

Introduction to Psychology – PSYC 1301-015

Term: Spring 2016

Class Time: TR 1:30-2:50pm

Location: LART 108

Instructor: Scott Frankowski, MA
Office: Psychology 311
Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 3:00 – 4:00pm
Also by appointment (please email me to set up an appointment)
Email: sdfrankowski@miners.utep.edu. Contact me through email.

Course Description

Psychology is the science of behavior and mental processes. Introduction to Psychology is a 3 credit hour course that will provide students with an overview of the historical and scientific roots of psychological methods and techniques, biological bases of behavior, human development, learning, memory, social psychology, motivation and emotion, personality, psychological disorders, and therapeutic techniques.

Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course, students will:

- Have general and broad knowledge of the field of psychological science and many of its subfields, preparing them for future classes in statistical methods, research methodology, and field specific courses.
- Have knowledge of the methods used in psychological research.
- Gain experience applying psychological concepts to their lives and the “real world”.
- Gain experience writing an academic paper.

Required Text

Myers, D. G. (2015) *Psychology* (11th ed.). New York: Worth Publishers.

BlackBoard

I will use BlackBoard to post *all* class materials, assignments, and grades. It is important that you check BlackBoard at least every day before class. If you have trouble accessing BlackBoard, please let me know ASAP and also contact tech support.

Assignments and Grades

Assignments		Grading Scale	
Exams	300 points (37.5%)	A	90%
In-Class Activities	200 points (25%)	B	80%
Quizzes	120 points (15%)	C	70%
Written Assignment	100 points (12.5%)	D	60%
Research Requirement	80 points (10%)	F	< 60%
Total Possible Points:	800 points (100%)		

- **Exams:** Four in-class, “closed book” exams will be given throughout the semester. Each exam will cover only the material since the last exam. As such, **the final exam is not comprehensive**. Each exam will cover material covered during lecture and will include any combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short-answer questions. I will provide you with a review guide for each exam to help you prepare. Some information presented during lecture *cannot* be found in the textbook. Therefore, class attendance is very important.

Each exam is worth 100 points. *Your lowest exam grade will be dropped.*

Please bring a scantron sheet for each exam. (The small, green scantrons are sold in the Book Store).

- **In-Class Activities:** I will give brief in-class quizzes or in-class activities at unannounced points during the semester. Some activities may be take home assignments that are due the next class period. Each activity will be worth 20 points. These in-class activities may not be made-up; only those who attend class that day will have the opportunity to earn these points. These are EASY points and the activities will help prepare you for exam questions. *So, please be sure to attend class!*
- **BlackBoard “Quizzes”:** At the end of each week you will be required to complete a short “quiz” on BlackBoard (found under “Weekly Quizzes”). These quizzes will cover material that was presented in class that week. These activities are meant to help you review the material and gauge what you do and do not know. These will help you prepare for exams. You may use your book, notes, etc. Quizzes must be completed no later than the following Tuesday by 9am (i.e., start of class). Each quiz is worth 10 points. *(Please see the Course Schedule for due dates!)*
- **Written Assignment:** There will be *one* 2-4 page written assignment for this class.
 - The aim of this assignment is to apply one or more psychological concepts to the “real world.” I will provide you with a set of possible essay topics from which you will choose *one*. I will also provide you with a detailed grading rubric at this time. This information can be found on BlackBoard. *A hard copy* of your paper will be due **on the last day of class, May 10th**. Late papers will not be accepted. You may turn in your paper earlier if you wish.
- **Research Participation:** Each student is required to participate in at least eight (8) hours of psychological research or complete eight (8) psychological research summaries. A detailed description of such requirements and the appropriate departmental policy are listed below.

Grades will be posted in GradeBook on BlackBoard. I suggest checking your progress often to make sure you’re on track to achieving your goal for the class and to check that I or the TA haven’t made an error (yes, we’re human and it happens occasionally). If you are not doing as well as you would like, please come see me or the TA ASAP (if you wait until the end of the semester, I can’t help you). I am always happy to help and I want everyone to learn. Don’t be afraid to ask questions in or outside of class; don’t be afraid to ask for help.

Class Guidelines

Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is expected. Regardless of lecture attendance, students are responsible for all material covered during each class session. Please note that exams will cover material from both class lecture and the assigned readings. *Some information covered in lecture cannot be found in the textbook and in-class activities must be completed IN CLASS. Therefore regular class attendance is crucial to success in this course.*

Also, class attendance on exam days is a specific course requirement. Make-up exams WILL NOT be given except under rare, extenuating circumstances (with documentation) and need to be approved by the instructor *prior to the exam date*. No re-takes will be given. If you know you will miss an exam for a university sanctioned event, you need to make arrangements to take the test **beforehand**. Otherwise, if you miss an exam, you will receive a zero. That exam may be counted as your lowest exam grade and may be dropped from your final course grade.

Please arrive on time to class. If you miss an assignment due to arriving late to class, you may not make it up. Additionally, do not leave class early unless there is an emergency or you have let me know before-hand. Please be respectful of myself and your peers by not creating a distraction.

Missed Work

Coursework can only be submitted late or made-up if you have an *excused* absence for the day the work was due in class. If you have a personal emergency, please let me know *before class* and provide me with some kind of documentation.

Academic Honesty:

You are expected to know and follow UTEP policy regarding academic conduct and honesty. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions. UTEP's student code of conduct and discipline can be found here:
<http://admin.utep.edu/LinkClick.aspx?link=HOOP-Section+II.pdf&tabid=30181&mid=63285>

Extra Credit

You may complete up to 3 additional research credits for extra credit. Each additional hour of research credit you earn beyond the 8 required hours will count as *2 extra credit percentage points* added to your final grade (these are points toward your total possible points, not percentage points). Therefore, you can earn up to 6 points extra credit.

Course Drop Deadline

April 4th - this is a strict deadline determined by the university. I will not drop anyone from the course for poor performance or for not attending class (this is your responsibility). If you are considering dropping the course, I would be happy to meet with you to discuss your options.

Classroom accommodations

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 to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP 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.

Research Requirement

All students are required to complete 8 hours of research as part of psychological experiments *or* write 8 reviews of psychological research articles. This is worth 10% of your grade. Your participation will help you learn about the research techniques and procedures that are used in psychological research. You can sign up to participate in the research experiments through the SONA website: <http://utep.sona-systems.com>. Be sure to select my name in the instructor list so that I receive documentation of your participation. SONA will keep track of the studies in which you participate; you do not need to provide me with documentation.

I strongly urge you to start your research requirement EARLY. By the end of the semester, there will not be many, if any, opportunities for you to earn credit through SONA.

Note on participating in research: The studies you participate in are being conducted or sponsored by faculty here at UTEP. Typically, graduate students (like myself) are in charge of running these studies. Often times, undergraduate research assistants physically collect the data. The time slots for participation are valuable to all researchers involved. Thus, **if you sign up, show up. If you can't show up do everything you can to alert the researcher beforehand.** If the researcher knows you have to miss a session beforehand, they can usually fill it with another participant.

Those students who do not wish to participate in research may substitute written assignments for research participation. The written assignments will give you some exposure to psychological research and acquaint you with some of the rich sources of materials where psychological studies are reported. The written assignment includes these requirements:

- Submit brief summaries of research articles published in **current** psychological journals (published in the past five years). A list of acceptable journals is given below. Research summaries must be typed, double-spaced, and should not exceed two pages. Attach a photocopy of the entire article to your summary.
- Research summaries are due, in class or in my mailbox, *no later than May 6th*. **No credit will be given for late summaries.**
- Each summary should be written in your own words. **I would strongly suggest a complete review of the appropriate university and departmental policies prior to turning in any written work.**
- A good summary attempts to summarize briefly who investigated what problem, by what method, and with what results. Use the following organization (two points each):
 - Author's name, year, title of article, journal, volume number, page numbers.
 - Purpose of the study (general problem, hypotheses, etc.)

- Method or procedures used (omit technical details)
- Results (what was found, what does it seem to mean?)
- Personal comments (what, in your opinion, was the importance or significance of the study? Did you think the study was worthwhile?)

I will post instructions on BlackBoard for how to search for journal articles online.

Listing of approved psychological journals:

- Developmental Psychology
- Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis
- Journal of Applied Psychology
- Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders
- Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry
- Journal of Community Psychology
- Journal of Counseling Psychology
- Journal of Experimental Child Psychology
- Journal of Experimental Social Psychology
- Journal of Psychology
- Journal of Social Psychology
- Psychological Bulletin
- Psychology in the Schools
- Child Development
- Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology
- Journal of Applied Behavior Science
- Journal of Applied Social Psychology
- Journal of Child Language
- Journal of Clinical Psychology
- Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology
- Journal of Educational Psychology
- Journal of Experimental Psychology
- Journal of Personality and Social Psychology
- Journal of School Psychology
- Journals of Gerontology
- Psychological Reports
- Psychology of Women Quarterly

If there are other journals you wish to use, please check with me first. Only ‘scientific’ journals, not ‘popular’ journals (e.g., Discover, Psychology Today), will be accepted.

Tentative Course Schedule *

Date	Topic	Required Reading
01/19 (T)	Syllabus review What is Psychology?	
01/21 (R)	Thinking Critically with Psychological Science	Chapter 1
01/26 (T)	Thinking Critically with Psychological Science <i>*Quiz 1 due</i>	Chapter 1
01/28 (R)	Biology of the Mind	Chapter 2
02/02 (T)	Biology of the Mind <i>*Quiz 2 due</i>	Chapter 2
02/04 (R)	Developing Through the Lifespan	Chapter 5
02/9 (T)	Developing Through the Lifespan <i>*Quiz 3 due</i>	Chapter 5
02/11 (R)	EXAM 1 – Chapters 1, 2, and 5	
02/16 (T)	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 6
02/18 (R)	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 6

02/23 (T)	Social Psychology *Quiz 4 due	Chapter 13
03/25 (R)	Social Psychology	Chapter 13
03/01 (T)	Personality *Quiz 5 due	Chapter 14
03/03 (R)	Personality	Chapter 14
03/08 (T)	Spring Break – NO CLASS!	
03/10 (R)	Spring Break – NO CLASS!	
03/15 (T)	Psychological Disorders *Quiz 6 due	Chapter 15
03/17 (R)	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 15
03/22 (T)	EXAM 2: Chapters 6, 13, 14, 15	
03/24 (R)	Learning	Chapter 7
03/29 (T)	Learning *Quiz 7 due	Chapter 7
03/31 (R)	Memory	Chapter 8
04/05 (T)	Memory *Quiz 8 due	Chapter 8
04/07 (R)	Thinking and Language	Chapter 9
04/12 (T)	Thinking and Language *Quiz 9 due	Chapter 9
04/14 (R)	EXAM 3: Chapters 7, 8, 9	
04/19 (T)	Emotions, Stress, and Health	Chapter 13
04/21 (R)	Emotions, Stress, and Health *Quiz 10 due	Chapter 13
04/26 (T)	What Drives Us: Hunger, Sex, Friendship, and Achievement	Chapter 14
04/28 (R)	What Drives Us: Hunger, Sex, Friendship, and Achievement *Quiz 11 due	Chapter 14
05/03 (T)	Therapy	Chapter 15
05/05 (R)	Therapy *Quiz 12 due Writing Assignment Due Research Credit Due	Chapter 15
05/10 (R)	No class	
05/12 (T)	FINAL EXAM: Chapters 13, 14, & 15 1pm-3:45pm in our regular classroom	

* This schedule may be adjusted as needed at the instructor's discretion.

I acknowledge that I have read and understand all course requirements, as explained in the syllabus. I will adhere to all guidelines and accept any penalties due to failure to meet course expectations.

Name: _____
(Printed)

Date: _____

(Signed)