

**Introductory Psychology
Psych 155**

Time: 11:00 AM-12:15 PM Tues. & Thurs. Place: Holroyd 009
Professor: Dr. Lynn Collins Phone: 215-951-5046
Office: Holroyd 117 E-mail: Collins@LaSalle.edu
Faculty web page: <http://www.lasalle.edu/~collins/psych/collins.htm>
Psychology web page: <http://www.lasalle.edu/~collins/psych>

Office hours: Tuesday, 3:30-5:30 PM; Wednesdays: 2:00-4:00 PM; Thursdays, 3:30-4:30 PM, and by appointment. **Please note:** I am on campus at other times as well. If you stop by during office hours and I am not seated in my chair, I may have gone to get coffee, may be in the copy room, etc., and will be back soon. Students who come to my office take precedence over concurrent incoming phone calls (I won't pick up the phone if I already have a student in my office, but will return the call later). I respond quickly to e-mail messages.

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

Optional: Workbook to accompany text.

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. Attendance AND participation in class discussion. This class involves both lecture and discussion. Your input and ideas are important.

2. Completion of three exams. Exams will be multiple choice and based on the text and lectures. I recommend banding together with other students 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: During final exam week 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:

A. 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.

B. Participating in ongoing psychology research projects. Students can earn 4 points by participating in ongoing research projects. Students or faculty will visit the class to describing opportunities for participation. One experiment or study can be used for each test and counts for as 4 points for a total maximum of 12 points for the semester.

Grading:

Exam I	25%
Exam II	35%
Exam III	35%
<u>Attendance & discussion</u>	<u>5%</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

Introductory Psychology

Week of:	Chapters:	Topics:
8/28 8/30	Prologue	The Story of Psychology continued
9/4 9/6	Chapter 1	Thinking Critically with Psychological Science more on psychological science
9/11 9/13	Chapter 2	Neuroscience and Behavior more neuroscience
9/18 9/20	Chapter 4	Developing through the Life Span more development
9/25 9/27	Chapter 5 No class – library workshop at library	Sensation
10/2 10/4	Exam I (on Ch. 1, 2, 4, 5)	Sensation
10/9 10/11	Chapter 6	Perception Perception
10/16 10/18	Chapter 8	Learning Learning
10/23 10/25	Mid-Semester Holiday Chapter 9	Memory
10/30 11/1	Chapter 12	more memory Motivation
11/6 11/8	Exam II (on Ch. 6, 8, 9, 12)	more motivation
11/13 11/15	Chapter 16	Psychological Disorders more disorders
11/20 11/22	Chapter 15 & 17 Thanksgiving Break	Personality & Therapy
11/27 11/29	More personality & therapy More personality & therapy	
12/4 12/6	Catch up & review day Exam III on 12/4 (on Ch. 15, 16, & 17)	
12/10-14	Cumulative Optional Final Exam date and time to be announced.	