

Introduction to Psychology – Fall 2009

Psychology 3-004 ■ Brothers College 201 ■ T-Th 4:15 - 5:30pm

Professor: Jessica Good, M.S.

E-mail: jgood@drew.edu

Office Hours: T-Th 3:00 – 4:00pm, Hannan House 303

Required Textbook:

Kalat, J. W. (2008). *Introduction to psychology (8th ed.)*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

The textbook should be available for purchase in the campus bookstore, or online (amazon, half.com, etc.). I do not recommend using previous editions of the textbook.

Websites:

Course Website: <https://moodle.drew.edu/> (log in, look under My Courses). Lecture slides, assignments, and the most-up-to-date syllabus can be found here. All grades will be posted in the Moodle Gradebook so that you will have up-to-date information about your class performance. A discussion forum will also be available for questions and topic discussions. Please check the website frequently for any announcements regarding syllabus changes, class cancellations, etc.

Book Website: Wadsworth Publishers has developed a really helpful supplementary site to accompany the textbook. The site includes study materials (flashcards, quizzes), a glossary of terms, etc. Use of this website is not required, but you may find it helpful when studying for exams. The link will be posted on our Moodle website.

Research Requirement:

As part of the requirements for Introduction to Psychology, you must participate in departmentally-approved research. This requirement provides you the opportunity to learn more about the methods of psychological research through participation in psychological studies and, at the same time, provides a pool of participants for departmentally-approved research designed to add to the content of the field. You will be given a handout with full details of the research requirement – it is *your responsibility* to complete the required hours of research and maintain proof of your participation. Failure to complete the requirement will result in your final course grade being lowered one grade level (e.g., from a B- to a C+).

Course Description:

This course will provide an overview of the major topics in psychology, with an emphasis on psychological research. Throughout the semester, we will discuss many of the sub-disciplines of psychology, exploring the major research findings within each discipline as well as the ways in which psychological research is applicable to our everyday lives. Course topics will include basic research methods, biopsychology, sensation and perception, consciousness, learning and memory, personality, psychotherapy, human development, and social psychology.

Together, these topics will illustrate the diversity of research within the overarching field of psychology.

Psychology is the study of human beings – their thoughts, feelings, and behavior. Thus, the topics we will cover will often directly relate back to your own experiences. To emphasize this connection, we will use in-class exercises as well as out-of-class assignments designed to help you draw connections between psychological research and the world around you. This course will follow a lecture/discussion format. Lectures will provide an in-depth look at some of the topics covered in your text. However, some of the lecture material will not be covered in the text, and some of the text material will not be covered in lecture. You are responsible for knowing all material presented in lecture and in the text. There will be time during class for discussion and questions related to the readings. Class participation is important; you will be asked to think critically about the topics covered in class and voice your opinions in class. There will also be films, in-class exercises, and projects that will provide interactive examples of psychological concepts.

Course Goals:

- Develop an understanding of the major subfields of psychology, including psychological vocabulary and concepts
- Understand basic research methods used in psychological research
- Gain the ability to understand and critically evaluate psychological research
- Be prepared for advanced study in psychology

Grading:

Grades will be based on three non-cumulative exams, scrapbook project, and participation.

The breakdown will be as follows:

Assignment	Percentage of Final Grade	Final Grade	Percentage
Exam 1	20%	A	93.0 – 100%
Exam 2	20%	A-	90.0 – 92.9%
Exam 3	20%	B+	87.0 – 89.9%
Scrapbook Project	30%	B	83.0 – 86.9%
Participation	10%	B-	80.0 – 82.9%
		C+	77.0 – 79.9%
		C	73.0 – 76.9%
		C-	70.0 – 72.9%
		D	60.0 – 69.9%
		U	0 – 59.9%

Exams: There will be three exams – two given in class and one given during final exam week. The exams will consist of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short essay questions. Test material will be taken from required readings and class lectures and will not be cumulative. A study guide will be provided for each exam. Make-up exams are not permitted without advance permission. It is unacceptable to miss an exam for any reason other than a serious illness or personal emergency, both of which will require appropriate university documentation. If appropriate documentation is not provided, you will earn a zero for that exam.

Scrapbook Project: As a way of connecting the classroom to the “real-world,” you will each create a scrapbook of real-world examples of psychological concepts. This project will be completed throughout the entire semester. Your assignment is to be observant – examples could include newspaper articles or current events, blog posts, advertisements, YouTube videos, content from other classes you are taking, or even summaries of recent experiences or observed social interactions. You will need to provide *two* examples for each week of class (see the schedule for detailed information). I will evaluate your scrapbook twice, once at midterm and again at the end of the semester. Your scrapbook entries must contain your example as well as your written description of how the example relates to the psychological concepts covered that day. Detailed instructions will be provided on a separate handout.

Participation: Attendance is required. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class by passing around the roster. All students will be given two “free” missed classes. Additional absences will result in a decreased participation grade. Students requiring excused absences (illness, death in family) must contact me prior to class, and a doctor’s note is required in the case of illness.

Students arriving late to class must sign in on the roster at the end of class. Participation also includes arriving to class prepared (having completed the reading), awake (coffee is allowed), and respectful of other students (absolutely NO cell phones – **that includes texting**).

Attendance will count for 50% of your participation grade. The other 50% will be based on active participation in class discussion. Because some people are less comfortable participating in class, another way to demonstrate that you are actively engaged with the course material is to post discussion questions or contribute to topics presented on the Moodle discussion forum.

Extra Credit: One or two extra credit questions will be given on each exam. If you are concerned about your grade, work hard, participate in class, and complete your assignments on time. If you are having difficulty understanding any of the material covered in class or would like to discuss your class performance, either come to my office hours or set up a time to meet privately with me.

GRADING NOTE: If you believe that there was a mistake in the calculation of your final grade at the end of the class, you must speak to me about it within one week of your final grade being posted. *After one week, your final grade cannot be adjusted for any reason.*

Academic Honesty:

Cheating and plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. You should familiarize yourself with the University's academic integrity policy, available in the Academic Integrity Handbook, or on the College of Liberal Arts web page (<http://www.depts.drew.edu/cladean/> - then click on the section labeled "College and University Policies"). I take academic dishonesty *very* seriously and I suggest you do the same. Not abiding by the academic integrity standards put forth by Drew University is grounds for failure of this course and/or dismissal from the University.

To help clarify the situation, I have provided specific details about what is and what is not cheating:

You May:

- Consult the textbook and other students when completing scrapbook entries
- Use the internet to look up study guides or to do research for scrapbook entries
- Study for exams with other students
- Ask me for extra help with a concept

You May Not:

- Use the textbook, your notes, or "cheat sheet" on an exam
- Turn in another student's work as your own
- Represent someone else's idea as your own
- Contact anyone during an exam – cell phones OFF

YOU MUST:

- Cite your sources in all written work and provide complete references

Office Hours:

Students are encouraged to ask questions during class or meet with me directly after class. I am happy to arrange appointments to meet with students individually for extra help. However, I will not "make up" a lecture for students who missed a class for an unexcused reason. Office hours are not a substitute for coming to class.

Reading Assignments:

All reading assignments listed on the schedule are to be completed prior to class on that date. Class time will be devoted to explanation of the more difficult concepts covered in the text, and further practice with and application with the textbook material. If it seems that reading assignments are not being completed prior to class, I reserve the right to institute pop quizzes, which will become part of your participation grade.

Academic Accommodations:

Should you require academic accommodations, you must file a request with the Office of Educational Affairs (BC114, x3327). It is your responsibility to self-identify with that office and to provide me with the appropriate documentation from that office at least one week prior to any request for specific course accommodations. There are no retroactive accommodations.

Course Schedule:

The following is a tentative schedule. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on the course website.

	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment (Module #)	Assignment
Week 1				
	Sept 1 st	Course Introduction	1.1	
	Sept 3 rd	Psychology Then & Now, Thinking Critically	1.2 & 2.1	
Week 2				
	Sept 8 th	Research in Psychology	2.2 (p. 40-50)	
	Sept 10 th	Research in Psychology cont.	2.2 (p. 50-56) & 2.3	Scrapbook entry
Week 3				
	Sept 15 th	Biopsychology	3.1	Scrapbook entry
	Sept 17 th	Sensation	4.1 & 4.2	Scrapbook entry
Week 4				
	Sept 22 nd	Perception	4.3	Scrapbook entry
	Sept 24 th	Conscious & Unconscious Processes	10.1	Scrapbook entry
Week 5				
	Sept 29 th	Sleep & Dreams	10.2	Scrapbook entry
	Oct 1 st	EXAM 1	NONE	
Week 6				
	Oct 6 th	Learning	6.1 & 6.2	Scrapbook entry

	Oct 8 th	Learning	6.3 & 6.4	Scrapbook entry
Week 7				
	Oct 13 th	Memory	7.1 & 7.2	Scrapbook entry
	Oct 15 th	NO CLASS – READING DAY	NONE	
Week 8				
	Oct 20 th	Memory	7.3 & 7.4	Scrapbook Entry
	Oct 22 nd	Cognition	8.1 & 8.2	Turn in Scrapbook
Week 9				
	Oct 27 th	Language	8.3	Scrapbook entry
	Oct 29 th	Intelligence	9.1 & 9.2	Scrapbook entry
Week 10				
	Nov 3 rd	EXAM 2	NONE	
	Nov 5 th	Personality	14.1	Scrapbook entry
Week 11				
	Nov 10 th	Personality	14.2 & 14.3	Scrapbook entry
	Nov 12 th	Psychological Disorders & Psychotherapy	15.1 & 15.2	Scrapbook entry
Week 12				
	Nov 17 th	Psychological Disorders	16.1 & 16.3	Scrapbook entry
	Nov 19 th	Development	5.1 & 5.2	Scrapbook entry
Week 13				
	Nov 24 th	Development	5.3 & 5.4	Scrapbook Entry
	Nov 26 th	NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING	NONE	
Week 14				
	Dec 1 st	Social Psychology	13.1 & 13.2	Scrapbook entry
	Dec 3 rd	Social Psychology	13.3 & 13.4	Scrapbook entry
Week 15				
	Dec 8 th	Social Psychology & Exam Review	13.5	Turn in Scrapbook
	Dec 10 th	NO CLASS – READING DAY	NONE	
Week 16				

	Exam Week	EXAM 3	NONE	
--	--------------	---------------	------	--