – PSY 2-55505 Spring 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

King, L. (2017).  *The Science of* *Psychology: An Appreciative View (*4th Ed.; loose-leaf)  New York: McGraw-Hill.

McGraw-Hill Online Learning System: *Connect*

McGraw-Hill’s Connect is a web-based assignment and assessment solution required for this course. Connect is designed to assist you with your coursework based on your needs. As outlined in this syllabus, assignments on Connect will make up a significant portion of your overall course grade.

Go to our course [Connect Registration page](https://connect.mheducation.com/class/l-vargas-psy-2---55505-spring-2020) to register.

[Access for Connect](http://video.mhhe.com/watch/4q72PpEpzkXAd3hW4o52c8?): Here’s a video that explains Connect and the registration process: http://video.mhhe.com/watch/4q72PpEpzkXAd3hW4o52c8?

**Note: The Welcome Letter in Canvas thoroughly outlines purchase and use of textbook. Please read it!**

# Course Requirements

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. Additionally, there will be 500 points available through Canvas discussions, Connect LearnSmart assignments, and a psychology topic summary paper.

## Connect Learnsmart Assignments

Students will complete the practice quiz/exams at the end of the chapters. They fulfill two functions: they give you an estimate of your level of understanding of the material and send you back to the topic in the text if you're not sure about it, and prepare you for the exams. You'll receive 20 points for successfully completing each chapter assignment, for a total of 320 points through the semester. You can take them at any time, but they need to be **completed by 11:59 PM on the day they are due of the week they were assigned.** Since there are two chapters covered per week one chapter will be due every Wednesday and the second chapter of that week will be due every Friday (for example, chapter 1 is due by 11:59 PM on 3/18 and chapter 2 is due by 11:59 PM on 3/20).

### Discussion Posts

A discussion topic or question will be posted for each chapter. This means there will be two discussion topics posted each week on Canvas. These will be due in the same manner as the Connect LearnSmart assignments, meaning the discussion post for the first chapter of the week will be due by 11:59 PM on Wednesdays and the discussion post for the second chapter of the week will be due by 11:59 PM on Fridays. Discussion posts are worth 5 points each for a total of 160 points.

#### Psychology Topic Summary Paper

There will be two psychology topic papers assigned this semester. You will select a topic from the course/textbook and write a summary. 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 board and this type of assignment allows for critical thinking without worry of others knowing the content. One will be due halfway through course and the second will be due at the end of the course. Each topic summary paper is worth 10 points for a total of 20 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 (Saturday), but will be due by 11:59 PM on Monday. This gives you three 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 is scheduled to be due on Wednesday, May 20, 2020 by 11:59 PM. It will be available from Monday to Wednesday of finals week. You'll have to be **flexible** if the scheduled dates/times are inconvenient for you. Because of the nature of an online course, no make-up exams will be allowed.

# Class Etiquette

**IMPORTANT WARNING!** Online learning is not for everyone. 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 seriously consider your motivation and skills before you embark on this course.

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 do not write to me to ask for extensions because your computer crashed, or you were unable to ‘get online’ to complete the work. 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.

To clarify: Under no circumstance will late work be accepted at any time in the term!

I recommend you always complete your work before the deadline to prevent any problem of this sort.

# The “P” Word

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.

# Grades

The following scale will decide final grades. There will be a total of 800 points possible from the three 100-point midterms, the 100-point final, and 500 points available from the other activities (remember, your lowest midterm test score will be dropped).

## Grading Scale

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Points | Letter Grade | Percentage |
| 800 – 720 | A | 90% |
| 719 – 640 | B | 80% |
| 639 – 560 | C | 70% |
| 559 – 480 | D | 60% |
| 479 – 0 | F | 50% |

# Course Schedule

| **Week** | **Date** | **Readings/Topic** | **Discussion & LearnSmart Due** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Week 1 | 3/16 | Ch.1: What is Psychology?  Ch. 2: The Scientific Method | 3/18  3/20 |
| Week 2 | 3/23 | Ch. 3: Biological Foundations of Behavior  Ch. 4: Sensation and Perception | 3/25  3/27 |
| Week 3 | 3/30 | **Exam 1: Chapters 1-4**  Ch. 5:States ofConsciousness  Ch. 6: Learning | **Due 3/30**  4/1  4/3 |
| **April 6-10** | **4/6-4/10** | **Spring Break – No Classes** |  |
| Week 4 | 4/13 | Ch. 7: Memory  Ch. 8: Thinking, Intelligence, & Language  **Psychology Topic Summary Paper #1** | 4/15  4/17  **Due 4/17** |
| Week 5 | 4/20 | **Exam 2: Chapters 5-8**  Ch. 10: Motivation and Emotion  Ch. 11: Gender, Sex, and Sexuality | **Due 4/20**  4/22  4/24 |
| Week 6 | 4/27 | Ch. 12: Personality  Ch. 13: Social Psychology | 4/29  5/1 |
| Week 7 | 5/4 | **Exam 3: Chapters 10-13**  Ch. 14: I/O Psychology  Ch. 15: Psychopathology | **Due 5/4**  5/6  5/8 |
| Week 8 | 5/11 | Ch. 16: Therapies  Ch. 17: Health Psychology  **Psychology Topic Summary Paper #2** | 5/13  5/15  **Due 5/15** |
| Week 9 | 5/18 | **Final Exam: Chapters 14-17** | **Due 5/20** |

***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!**