

PSY150: Psychology

Instructor: Ari Matsumura Style of Class: Lecture Credits: 3

Spring Semester: April 9 (TR) – July 31 (F), 2009

Class Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Room:

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 14:00 - 15:00 p.m. (Other times by appointment)

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Course Description:

This course is designed to explore a general overview of the field of psychology, especially focusing on the areas related to the developmental psychology. The topics include lifecycles, learning, intelligence, personality, social behavior and psychological disorders. We will also learn how these diverse areas can be integrated. In addition, the history, the experimental methods of psychology, and the issue of multiculturalism in psychology will be discussed.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students are expected to have:

- 1) A basic understanding of the fundamental concepts, principles & theories of general and developmental psychology.
- 2) A sense of how psychology influences human development and our everyday lives.
- 3) Critical recognition of the issues on which psychologists debate, and the subjects they study.
- 4) Appreciation of the complexity in, and the many explanations of, human behavior as well as the influence of social and cultural diversity.

Class Materials/Websites:

- 1) Rathus, A. Spencer. (2006). *Psychology: Concepts and Connections* 8th ed.). California: Thomson Wadsworth. *Students are required to bring the text book to each class.
- 2) Additional readings on cross-cultural issues in psychology will be assigned.
- 3) <http://psychology.wadsworth.com> – book companion website
- 4) www.infotrac-college.com for articles to read, and for term paper

Miscellaneous notes

The instructor is also a counselor at this university. You can be assured that any events in the past or future in the counseling room will not affect your grade and vice versa. It is recommended to have a counseling appointment with another counselor to ensure that you can express your feeling freely.

Grading Methods:

Evaluation will be made on the basis of exams, a term paper, quizzes/homework, and class participation, as follows:

1) *Exams*: There will be a midterm and a final exam consisting of multiple choice, fill-in and essay questions. Exam questions will be drawn from assigned readings, lectures and quizzes/assignments in related chapters. Therefore, it is in student’s best interest to both read the textbook and attend every class. Each midterm exam counts as 20% of the final grade, and the final exam counts for 30%. The Final is not cumulative.

*You can look at a sample of multiple choice questions in the “Study Guide for Rathus’s Psychology brief version Concepts and Connections.” on the library shelves.

2) *Term Paper*: Students will write a three to five-page paper. Several topics you can choose from will be introduced in the 3rd week. The topics are related to issues or aspects of psychology covered in class, i.e. intelligence, learning, psychological disorders, etc... Use critical thinking skills, including personal experiences and cultural issues around the topic. Detailed instructions will be discussed in class. This will count as 20% of the final grade.

3) *Quizzes and assignments*: The most important goal for this class is for you to have fun while learning a lot about psychology. But to do this, you have to stay on top of the reading. To help you to keep up, there will be quizzes and assignments on the reading material given. There will be 5 of them and your lowest scores will be dropped. Each quiz/assignment counts for 5%.

4) *Class Participation and attendance*: This includes your active involvement in class, and attendance (absence & lateness). Students are expected to attend all classes. If students are planning to add this class during the add/drop period, it is recommended to attend class from the first day. 10% of unexcused absence (3 days) will result one grade lower. Students are strongly encouraged to talk to the instructor before missing any classes. It is your responsibility to obtain notes and handouts from friends and find out assignments.

5) *Extra credits*: Up to 3 points of extra credit may be awarded for full participation of the programs announced in the class.

Grading Sheet:

	Quiz/Homework (Drop lowest one)					Mid term	Final	Term Paper	Participation	*Total
	1	2	3	4	5					
Weight(Y)	5% each for 4 highest scores					20%	30%	20%	10%	100%
Your Score(X)										
(X/100)*Y										

A (Excellent) = 90-100%, B (Good) = 80-89%, C (Satisfactory) = 70-79%, D (Poor) = 60-69%, F (Failure) = 0-59%

*Add extra credits to total if applicable.

Class Schedule:

<i>Weeks #</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topics (Due dates)</i>	<i>Chapters Readings</i>	<i>Quiz/Assign- ments (Ch)</i>
1,2	4/9 (TR) 14 (T) 16 (TR)	Course Overview The Science of Psychology	Syllabus 1	1 (1)
3,4	4/21 (T) 23 (TR) 28 (T)	Quick review on Memory Voyage through the Lifespan (Term Paper instructions) *4/30 (TR)No Class, 5/7 (TR)Monday Schedule	7 3	
5	5/12 (T) 14 (TR)	Voyage through the Lifespan, cont.	6	2(7,3)
6	5/19 (T) 21(TR)	Learning, cont.	3	
7	5/26 (T) 28 (TR)	Learning, cont. Intelligence	3, 8 (p.308-330)	3(6)
8	6/2 (T) 6/4 (TR)	Intelligence, cont. Review	8	
9	6/9 (T) 11 (TR)	Midterm Examination Personality: Theory and Measurement	1,(7),3,6,8 11	
10	6/16 (T) 18 (TR)	Personality: Theory and Measurement	11	
11	6/23 (T) 25 (TR)	Personality: Theory and Measurement Psychological Disorders & therapy	11 12,13	4(11)
12	6/30 (T) 7/2 (TR)	Psychological Disorders & therapy	12,13	
13	7/7 (T) 9 (TR)	Psychological Disorders & therapy	12,13	5(12,13)
14	7/14 (T) 16 (TR)	(Term Paper Due) Social Psychology	14	
15	7/21 (T) 23 (TR)	Social Psychology, cont.	14	
16	7/28 ~	Final Exam	11,12,13,14	

*The date for quizzes and assignments are subject to change.

Last updated 11/7/08