

PSYCHOLOGY 101-1001 General Psychology

COURSE SYLLABUS Spring Semester 2016 *University of Nevada, Las Vegas* Friday 8:30-11:15, CBC C148

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Introduction to psychology, including introductory treatment of sensation-perception-cognition, physiological psychology, learning, personality, development, social psychology, assessment, and history.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. *To develop an understanding of the discipline of psychology.* This includes knowledge of: (a) its origins and important contributors, (b) basic terminology and concepts, (c) major problems and research findings.
2. *To develop scientific values and skills.* This includes: (a) an understanding of research methods, (b) acquisition of a critical attitude, (c) stimulation of intellectual curiosity about behavior
3. *To foster personal growth.* This goal is impossible to assess and often difficult for you to perceive, but your acquaintance with psychology should (a) sharpen your self-awareness and self-understanding, and (b) increase your understanding and tolerance of others' behavior
4. *To enhance library and computer skills.* This includes learning: (a) how to find library resources related to psychology, (b) how to find and evaluate psychological information on the World Wide Web, and (c) how to use multimedia resources available for the class.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Required textbook: Weiten, W. (2014). *Psychology: Themes and Variations* (Briefer Version, 9th edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Cengage Learning.

Required CD-ROM: Weiten, W. (2013). *PsykTrek 3.1: A Multimedia Introduction to Psychology*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Cengage Learning.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Lectures.

A majority of the classroom time will be used to present lecture material. The lectures will elaborate on some of the more important and/or difficult topics in the text. The lectures are *supplemental* to the text and they *will* contain information that is not found in the textbook.

Discussion.

Spontaneous discussion is strongly encouraged and valued. You are encouraged to ask questions and to add your own experiences to the class discussion. You should feel free to challenge and disagree with me.

Other activities.

There will be some class demonstrations and various opportunities for student participation in activities such as critiquing experiments and responding to different exercises and scales.

ATTENDANCE

Regular class attendance is essential. Poor attendance is very strongly associated with poor grades, and I want you to succeed - so I will be taking attendance. This allows you the opportunity to earn *extra credit* (up to a maximum of 12 points) by showing up to class on non-exam days. If you end the semester with your grade just shy of the next one up, this will make a big difference to you!

If you miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining the information conveyed in the lecture. Absences for exams should be discussed with me *prior* to the exam. Otherwise, your privilege to take a make-up exam will be jeopardized.

OFFICE HOURS

My lab office is in CBC B143. My name is on the door to the left - knock! I will usually be around on Tuesdays from about 1 - 3 pm, and am often available early and late on Fridays. It is always better to schedule an appointment as I don't stay in that space the whole time - you can do so by emailing me at the email address on the front of your syllabus. My email address drops the 'o' in my last name, so type carefully ☺

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Examinations.

There will be four exams, one over each of the four units described in the next section. Each exam covers that unit only. The final exam is not cumulative. Each exam will be worth approximately 75 points each. The exams will mostly consist of objective items (multiple-choice) and perhaps some short-answer essay questions. The multiple-choice portion will require a SCANTRON form, *which you are expected to supply.*

Library & Web Research Project.

You will be required to complete a library and web research assignment on a topic of your choice that will acquaint you with the various types of informational resources in psychology. It will be graded on a 40-point scale. Detailed instructions will be posted on webcampus and will be discussed in class. It is due MARCH 18th.

Simulations.

For each unit, you will run a required simulation from *PsykTrek* and then respond to a brief worksheet that will ask you to reflect on your learning experience. These assignments will each be graded on a 10-point scale for a total of 40 points.

Grading.

A cumulative points system of evaluation will be used. A curve will be applied to your cumulative point totals. Although a curve will be used, this does not mean that a certain number of students must get D's or F's. There will also be some "absolute" criteria. A total of 380 points are available, as summarized below.

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points</u>
Exams (4 for 75 pts. each)	300
Library/Web research project	40
Simulation papers	40
<i>Total</i>	380

Extra Credit

(a) *Attendance*: 1 pt per full class attended (not exam days...I would hope you come for those without incentive...) for a possible total of 12 pts

(b) *Optional Simulations*: 6 x 2 pts each for a possible total of 12 pts.
Due May 6th by 5 pm. No exceptions.

The simulations on *PsykTrek* are rich, active-learning opportunities. As already noted, you are required to complete 4 of the 10 simulations. If you would like to complete the remaining 6 simulations (#s 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8) for extra credit, you are encouraged to do so.

You can earn 2 points for each of the 6 optional simulations that you complete. You will not need to fill out worksheets for the extra-credit simulations. All you need to do is to submit your simulation results via e-mail or in class. I suggest you take a screenshot of your results and print/email them to me. DEADLINE FOR EXTRA CREDIT SUBMISSION IS FRIDAY, May 6th by 5 pm.

SONA Research Requirement

Note that failure to complete SONA research requirements will drop your letter grade as calculated above by one letter grade (see below)!!!!

Late Work

I am not expecting late work. All assignments are available well ahead of time and can be handed in before the due date. In the event that work comes in late, it will be docked one letter grade.

DEPARTMENTAL RESEARCH REQUIREMENT

All students in Psychology 101 are required (by the department) to have a direct experience with psychological research. This participation in research is *mandatory* (although you can choose an alternative experience which involves writing up summaries of research articles). **Students who do not complete the research requirement will have their final grade for the course reduced by one letter grade.** Students who are retaking the course may *not* use research credits earned during a prior semester to satisfy this requirement.

Directions on how to complete the research requirement are provided on the Psychology Subject Pool website: <http://www.unlv.edu/psychology>

Click on the "Participate in Research (Subject Pool/SONA) in the LINKS section, and follow the instructions for students. There you can find the deadlines, student information that explains the procedure, and the article summary form, should you decide to do summaries rather than participate in experiments.

Note that the deadline for completing the requirement is two weeks before the end of the semester. Please plan accordingly.

Spring 2016 Subject Pool Deadlines:

- Experiment Participation - Wednesday, April 27th @ 5:00pm
- Article Summary Submissions - Friday, April 29th @ 5:00pm

Also, note that you must activate your account before you can sign up for experiments or obtain credit for alternative assignments. It may take a few days to activate your account. Hence, it would be wise to not procrastinate. If you run into trouble, you can contact the *Subject Pool Coordinator* at: subjectpool@gmail.com

PSYCHOLOGY FAQs AND COURSE RECOMMENDATION

For those of you that may be interested in psychology as a career, there is some relevant information about the course of study that may be beneficial to you on the department website. Go to <http://www.unlv.edu/psychology/undergrad> for more information.

SPRING 2016 TENTATIVE COURSE SEQUENCE

All dates are tentative estimates. I will keep you updated as we progress through the semester.

1/22	<p>NO CLASS TODAY Please look over all webcampus material: (a) syllabus (b) text buying information (c) accessing PsykTrek online (d) student resource handout</p> <p>*CHAPTER ONE POWERPOINT NOTES ARE AVAILABLE FOR NEXT WEEK'S CLASS</p>	Syllabus and guidelines Supplemental handouts
-----	UNIT ONE:	-----
1/29	Ch. 1: The evolution of psychology Explanation of Library Project (due 3/18)	Optional modules 1a
2/5	Ch. 2: The research enterprise in psychology	Optional modules 1b,1c,1d,1e
2/5 & 2/12	Ch. 3: Biological bases of behavior	Alternate modules 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e, 2f, 2g
2/12	Ch. 4: Sensation and perception	Alternate modules 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 3f, 3g, 3h
2/19	<p>UNIT ONE QUIZ Ch. 1 / 2 / 3 / 4</p> <p>Required simulation due: SIM 1: Experimenting with the Stroop Test</p>	<p>Bring a scantron</p> <p>Worksheet due at beginning of class</p>
-----	UNIT TWO:	-----
2/19	Ch. 5: Variations in consciousness	Optional modules 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d
2/26	Ch. 6: Learning through conditioning	Optional modules 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 5e, 5f
3/4	Ch. 7: Human memory	Optional modules 6a, 6b, 6c, 6d
3/11	Ch. 8: Cognition and intelligence	Optional modules 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, 7e, 7f
3/18	<p>UNIT TWO QUIZ Ch 5 / 6 / 7 / 8</p> <p>Required simulation due: SIM 4: Shaping in operant conditioning</p> <p>Required Assignment due: Library/Web Research Project</p>	<p>Bring a scantron</p> <p>Worksheet due at beginning of class</p> <p>Hard copy due at beginning of class</p>

-----	UNIT THREE:	-----
3/18	Ch. 9: Motivation and emotion	Alternate modules 8a, 8b, 8c, 8d
3/25	SPRING BREAK - have fun!!	
4/1	Ch. 10: Human development across the lifespan	Optional modules 9a, 9b, 9c, 9d, 9e
4/8	Ch. 11: Personality: Theory, research, and assessment	Optional modules 10a, 10b, 10c, 10d
4/15	Ch. 12: Social Behavior	Optional modules 12a, 12b, 12c, 12d, 12e
4/22	UNIT THREE QUIZ Ch. 9 / 10 / 11 / 12 Required simulation due: SIM 10: Social judgment	Bring a scantron APA style paper due at beginning of class
-----	UNIT FOUR:	-----
4/22	Ch. 13: Stress, coping and health	Optional modules 11f, 11g
4/29	Ch. 14 Psychological disorders	Optional modules 11a, 11b, 11c
5/6	Ch. 15: Treatment of psychological disorders Required simulation due: SIM 9: Clinical diagnosis <i>Extra Credit Simulations due today by 5 pm</i>	Optional modules 11d, 11e APA style paper due at beginning of class
FINALS WEEK 5/9 - 5/13 (DATE TBA)	UNIT FOUR QUIZ Ch. 13 / 14 / 15	Bring a scantron Time TBA

Note:

The modules listed in the course sequence refer to the Interactive Learning Modules found in *PsykTrek*.

Optional modules can be used to bolster selected content coverage in the text, but the test questions for that chapter will be based on the text and lecture.

Alternate modules can function as a *substitute* for reading the text, as *all* the test questions for those chapters will come from the assigned *PsykTrek* modules. In other words, the reading of Chapters 3, 4, and 9 is optional. Over the course of the semester, you are only required to read 12 of the chapters in your textbook.

Disability Resource Center (DRC) – The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you.

If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor before or after class to discuss your accommodation needs.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution.

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the *Student Academic Misconduct Policy* (approved December 9, 2005) located at:

<https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

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RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS POLICY

Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor no later than the end of the first two weeks of classes, **January 30, 2016**, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531>.

INCOMPLETE GRADES

The grade of I – Incomplete – can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student’s control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

TUTORING

The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring and academic assistance for all UNLV students taking UNLV courses. Students are encouraged to stop by the ASC to learn more about subjects offered, tutoring times and other academic resources. The ASC is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Students may learn more about tutoring services by calling 702-895-3177 or visiting the tutoring web site at: <http://academicsuccess.unlv.edu/tutoring/>.

UNLV WRITING CENTER

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. The student’s Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>

Rebelmail – By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students’ Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV’s official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students’ e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always @unlv.nevada.edu. **Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.**