

**Introductory Psychology Online
Psych 155**

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Texts: Myers, David G. (2004). *Psychology*, Eighth Edition. Worth Publishing. (ISBN: 0-7167-2831-1)

Optional: Workbook to accompany text, though there are many learning aids online as well.

Course Description:

This course will provide a general introduction to the discipline of psychology. As such, it serves as the first course for individuals who want to major or minor in psychology, as well as a foundation course for non-majors. Emphasis will be given to the methods, theories, and findings of psychological research. Areas covered may include biological bases of behavior, learning, perception, thinking, development, personality, abnormality, and social behavior.

Course Objectives:

1. To expose students to a wide variety of areas of research and theory in psychology.
2. To provide students with an understanding of human behavior.
3. To encourage students to critically evaluate the research and theory associated with each area.

Very important: To get a better grade in ANY class, do these things.

1. Outline the chapters. Split up the chapters among classmates or do it on your own.
2. Always check to make sure the outlines are complete yourself.
3. Make vocabulary lists, paying close attention to words in the text that are in bold or italicized print.
4. Devise ways to remember the concepts ("mnemonic devices").
5. Later, when you study for tests, review both the class notes (which some students also outline) AND your chapter outlines.
6. Team up with other classmates for study sessions and quiz each other. Better to find out what you don't know BEFORE the test than after it.

Although I can't offer any guarantees, some students have raised their test scores 20-30 points by using these techniques, and have been known to go from a D- to a B+ in the class. One student started using these techniques in all of her classes and went from barely making it in college to graduating with honors. These things, when done in earnest, can potentially make a huge difference in any class.

Course Requirements:

1. Viewing slides online AND participation in class discussion. This class involves both online lecture and opportunities for discussion. Your input and ideas are important. Discussion will be held from Thursday at 9 pm through Sunday at 9 pm. Students can enter the discussion at any time during that period. Online discussion credit will be awarded as follows:

Discussion grading system:

1 point – minimal entry, e.g., accurate use of a term
2 points – average quality entry. e.g., use of a term and elaboration of its definition and application.
3 points – thoughtful, insightful entry, e.g., above, plus an informed comment about another discussion participant's comment.

Students can earn up to 10 points each week through participation in discussions with other students.

2. Completion of three exams. Exams will be multiple choice and based on the text and lectures. I recommend banding together with other students online to study and share the outlining of chapters. **How to study for my tests:** My tests are characterized as comprehensive, but fair. Learn the material well! The outlines that I just mentioned are a great way to study for my tests. Studying with other students (even over the phone!) is also a good idea. It is better to get that uncomfortable feeling when a peer asks a question you can't answer than during the exam. The more ways your peers ask you questions, the more likely it is that you will come across an item that will be on the exam.

3. Optional final: At the end of the class an optional, comprehensive exam will be given. If you do better on this exam than on one of the tests, it will replace that grade. It will only replace one test grade, however. This exam cannot hurt your grade - it can only help. Students who are satisfied with their grades are not required to take it.

4. Extra credit. Students can earn extra credit by:

Critiquing (summarizing, then giving their own opinion) on an article from a professional journal in psychology. The critique should be 3-4 pages long, 12-point times roman or 11 point Arial, and double-spaced. The reference (authors, date, title of article, journal, volume, pages) for the article must be included. The journal must be a journal listed in PsycInfo, an online database used by the university. Journals that are not listed in PsycInfo are NOT acceptable. The librarian can help you use PsycInfo if you have trouble. One summary can be used for each test and counts for a maximum of 4 points (range is 0 to 4), for a total maximum of 12 points for the semester. Critiques are due one week after each exam.

Grading:

Exam I	25%
Exam II	25%
Exam III	25%
<u>Discussion entries</u>	<u>25%</u>
Total	100%

Grades:

A	94+%	A-	90-93%
B+	87-89%	B	84-86%
B-	80-83%	C+	77-79%
C	74-76%	C-	70-73%
D+	67-69%	D	64-66%
D-	60-63%	F	59 and below

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Week of:	Chapters:	Topics:
5/27 (1)	Prologue Chapter 1	The Story of Psychology Thinking Critically with Psychological Science
6/3 (2)	Chapter 2	Neuroscience and Behavior
6/10 (3)	Chapter 4 Exam I (on Ch. 1, 2, 4)	Developing through the Life Span
6/17 (4)	Chapter 5 Chapter 6	Sensation Perception
6/24 (5)	Chapter 8 Chapter 9 Exam I (on Ch. 5, 6, 8, 9)	Learning Memory
7/1 (6)	Chapter 14	Stress & Health
7/8 (7)	Chapter 16	Psychological Disorders
7/15 (8)	Chapter 17 Exam III (on Ch. 14, 16, & 17)	Therapy
7/18	Cumulative Optional Final Exam - online	