



INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY



Fall 2014

f:Syll Intro Eng Fall 2014 TT

COURSE INFORMATION

PSYC 1301 INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY CRN: 16528 or 17450 TT

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Instructor: Adolfo J. Alvarez, M.A.

Office hours: Mon & Wed: 3- 3:30; Tue & Thur: 12 – 12:30; and by appointment+

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REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Myers, D.G. (2013). *Psychology* (10th Ed.). New York: Worth Publishers.

There are two versions of the textbook—a loose-leaf version (which is cheaper) and a soft-cover version.

Either version is ok. ISBN-13: 978-1-4292-6178-4 ISBN-10: 1-4292-6178-1

STUDY GUIDE

Straub, R.O. *Study guide to accompany David G. Myers Psychology*.

The study guide is not mandatory, but I recommend it strongly to help you prepare for the exams.

Textbooks are very expensive so I encourage you to purchase them from the cheapest source. I have left copies of the textbook and of the study guide at the Reserve Section of the Library's Circulation Desk.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE+

The overall objective of this course is to give you, the student, a survey of the basic principles in general psychology. Specifically, you will learn about:

- 1) The major theories that explain human cognitive processes and behaviors;
- 2) The basic research methods used by psychologists to learn about psychology;
- 3) The difference between psychological science and psychological pseudoscience;
- 4) The applications of psychological knowledge to everyday life;
- 5) How to become a better consumer of psychological information that is presented to us via the television, movies, newspapers, magazines, pop psychology books, electronic media (such as Google, YouTube, etc.), and everyday conversations with people;
- 6) How to develop critical thinking skills; and
- 7) The experience of being a subject in a psychological experiment conducted by the faculty and students of the Department of Psychology.

EXAMS

There will be four non-comprehensive tests, each consisting of 40 to 60 multiple-choice questions. Each test will be worth 100 points. You will have 60 minutes to answer the tests. After each test, I will review the exam to give you immediate feedback on your test performance. I will keep the exams for two weeks in case you want to go over your answers.

Test questions will come from my lectures, the textbook, films, syllabus, and from the presentation by the guest speaker(s). Be prepared to answer all-of-the-above questions, and questions such as: "All of the following are valid or ethical purposes of psychology, with the exception of . . .?" You will be required to watch the film *A Beautiful Mind*, starring Russell Crowe, for the final exam+. I have placed a copy of the film in the Media and Microforms Department at the library.

There will be questions that will come from the textbook on material that I will not cover during the lectures. If you don't study the textbook, you will most likely not get an A or a B. I will not ask you to memorize dates, names of psychologists, or statistics, unless I mention them in class or the textbook states something like: "The most common psychological"; "The number one cause of ... is"; or "The most important"

This syllabus contains important information about the course, its purpose, and your responsibilities, so it is very important for you to read it. You will be tested on the information marked with a +. There will be several questions about the syllabus on each test.

PARTICIPATION IN EXPERIMENTS

The Department of Psychology requires students enrolled in the Introduction to Psychology course to participate as research subjects in experiments conducted by its faculty and students. You will be required to participate in several experiments for a total of **EIGHT** experimental credits+. Each experimental credit will be worth 10 points for a maximum of 80 points. More information about participating in the research experiments is given at the end of this syllabus.

In case you cannot or do not want to participate in the experiments, you can write summaries of **EIGHT** research articles or of **EIGHT** chapters from any journal or book listed in the bibliography section of this syllabus. Each summary will be equivalent to one experimental credit and will be worth 10 points, with the exception of articles published in the journal *Skeptical Inquirer*. Each article you summarize from the *Skeptical Inquirer* magazine is worth 5 points. The summaries must at least one single-spaced page. You **MUST** give me a hard copy of the original research or of the book chapter, if you do not, you will not earn the points. You can write six summaries if you turn them in by a date that I will specify during the first days of class, and you will still earn 80 points. The last day to turn in the summaries is Thursday, **November 20**.

You can combine any number of research participation with any number of written research summaries. For example, you can participate in four experiments and write four summaries; or, participate in six experiments and write two summaries. The research participation and the written research summaries must add up to eight.

COMPUTATION OF FINAL GRADE

Your final course grade will be the addition of the four exams (400 points), plus the points for participating in the experiments or the written summaries of the research articles (80 points), all divided by 4.8. Your final grade will be computed as follows:

$$\text{Final grade} = (\text{Test 1} + \text{T 2} + \text{T 3} + \text{T 4} + \text{Experiments} + \text{Summaries}) / 4.8$$

Grading for each test and for the final grade will be based on the following scale:

$$A = 90 - 100 \quad B = 80 - 89 \quad C = 70 - 79 \quad D = 60 - 69 \quad F = 0 - 59$$

Grading for the final grade for the course will be based on the following scale:

$$A = 432 - 480 \quad B = 384 - 431 \quad C = 336 - 383 \quad D = 288 - 335 \quad F = 0 - 287$$

You will need an 882-E Scantron and a number-two pencil for the tests. The answers on the Scantron will be considered the final answers so erase completely if you change answers.

Please go to the bathroom before the exam as you will not be permitted to leave the classroom once the exam has begun+. No student will be allowed to enter the classroom once a student has finished an exam and has left the classroom+.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is essential to learn the course material, and because I will discuss some topics that are not in the textbook. If you miss three classes or more+, you may be dropped from the course. Thus, make sure you sign the attendance sheet, even if you are late. If you know that you are going to be absent, please notify me in advance via an e-mail. If you are absent, get the notes from a student as it is not my policy to give my Powerpoint presentations.

TOUR OF SLEEP CLINIC

A tour of the Sonno Sleep Center is scheduled for Thursday, 9/25, (the week I'll cover the topic of sleep) at 12:15 p.m. Participation in the tour is voluntary, not mandatory. The clinic is two blocks from UTEP at 2311 N. Mesa, Suite E. The clinic is owned by Dr. S. Alvarez, who is not related to me. Students who go to the tour must sign a UTEP waiver form prior to the tour. I will provide the form to you or you can print the form from Blackboard, under the heading of "Sleep Clinic Waiver."

CALENDAR

The following calendar is tentative and may change. Any changes will be announced in class and in Blackboard. It is your responsibility to be informed of any changes.

- 1) Tue 8/26 Orientation to course and The Story of Psychology (Prologue)
- 2) Thu 8/28 The Story of Psychology and Subfields of Psychology (Appendix A)
- 3) Tue 9/02 Thinking Critically With Psychological Science (Ch. 1)
- 4) Thu 9/04 Thinking Critically With Psychological Science
- 5) Tue 9/09 Thinking Critically With Psychological Science
- 6) Thu 9/11 The Biology of Mind (Ch. 2)
- 7) Tue 9/16 The Biology of Mind
- 8) Thu 9/18 TEST 1. Prologue and Chs 1, 2, Appendix A, Time Management, and syllabus**
- 9) Tue 9/23 Consciousness and the Two-Track Mind (Ch. 3)
- 10) Thu 9/25 Consciousness and the Two-Track Mind
Tour of Sonno Sleep Clinic. Immediately after class.
- 11) Tue 9/30 Sensation and Perception (Ch. 6)
- 12) Thu 10/02 Learning (Ch. 7)
- 13) Tue 10/07 Learning
- 14) Thu 10/09 Memory (Ch. 8)
- 15) Tue 10/14 Memory
- 16) Thu 10/16 TEST 2. Chs. 3, 6, 7, 8, and syllabus**
- 17) Tue 10/21 Developing Through the Life Span (Ch. 5)
- 18) Thu 10/23 Developing Through the Life Span
- 19) Tue 10/28 Motivation and Work (Ch. 11)
- 20) Thu 10/30 Motivation and Work
- 21) Tue 11/04 Emotion, Stress, and Health (Ch. 12)
- 22) Thu 11/06 Emotion, Stress, and Health
- 23) Tue 11/11 Social Psychology (Ch. 14)
- 24) Thu 11/13 TEST 3. Chs. 5, 11, 12, 14, & syllabus.**
Last day to turn in summaries of research articles
- 25) Tue 11/18 Personality (Ch. 13)
- 26) Thu 11/20 Psychological Disorders (Ch. 15)
- 27) Tue 11/25 Psychological Disorders
- 28) Thu 11/27 Thanksgiving.
- 29) Tue 12/02 Psychological Disorders
- 30) Thu 12/04 Therapy (Ch. 16)
- 31) Thu 12/11 FINAL EXAM. At 10:00 a.m.* Chs. 13, 15, 16, and *A Beautiful Mind.***

Under no circumstances (unless you are deployed by the military or you have a documented emergency medical hospitalization) will the final exam be given at another day+. Makeup exams will consist of open-ended questions+ and will be given only with documented+ emergency medical hospitalizations or documented military deployment+.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

UTEP is committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation. UTEP is dedicated to providing reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities so they have equal access and opportunity to complete their education. If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email at cass@utep.edu, or visit CASS' office at Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass. CASS' staff are the only individuals who can validate and (if need be) authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY+

Academic dishonesty is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be referred to the Office of Student Conflict and Resolution and will be disciplined in accordance with UTEP's policy. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Cheating is defined as, but not limited to, copying answers from another student, looking in the direction of another student's test or Scantron, talking to students during exams, looking at or using cell phones or other electronic communication devices during and after exams, and looking at any type of notes or the textbooks during exams.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The following bibliography contains articles and books that deal with critical thinking skills and pseudoscientific beliefs. Again, if you cannot or do not want to participate as a subject in experiments you are required to write summaries of **EIGHT** articles or book chapters listed in this bibliography.

Arkowitz, H., & Lilienfeld, S.O. (2007). A pill to fix your ills? *Scientific American Mind*, 18, 80-81.

Cacioppo, J.T. (2004). Common sense, intuition, and theory in personality and social psychology. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 8, 114-122.

Denes-Raj, V., Epstein, S., & Cole, J. (1995). The generality of the ratio-bias phenomenon. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 21, 1083-1092.

Diaconis, P., & Mosteller, F. (1989). Methods for studying coincidences. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 84, 853-861.

Fischhoff, B. (1982). Debiasing. In D. Kahneman, P. Slovic, & A. Tversky (Eds.), *Judgment under uncertainty: Heuristics and biases*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Fischhoff, B., Slovic, P., & Lichtenstein, S. (1977). Knowing with certainty: The appropriateness of extreme confidence. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance*, 3, 552-564.

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- Gilovich, T., Kruger, J., & Medvec, V.H. (2002). The spotlight effect revisited: Overestimating the manifest variability of our actions and appearance. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 38, 93-99.
- Gilovich, T., & Savitsky, K. (1999). The spotlight effect and the illusion of transparency: Egocentric assessments of how we are seen by others. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 8, 165-168.
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- Hyman, R. (2003, January/February). How not to test mediums: Critiquing the afterlife experiments. *Skeptical Inquirer*, 27(1), 20-30.
- Janis, I.L. (1986). Problems of international crisis management in the nuclear age. *Journal of Social Issues*, 42(2), 201-220.
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- Klayman, J., & Ha, Y-W. (1987). Confirmation, disconfirmation, and information in hypothesis testing. *Psychological Review*, 94, 211-228.
- Kraus, N., Malmfors, T., & Slovic, P. (1992). Intuitive toxicology: Expert and lay judgments of chemical risks. *Risk Analysis*, 12, 215-232.
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- Lepper, M.R., Anderson, C.A., & Ross, L. (December, 1980). Perseverance of social theories: The role of explanation in the persistence of discredited information. *Journal of Personality & Social Psychology*, 39, 1037-1049.
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Slovic, P., & Fischhoff, B. (1977). On the psychology of experimental surprises. *Journal of Experimental Psychology*, 3, 544-551.

Tetlock, P.E. (1998). Close-call counterfactuals and belief-system defenses: I was not almost wrong but I was almost right. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 75, 639-652.

Trolier, T.K., & Hamilton, D.L., (1986). Variables influencing judgment of correlational relations. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 50, 879-888.

Tversky, A. (1985, June). Quoted in K. McKean, Decisions, decisions. *Discover*, pp. 22-31.

Tversky, A., & Kahneman, D. (1974). Judgment under uncertainty: Heuristic and biases. *Science*, 185, 1124-1131.

Urbany, J.E., Bearden, W.O., & Weilbaker, D.C. (1998). The effect of plausible and exaggerated reference prices on consumer perceptions and price search. *Journal of Consumer Research*, 15, 95-110.

Wason, P.C. (1960). On the failure to eliminate hypotheses in a conceptual task. *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*, 12, 129-140.

Research Component for Introduction to Psychology (PSYC 1301)

In this course, the student will learn about numerous factors that interact to influence thinking and behavior. Just as in other scientific disciplines, knowledge in psychology is obtained by conducting carefully designed studies. Most of what the student will learn in this course, therefore, represents the findings of previous psychological studies. Although this type of information is very important, it is also important for the student to learn about the methods that are used to create scientific knowledge. Learning about scientific procedures is considered to be so vital that many scientific disciplines require students to take laboratory classes in addition to lecture classes. For example, students in chemistry courses participate in laboratory exercises in which they mix various chemicals, and observe and record the outcome of these exercises.

In order to facilitate learning the scientific procedures used in psychology, the Introductory Psychology course has a research requirement. The preferred method for students to fulfill this requirement is by actual participation in psychology studies. Not only will students learn about the scientific procedures that are used in psychology, but they will also be contributing to future knowledge. Studies conducted in the UTEP Psychology Department often appear in prominent scientific journals. When students are unable to or wish not to participate (perhaps because of a work schedule), they have the alternative option of researching articles in psychology journals and writing a brief paper on each article. Other alternative assignments may be offered by individual instructors.

Introductory Psychology Research Requirement

Part of the student's final grade will be based on credits earned via participation in psychological research. Students in all introductory psychology classes are required to earn a **minimum of 8** units of research credit. For students who choose the experiment participation option, one credit is earned for each hour of participation.

The course instructor will inform students of how research credit will be factored in to compute the final semester grade, and whether or not students can earn extra credit by completing more

than the required 8 research credit units. The instructor will also provide details on alternative assignments that can be completed to fulfill the research requirement without research participation.

Students can obtain 8 credits with only 6 hours of participation or the equivalent in alternate assignments. If a student has 3 credits accumulated by the end of the 8th week of classes (**Date TBA**), a 4th credit will be automatically added. If 7 credits are accumulated by the end of the 13th week of classes (**Date TBA**), then an 8th credit will be given.

Instructions for Participating in Psychological Studies

1. In order to participate in research studies, you must have a current UTEP e-mail address. If you do not already have a UTEP e-mail address, you may obtain a free e-mail account from the University. For details on getting an e-mail account or finding computer labs on campus for student use, contact the HELP desk at 747-5257 (or x4357 on campus).
2. You will need to create an account on the online psychology research participation system. To access the system, go to the following website: <http://utep.sona-systems.com/> (there is a link from the Psychology Department website). To create an account the first time you access the system, use the link marked "request an account here." Enter the information requested, including your name, your UTEP student ID number, your UTEP e-mail address, and the course in which you are enrolled. Then press the button marked "Request Account."
3. Your log-on ID and password will be sent to your UTEP e-mail account within several minutes. You may then go to <http://utep.sona-systems.com/> and log in using the information that was e-mailed to you.
4. You may then select the link marked "Browse a list of studies and sign up for those that interest you." By selecting a study, you can see more detailed information and sign up for the study if you wish.
5. Once you have signed up for a study, the system will send you an e-mail and the study will appear under "My Schedule/Credits." You can use this feature to remind yourself of the time and location of the study. Within two days after your participation, your credit for the study should appear online. If you do not receive credit for a study within two days of your participation, please contact the researcher by e-mail or telephone to resolve the problem.
6. You may generally participate only once in each study. Some studies may have additional restrictions on participation that will be displayed online.
7. In order to ensure that your participation is recorded properly, do not set up more than one account per person and do not use someone else's account.
8. If you have questions about how to use this system, contact Penny Graves in the Psychology Department at 747-5551 or pgraves@utep.edu. Please include your name, UTEP e-mail address, and instructor's name in your request for information.

Policy on Cancellations and Failures to Appear for Scheduled Experimental Sessions

It is important that you attend all studies for which you sign up. The Psychology Department encourages students to exercise professionalism and courtesy in keeping or canceling scheduled appointments. That is, if you schedule a session and later find that you are unable to or no longer wish to attend, please cancel such participation through the Sona system. If you cannot access the Sona system at that time, then you may cancel by sending an e-mail to the experimenter or calling to leave a message for the experimenter. Cancellation through the Sona system allows other students who need credit to sign up for the cancelled session, which makes it the ideal method. Canceling by e-mail or phone lets experimenters know that they can either

open a new slot for another participant or make other plans for their time. Remember that most experimenters are other students and are also quite busy.

Failing to show up for a scheduled experiment without appropriate cancellation will result in a penalty of one credit being applied to your account. Each penalty credit increases the number of experiment hours you must complete to fulfill the requirement.

The Student's Rights as Research Participant

Participation in research is meant to be an enjoyable and educational experience. Therefore, specific steps are taken to insure that the student's participation will be beneficial to both the student and society (by the knowledge gained from the study):

1. The Institutional Review Board, an ethics committee, screens each study before anyone is allowed to participate in order to ensure that volunteers are not in any way mistreated.
2. Before participation, the researcher will give students information about what will take place during the study. Students will then be asked to sign a statement of consent to participate.
3. After completion of the study, the researcher will debrief the participants as to the purpose of the study.
4. Students have the right to discontinue participation in the study at any time and without penalty.
5. Student participants have the right to expect the researcher to be present on time to conduct the study. If a participant is present on time and the researcher is not, the participant should first check to ensure that the date/time/location is correct. If that information is correct, the student should contact the researcher as soon as possible in order to resolve the error and receive whatever credit is appropriate.
6. Students who feel that their rights have been violated during participation in any of the Psychology Department's research studies should inform their instructor. If the matter is not satisfactorily resolved by the instructor, they should contact the Chairperson of the Psychology Department Undergraduate Committee at 747-5551 and/or the Coordinator for Institutional Research Review at 747-8841.

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