

PSYC 100-03: Introductory Psychology

Fall 2008

Instructor: Dr. Julie Alvarez

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OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 1:00-2:00 pm, Wednesdays 12:00-1:00 pm, and by appointment
CLASSROOM: 102 Jones Hall
CLASS TIME: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 am – 12:15 pm
CLASS WEBSITE: <http://tulane.blackboard.com>

Textbook: Kowalski, R., & Westen, D. (2009). *Psychology: Fifth Edition*. John Wiley & Sons.

Teaching Assistant (TA): Corinne Libby (Office: 3032 Stern, clibby@tulane.edu, 443-995-1192)

TA Office Hours: Mondays 2:00-3:00 pm, Thursdays 1:00-2:00 pm, and by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to introduce you to various areas within the field of psychology. The primary focus of the course will be experimental. We will discuss psychology from a scientific perspective, using experimental findings to explain behavior. The objective of this course is not to give an in-depth understanding of any one area within psychology, but rather to give a basic understanding of a variety of topics in psychology.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology including use of the major theories and concepts to account for psychological phenomena, knowledge of the major perspectives (e.g., psychodynamic, behavioral, cognitive, evolutionary), and knowledge of the major content areas (e.g., physiology, learning, memory, life-span development, clinical).
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of basic research methods in psychology (e.g., descriptive research, correlational research, experimental research).

COURSE STRUCTURE

This course is scheduled to meet for 75 minutes, 2 times each week. Class sessions will include a combination of lecture and videos. Although this class primarily is a lecture course, student participation and involvement is valued and encouraged. To this end, there will be an open atmosphere in the class, which depends on unequivocal respect for the opinions and concerns of everyone in the classroom. While questions are encouraged, you should ask only pertinent questions during the lecture (i.e., for clarification of material). Because this is a large lecture course, avoid deep discussion of the material (save that for an office visit with the TA or Dr. Alvarez).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Reading Assignments

There are regular reading assignments from the textbook. These readings should be completed **BEFORE** the class for which they are assigned.

Attendance

Attendance at **ALL** class meetings is **REQUIRED**. Exams are weighted heavily toward lecture material. I will cover material in lecture that is not available in your textbook and, thus, missing class will result in lost points on exams.

Note Taking, Exam Preparation, and Exam Performance Evaluation

The night before each lecture, I will post a lecture outline on Blackboard. This outline will **not** contain all of the information on the slides, so **note taking** is **required**. You should rework your notes **after each class** so that the overall organization of the ideas expressed in the lecture is clear, and you should review your notes **WEEKLY** (i.e., on a spaced interval schedule) in order to facilitate recall on tests. Students who rework and review their notes tend to do very well in the course, while students who “cram” the night before exams tend to do very poorly in the course. Please attempt to work with the teaching assistant (TA) concerning lecture content, exam preparation, and evaluation of your exam performance before approaching Dr. Alvarez. I will be available for consultation, if needed, after you have met with the TA. The TA stores your exams in her office during the semester and, therefore, you will not be able to discuss your exam performance with me until you have reviewed your exam(s) with the TA.

Extra Credit (EC)

You may add **a maximum of three (3) extra credit (EC) points to your final grade** by participating in experiments conducted by members of the Tulane University Psychology Department. Experiments will be announced on the following website: <http://tulane-psych.sona-systems.com>. Information regarding this website is provided in the “**Participant (Student) Documentation**” form located under Course Documents on Blackboard. There also may be research alternative experiences offered at various times throughout the semester. The final day that you may participate in an experiment or a research alternative experience in order to earn extra credit in this course is **Friday, December 5** (i.e., the last day of classes).

GRADING

Grades will be based on three mandatory midterm exams and an optional cumulative final exam. The exams will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions covering material from class lectures, videos, and reading assignments. The final exam is *optional* – it is cumulative in format and can be used to *replace* your *lowest* score on any of the three midterm exams.

Final grades will be assigned according to the following distribution, with *no curve*:

<u>Exam 1</u>	<u>33%</u>	<u>Points Earned</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points Earned</u>	<u>Grade</u>
<u>Exam 2</u>	<u>33%</u>	92-100	A	72-77.9	C
<u>Exam 3</u>	<u>34%</u>	90-91.9	A-	70-71.9	C-
<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>100%</u>	88-89.9	B+	68-69.9	D+
		82-87.9	B	62-67.9	D
		80-81.9	B-	60-61.9	D-
		78-79.9	C+	Below 60	F

COURSES POLICIES

1. Tulane University expects the highest level of academic honesty and integrity. Accordingly, all students enrolled at Tulane University must abide by the principles of the Honor Code (<http://college.tulane.edu/code.htm>). Academic dishonesty of any kind will **not** be tolerated in this course. Honor Code violations will be reported to the Honor Board in accordance with the Honor Code. A conviction of an Honor Code violation is a serious offence with grave consequences. Conviction of a first offence usually results in a WF for the course, a period of disciplinary probation, and notation on the student's permanent record. Conviction of a second honor board offense typically results in expulsion from the University.
2. When you come to class, please turn off your cell phone! I expect that you will show respect to your classmates and to me by refraining from any behavior (e.g., talking, sleeping, reading, text messaging, arriving late, leaving early) that will serve to interfere with the class session. **YOU MUST COME TO CLASS ON TIME AND YOU MAY NOT LEAVE CLASS EARLY!!!**
3. All examinations will take place as scheduled on page 4 of the syllabus. Please adjust your schedule accordingly. **NO EARLY EXAMS OR MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN!!!** Also, you must come to the exams **ON TIME!!!**
4. All examinations will cover information from lectures **AND** assigned readings. Usually, the information I think is really important will be covered in both. However, there are some important topics that the textbook doesn't discuss. For those topics, the information presented in lectures will be the primary basis for exam questions. Similarly, some topics are covered quite well by the textbook and we won't spend much time on them in class. Again, these topics are "fair game" for exam questions.
5. To request accommodations for a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 504-862-8433. If you already have registered with ODS and have academic accommodations through the Center for Educational Resources and Counseling (ERC) that you would like to use in this class, please schedule a meeting with Dr. Alvarez as soon as possible (preferably during the **first two weeks** of the semester) to discuss the nature of the accommodation(s). You must provide Dr. Alvarez with a completed copy of the official **Course Accommodation Form** for the **Fall 2008** semester. Remember, it is *your* responsibility to inform Dr. Alvarez *prior to each examination* that you will be taking the exam in the ERC. Failure to do so may result in your inability to take the exam in the ERC.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READING ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAMS*

Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
Thu 8/28	Introduction and Course Overview	Syllabus
Tue 9/2	NO CLASS - HURRICANE GUSTAV EVACUATION	
Thu 9/4	NO CLASS - HURRICANE GUSTAV EVACUATION	
Tue 9/9	Psychology: The Study of Mental Processes and Behavior	Chapter 1 (p. 1-29)
Thu 9/11	Research Methods in Psychology	Chapter 2 (p. 30-43)
Tue 9/16	Research Methods in Psychology continued	Chapter 2 (p. 44-58)
Thu 9/18	Biological Bases of Mental Life and Behavior	Chapter 3 (p. 60-72)
Tue 9/23	Biological Bases of Mental Life and Behavior continued	Chapter 3 (p. 73-98)
Thu 9/25	Exam 1 Review Day	
Tue 9/30	EXAM 1 (Chapters 1-3): 11:00 am - 12:15 pm	
Thu 10/2	Review results of Exam 1 / Begin chapter on Learning	Chapter 5 (p. 156-166)
Tue 10/7	Learning continued	Chapter 5 (p. 167-186)
Thu 10/9	NO CLASS - YOM KIPPUR	
Tue 10/14	Memory	Chapter 6 (p. 188-205)
Thu 10/16	Memory continued	Chapter 6 (p. 206-223)
Tue 10/21	Intelligence	Chapter 8 (p. 262-287)
Thu 10/23	Consciousness / Altered States of Consciousness	Ch. 9 (p. 289-298, 306-315)
Tue 10/28	Sleep and Dreaming	Chapter 9 (p. 299-306)
Thu 10/30	Exam 2 Review Day	
Tue 11/4	EXAM 2 (Chapters 5, 6, 8, 9): 11:00 am - 12:15 pm	
Thu 11/6	Review results of Exam 2 / Begin chapter on Life-Span Development	Chapter 13 (p. 456-477)
Tue 11/11	Life-Span Development continued	Chapter 13 (p. 477-508)
Thu 11/13	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 14 (p. 510-529)
Tue 11/18	Psychological Disorders continued	Chapter 14 (p. 529-552)
Thu 11/20	Treatment of Psychological Disorders	Chapter 15 (p. 554-573)
Tue 11/25	Treatment of Psychological Disorders continued	Chapter 15 (p. 573-585)
Thu 11/27	NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
Tue 12/2	Exam 3 Review Day	
Thu 12/4	EXAM 3 (Chapters 13-15): 11:00 am - 12:15 pm	
Wed 12/10	OPTIONAL CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAM: 10:00 am - 11:15 am	

* Note: I reserve the right to modify this schedule.