Syllabus
General Psychology
Spring 2012

Instructor: Deana Danilova
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Course #: PSYC 1103, sec. 202
Time: MWF 10:00-10:50 am
Location: PY 102
Office hours: MWF 8:00 - 9:30 am

Text:
Required Text:


Course Objectives:

- Provide students with a general overview of the field of psychology.
- Help students gain knowledge of central principles and concepts of psychology and emphasize the significance of psychology in understanding human behavior and functioning.
- Encourage students to learn beyond the text book 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 obtained through 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 text book (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 May 9th at 10:30 am during finals week, but, like all other exams, the fifth exam is noncumulative.
**Grades:**

Grades will be based on performance on five exams.

A = 90 – 100%
B = 80 – 89%
C = 70 – 79%
D = 60 – 69%
F = 59% or lower

**Research Requirement:**

Given the importance of research and research ethics in the field of psychology, all students are required to participate in one of the following research related exercises. No credit will be given for participation, but students must complete one of the two options. *Failure to do so will result in a letter grade reduction for the course.* The deadline for research completion is April 1st. Any participation after this date will not count toward your research requirement.

1) Participate in the General Psychology Screening. Participants will provide *anonymous* responses to several psychological questionnaires soliciting general demographic information (e.g., age, gender, ethnicity, class rank) as well as information regarding attitudes, behaviors, and emotional experience. It is anticipated that participation will require less than one hour.

   *or*

2) Complete a research ethics essay. Participating students will read academic writings addressing research ethics. Following their reading, students will complete a three-page typed review of the information contained in the readings. Essays will be submitted electronically to the email address provided above. Completion of this activity should require approximately one hour.

   *or*

3) Other research options may become available during the semester. Additional instructions about this component of the course will be provided as it becomes available.

You can do the above by going to [http://libarts.mwsu.edu/psychology/index.asp](http://libarts.mwsu.edu/psychology/index.asp)
Extra Credit:

Extra credit will be based on attendance, in-class participation, and brief (300-500 words) reaction papers. In order to get full credit, all papers must be turned in on time (you will be given one week to do so) and no late papers be accepted. Papers less than 300 words will not be accepted and thus will not count toward your extra credit. Other opportunities for extra credit may arise during the semester. These opportunities will be announced if and when they become available. Extra credit points will be allowed to contribute no more than 5% (i.e., one-half letter grade) to the overall grade.

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 the overall grade. Being tardy three times will count as one absence and leaving class prior to dismissal is considered equivalent to tardy. If you leave class prior to dismissal, do not return to class that day as this is disruptive to the functioning of the classroom. You should come to class prepared to stay for the full time allotted. It will be the student’s 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. Please reserve your allowed unexcused absences to cover these situations.

Make-up Policy:

Make-up exams will be permitted. The exams will be similar in format to the original text; 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 on the last regularly scheduled day of classes, Friday, May 4th, 2012. 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 scantrons 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:

During class, please turn off all electronic devices (i.e., cell phones, pagers, stop watches, games, etc.) that make noise. Do not send text messages or answer calls during class. Exceptions include emergency calls such as birth of a child, family member in the hospital, etc. If such an emergency is known in advance, please notify the instructor and quietly leave the classroom to take the call so as not to disturb the rest of the class. If you must leave class to take an emergency call or text, take your belongings with you and do not return to class that day, as this is disruptive to the functioning of 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 Class Schedule: (all dates subject to change)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Exams</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/16</td>
<td>Martin Luther King’s Birthday-No Classes</td>
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<td>1/18</td>
<td>Syllabus</td>
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<td>1/20 - 1/25</td>
<td>Ch. 1</td>
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<td>1/27 - 2/1</td>
<td>Ch. 2</td>
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<td>2/6 - 2/10</td>
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<td>2/13 - 2/22</td>
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<td>2/27-3/2</td>
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<td>3/5-3/9</td>
<td>Ch. 11</td>
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<td>3/10-3/18</td>
<td>Spring Break <em>(begins at 5 pm)</em></td>
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<td>3/19-3/21</td>
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<td>3/26-3/30</td>
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<td>4/4-4/8</td>
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<td>4/18-4/23</td>
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<td>4/25-5/2</td>
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<td>5/4</td>
<td>Last Day of Classes</td>
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<td>5/9</td>
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<td>Make-Up Exams</td>
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<td>Exam 5 (Ch. 16, 17)</td>
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**Other Important Dates:**

- **Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>**  
  Student Payment Deadline
- **Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>**  
  Official Enrollment Date – Payment deadline to prevent classes from being voided
- **Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>**  
  Last day for May graduates to file application for graduation
- **Mar. 19<sup>th</sup>**  
  Last day for “W,” 4:00 pm – Drops after this date will receive grades of “F.”