Syllabus
General Psychology
PSYC 1103; Section 101
Fall 2012

Instructor: Allison Strug
Email: allison.strug@mwsu.edu
Phone: (940) 397-4436
Office: O’Donohoe, Room 132

Course #: PSYC 1103; 101
Time: MWF 8:00-8:50
Location: PY 101
Office Hours: W 1:30-3:00 and TH 2:00-3:30 or by appointment

Required Text:

Course Objectives:
1. Provide students with a general overview of the field of psychology.
2. Help students gain knowledge of central principles and concepts of psychology and emphasize the significance of psychology in understanding human behavior and functioning.
3. Encourage students to learn beyond the textbook and to think critically by providing additional materials.

Course Requirements:
In order to achieve the above objectives, students must attend class lectures, take notes, and read assigned chapters. Progress toward the course objectives will be assessed through the administration of a series of exams.

Exams
Each of the five exams will be worth 100 points and will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions. Material on each exam will cover information presented in class lectures (50%) and information from the textbook (50%). Thus, it is important that students attend lectures regularly and stay current with assigned readings. Each exam will cover two assigned chapters and each exam will contribute 20% to the course grade. The fifth exam is scheduled for the last day of class, Friday, December 7th, and, like all other exams, the fifth exam is noncumulative. You must bring a scantron to all exams.
**Grades:**
Course grades are based on the number of points accumulated over the semester. There is a total of 500 possible points, so the grade ranges are as follows:

- A = 450-500 points
- B = 400-459
- C = 350-399
- D = 300-349
- F = 299 and lower

**Research Requirement:**
Given the importance of research and research ethics in the field of psychology, all students are **required** to participate in **two** research related exercises during the semester. *Failure to do so will result in a letter grade reduction for the course.*

You’ll be given more information about options and how to sign up for participation later in the semester.

**Extra Credit:**
Extra credit may become available in the form of additional research participation. Information will be provided as it becomes available.

**Attendance:**
Attendance is required. No penalty will be assigned for the first **four** unexcused absences; however, each additional absence will result in a 5% (i.e., one-half letter grade) deduction from your accumulated point total at the end of the semester. Being tardy three times will count as one absence and leaving class prior to dismissal is considered equivalent to being tardy. You should come to class prepared to stay for the full time allotted. *If you leave class prior to dismissal, do not return to class that day, as this is disruptive to the learning environment of the classroom.* It will be your responsibility to keep track of absences and tardies. The student will not receive a “warning” that he/she has reached or exceeded the maximum amount of allowed unexcused absences.

Absences are excused **only** under the following circumstances:

- The student provides a written excuse from a medical practitioner stating that he/she was unable to attend class on the day(s) of the absence.
- The student provides a written excuse from a medical practitioner stating that his/her child was ill on the day(s) of the absence.
- The student provides a written excuse from an official of Midwestern State University stating that he/she was in attendance at a mandatory university function on the day(s) of the absence.
Funerals, employment-related absences, illnesses not requiring medical attention, job interviews, family emergencies, automobile malfunctions, court appearances, etc. do not constitute excused absences. Remember, you get four of these without penalty so use them wisely.

**Make-up Policy:**
Make-up exams will be permitted. The exams will be similar in format to the original test; however, there will be a 10-point (i.e., one letter grade) penalty for exams that were missed for unexcused reasons. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor as soon as possible in the event of missed exams. All make-up exams will be administered during the final exam period, December 12th, 2012 from 8:00-10:00am. Students who have more than one make-up exam to take will have to make special arrangements with the instructor.

**Cheating Policy:**
Any evidence of cheating (e.g., looking at another individual’s paper, allowing someone else to look at your paper, etc.) on exams will result in dismissal from the class with a grade of “F” and a referral to the Dean of Students. To avoid questions of cheating, mark scantron answer sheets clearly, use a No. 2 pencil, and erase completely. Errors due to poorly marked scantrons will not result in a grade change.

**Cell phones and Electronics:**
Cell phones are to be turned off during class. If you have a situation that requires you to receive calls, you need to contact me ahead of time, have your device on vibration mode, and take the call outside the classroom.

**Disability:**
Students who require special accommodations must be registered with Disability Support Service before these accommodations can be provided. An Accommodation Request Form can be obtained from the Midwestern State University Disability Support Service Center or by going to http://students.mwsu.edu/disability/.
**Tentative exam dates:** (all dates subject to change)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Chapters</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>Monday, September 10th</td>
<td>Ch. 1: What is Psychology?</td>
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<td>Ch. 2: Scientific Method</td>
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<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>Monday, October 1st</td>
<td>Ch. 5: States of Consciousness</td>
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<td>Ch. 6: Learning</td>
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<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>Friday, October 19th</td>
<td>Ch. 9: Development</td>
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<td>Ch. 11: Sexuality</td>
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<td>Exam 4</td>
<td>Wednesday, November 14th</td>
<td>Ch. 12: Personality</td>
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<td>Ch. 15: Psychopathology</td>
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<td>Exam 5</td>
<td>Friday, December 7th</td>
<td>Ch. 16: Therapies</td>
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<td>Ch. 17: Health Psychology</td>
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<td>Make-up Exam(s)</td>
<td>Wednesday, December 12th</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>8:00-10:00am</td>
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**Other Important Dates:**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>August 29th</td>
<td>Student Payment Deadline</td>
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<td>September 3rd</td>
<td>No Class – Labor Day</td>
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<td>September 10th</td>
<td>Official Enrollment Date – Payment deadline to prevent classes from being voided</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1st</td>
<td>Last day for December graduates to file application for graduation</td>
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<td>October 22nd</td>
<td>Last day for “W,” 4:00pm – Drops after this date will receive grades of “F.”</td>
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<td>November 20th</td>
<td>Thanksgiving holiday begins at 10:00pm</td>
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<td>November 26th</td>
<td>Classes resume</td>
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<td>December 7th</td>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
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<td>December 8th</td>
<td>Final exams begin</td>
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Course Agreement

I have read and understand the course syllabus for PSYC 1103, General Psychology. By signing below, I am agreeing to abide by the policies and requirements outlined in the syllabus.

_________________________  _________________________
Signature                                   Date

_________________________
Print Your Name Here

Release to Post Grades

Grades are posted as a convenience to students. Although some students do not wish to have their grades posted. With my signature below, I grant permission for my grades to be posted by the code name I designate, during the Fall 2012 semester. I understand that my grades will not be posted unless I sign this form.

Code Name: _______________________

_________________________
Signature                                   Date

_________________________
Print Your Name Here