

Psychology 1301 (crn 21216)- Introduction to Psychology. Spring 2015.

Tuesday/Thursday, 9:00 am to 10:20. Union 109

All of the information may change a bit, particularly dates. The book information will stay the same.

Professor: Dr. Zárate
Office: Psychology 309C
Contact: Phone 747 6569 mzarate@utep.edu
I prefer email whenever possible and I respond quickly to **university** email.
I do not use Blackboard for email purposes.

Office hours: Monday, 10 to 11, Tuesday, 10:40 to 11:30,
and by appointment.
I will try to wait after class for questions.

Required text: *Psychology* by David G. Myers. 10th Edition. 2013.
Worth Publishers.
ISBN-10: 1-4292-6178-1
ISBN-13: 978-1-4292-6178-4

There are hardcover editions, and our bookstore may have some spiral editions. I also believe e-editions exist. It must, however, be the 10th edition by David Myers. The associated study guide is optional. Your book lists other on-line resources. I have not reviewed them and as such, I do not make any recommendation.

TA information will be announced as soon as possible.

1. This course is a general survey of the science of psychology. The goal is to familiarize you with various aspects of psychology as a science, with emphases on experimental methods and critical thought. One other goal is to familiarize you with the various areas of study within psychology and some of the most important issues. The following outline describes the specific topics that will be covered and the reading assignments for those topics. All reading assignments are due prior to the scheduled lecture.

The goals of the course are to

- a. introduce you to the basics of experimental methods.
- b. develop an understanding of some basic psychological constructs.
- c. help you understand the power and ubiquity of various psychological influences.

2. Chapters are covered in the order they are presented in the book. We skip some chapters, so please read the syllabus. All reading assignments are due prior to the scheduled lecture. Minor changes will be made as needed. I have never changed test dates, but the material covered on any one test almost always differs from what

is stated on the syllabus. It is your job to attend class to find out about any changes. I do not respond to email requests about material covered in class

3. Your final grade will be based test scores, quiz scores, and research participation.

There will be 4 tests, each worth 100 points. Your worst test score will be dropped.

Tests. $3 \times 100 = 300$

I hope to have 10 quizzes, each worth 10 points. Your two worst quiz scores will be dropped.

Quizzes. $8 \times 20 = 160$

Research participation. 50 points.

430 total.

Grades are based on a straight scale of 88%=A, 78%=B, 68%=C, 58%=D, and <58%=F.

Each quiz will be worth 20 points and will be conducted on-line. It will be a home quiz taken before the lecture starts. It will be 10 questions each worth 2 points, or 20 questions each worth 1 point. Quizzes cover the book material. It will be timed so that you will need to read the chapter before you take the quiz. Quizzes will be announced in class and the passwords for the quiz may occasionally be given in class. Thus, if you attend, you will hear about the quiz and get the information. Regarding blackboard, I have better luck using Mozilla and I have terrible luck with IE.

The experiment participation credit will be discussed separately. The experimental labs are designed to help you learn about psychology as a science and the associated research being conducted at UTEP. If you do not wish to participate in the experimental studies, alternatives will be offered to you. The deadline for the alternative credits is May 1. The Sona page is provided below.

4. Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions, and each question will be worth 2 points. Bring two green scantrons to each test. **Makeup exams are not allowed.** Tests that are missed because of excused absences for university functions will be taken before the actual test date. If you miss a test for a good reason, that test will be used as your lowest grade. Exam questions will be taken from both the lecture and from the readings. The readings are to help you better understand the lectures. Basic definitions and concepts covered in the book will not be reviewed during the lecture. The lectures are based on the assumption that you read the assigned chapter.

5. **Academic honesty.** Plagiarism and cheating are not tolerated. If you quote a source, it must be appropriately attributed to the source. Even close paraphrasing needs to be appropriately attributed. Cheating is defined broadly. For example, if you copy the answers from someone else, that is cheating. If you let someone else copy from you, that is also cheating. In cases of suspected academic dishonesty, I

will forward the information to the dean of students and let him/her deal with the situation.

6. Individuals with disabilities have the right to equal access and opportunity.

In support of this endeavor, UTEP and I support the Disabled Student Service Office (DSSO). Please follow the provided link, visit the office (room 106 Union East building), or call (747 5148) if you believe you qualify for their services.

<http://sa.utep.edu/dsso/>

7. College level expectations. In order to do well, one should anticipate reading each chapter and reviewing the class notes no less than 3 times before each test. Some people may need to study even more. “All nighters” rarely produce good performance. Information is learned best through distributed practice. As you move from high school to college, you must “kick it up a notch” if you expect to do well.

Because this is a college course, I don’t think it is necessary for me to track your attendance. Should you decide to come to class, however, you are expected to come to class prepared and engaged. Moreover, one should be motivated to participate. Cell phones, texting, sleeping, reading newspapers, etc., are simply inappropriate in the adult world. Be a part of your own education.

Respect your colleagues. Psychology includes a number of controversial or sensitive topics, including racism, sexism, sex, child-rearing practices, cultural differences, etc. Please be prepared to discuss these issues in a respectful manner. Differences in opinion are common and expected – and learning about those differences is part of the beauty of the college experience. The classroom, however, is not the place for “shock jock” type commentary. Respect your colleagues, and provide respectful disagreement. Life is fun.

Tentative topic outline

This schedule **WILL change** and it is your duty to attend class to learn about possible changes. Test dates rarely change, though the chapters covered by any particular test almost always change. Time permitting, at the end of the semester we will return to some of the skipped chapters. Further, particular sections of some of the skipped chapters will be covered in class. The specific sections will be outlined in class.

Date	Event	Material.
Jan 20	First day of class.	
Feb 4	Census day and last day to drop without W.	
Feb 12	Exam 1.	The prologue, and chapters 1 and 2
March 9 to 13	Spring break	
March 19	Exam 2	Chapters 4, 5, 7, & 8
March 31	Cesar Chavez day	
April 3	Spring day	
April 6	Course drop deadline.	

April 16	Exam 3.	Chapters 9, 10, 12
May 8	Dead Day	
Tues, May 12, 10:00am	Final.	
	Same classroom. (tests will not be distributed after 10:20.	Chapters 13, 14, 15

Experimental alternative.

Some students choose alternatives to the experimental participation via SONA. The alternative is the following.

For one experimental credit, pick one article from *Psychological Science*. It is published by SAGE publishing. It can be found at http://www.psychologicalscience.org/index.php/publications/journals/psychological_science

The article must have been published in 2013, 2014, or 2015. Download the article as a PDF. These articles are free if you are using the UTEP library (EBSCO and Psychinfo). Please ask a librarian if you are having trouble finding this article for free.

Write a one page summary that includes the following.

1. The independent variable.
2. The dependent variable
3. Summarize in your words the primary finding and intent of the article. Use your own words and do not plagiarize.
4. Identify your major and highlight how this will help you in your career.

Submit the document as a word or rtf document along with the PDF of the paper. Each summary is worth one research credit. To earn 8 credits, you need to submit 8 different summaries. Submit these to drzclassfiles@outlook.com.

The same deadlines exist for these that they do in SONA. The last day to complete these is May 1.

Please remember that I will accept articles ONLY from "Psychological Science."

Also recall that is this merely an alternative to participating in the experimental studies. You do not need to do this and if you are doing the SONA studies, you can ignore this task.

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 (March 6), a 4th credit will be automatically added. If 7 credits are accumulated by the end of the 13th week of classes (April 10), 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.