

Syllabus
General Psychology
Fall 2019

Instructor: Summer Hickman, M.A., LPA
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Course #: PSYC 1103, Sect 105
Time: TR 12:30pm-1:50pm
Location: PY 100
Office Hours: TR 11:00am-12:00pm

King, L.A. (2014). *The Science of Psychology: An Appreciative View* (4th ed.). New York, New York: McGraw Hill.

Texas Core Objectives (Competency Based)

1. Critical Thinking Skills—including creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
2. Communication Skills—including effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written communication.
3. Empirical and Quantitative Skills—including the analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
4. Social Responsibility—including intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

Course Objectives:

1. Help students to gain an overview of the fundamental principles of psychology.
2. Increase student ability to glean and retain pertinent information vis-à-vis independent study.
3. Gain a perspective of the relevance of psychological research in today's world.

Course Requirements:

1. In order to encourage students to keep current with their reading and to help students prepare for exams, twelve quizzes will be given during the semester. These quizzes will help students identify important concepts emphasized in the exams. Quizzes may be multiple choice or short answer in format and will be worth 10 points each. Each student may drop his or her two lowest quiz scores. Although quiz scores will not be calculated into the final grade, students may use their quiz scores to replace their lowest exam score. (Quiz scores will not be allowed to substitute for the last exam.)
2. Exams will be worth 100 points each. Each exam will be comprised of multiple-choice questions and one essay question. Material on the exam will include both information presented in class lecture as well as information contained in the text. In other words, all lecture material as well as all material in the text is apt to appear on the exams. It will not be sufficient to simply attend lecture to be successful in this course.
3. By midterm (Exam 4), students will have developed a list of at least six psychologists or psychological theories or psychological principles, their "Panel of Experts," and will be able to describe the unique contribution of each member of the Panel.

You will be asked to list and briefly describe the unique contributions of each member of your Panel of Experts ON THE FOURTH COURSE EXAM. That portion of the exam will contribute 20% toward your grade on that exam.

4. Your final exam will include an essay component that requires you to address an issue of social, interpersonal, or personal concern (e.g., an unproductive employee, a student who can't control his spending, religious intolerance) from the perspective of one of the members of your imaginary "Panel of Experts." This portion of the exam will contribute 20% toward your grade on the final exam.
5. It is important that students of scientific psychology learn firsthand something about the scientific nature of the discipline. Therefore, all students in PSYC 1103 and 2203 are required to participate in one of the following research-related exercises. No extra credit is given for research participation, but **failure to complete the research requirement will result in a one letter grade reduction for the course. The deadline for completing the research requirement is December 1, 2019.**

Participate in one or more approved psychology research projects totaling at least 90 minutes **no later than December 1, 2019**. Research opportunities will be announced throughout the semester in postings that appear on the psychology department's website.

OR

Complete a research ethics essay. Participating students will read academic writings addressing research ethics. Following this, students will complete a 3 or 4-page double-spaced, typed summary and review of the information they read. Tables, figures, pictures do not count toward the minimum page requirement. **Essays must be submitted no later than December 3, 2019.**

Grades: Grades will be based on a 500-point scale.

- A 450-500
- B 400-449
- C 350-399
- D 300-349
- F 0-299

Note Packets:

Students may earn extra points on each exam. In order to earn the extra points, students must complete a note packet for each of the chapters covered on the exam. Note packets are structured to summarize the information presented in the textbook. Submission of lecture notes only will result in no additional points.

Note packets will be turned in to the professor on the day of the exam and should be collected by students upon completion of the exam. Note packets must be handwritten in blue ink. Additionally, all note packets must be stapled or they will not be accepted.

Note packets will include at least summary statements for each section, definitions of key terms, and a description or summary of the content presented in graphs, charts, and supplemental sections. Additional evidence of SQ3R implementation and incorporation of lecture notes into the note packet may result in additional points.

Attendance:

Attendance is required for the course. Each student will be allowed three absences without penalty. Each additional absence will result in a 5% reduction of the student's final grade. Students arriving following the taking of attendance will be considered absent. Students will be responsible for the information presented during the class periods for which they were absent. This information includes but is not limited to course content, syllabus changes, and information regarding the research requirement.

The only absences that will not be counted are absences for a mandatory, university-sponsored event or religious holiday. Mandatory university-sponsored events must be verified by the Dean of Students, Provost, or Athletic Director. Written notification for mandatory university-sponsored events must be provided to the professor at least two days prior to the day of the event. Absences for religious holidays must be cleared through the Dean of Students. Students must inform the instructor of religious holiday absences by the 15th day of class.

Make-Up Exams:

Make up exams must be completed within two class days of the date the exam was administered. Make up exams will be essay questions only.

Midterm Progress Report:

In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, a Midterm Progress Report will be provided through each student's WebWorld account. The purpose of this is to identify and inform students who are at-risk of a low or failing grade so they can be proactive about raising their grade throughout the remainder of the semester. Midterm grades will not be reported on the students' transcript; nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They simply give students an idea of where they stand at the midpoint of the semester. Students earning below a C at the midway point should schedule a meeting with me to discuss how to make the most out of the remaining half of the semester.

Cheating Policy:

Although cheating does occur on campus, any evidence of cheating (e.g., looking on another's paper, allowing someone to look on your own paper, using an unauthorized memory aide) will result in automatic dismissal from the course with a letter grade of "F" and a referral to the Dean of Students, as cheating is a violation of the university honor code.

Disability:

Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements. Students must present appropriate verification from the University's Disability Support Services (DSS) during the instructor's office hours. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from the DSS has been provided.

Tentative Class Schedule:

Week	Dates	Readings	Important Dates
1	08/27 & 08/29	Chapter 1—pgs. 4-23	
2	09/03 & 09/05	Chapter 2—pgs. 24-59	
3	09/10 & 09/12		09/12—Exam 1
4	09/17 & 09/19	Chapter 5—pgs. 142-177	
5	09/24 & 09/26	Chapter 17—pgs. 558-582	
6	10/01 & 10/03		10/03—Exam 2
7	10/08 & 10/10	Chapter 9—pgs. 286-323	10/10—Midterm Progress Report
8	10/15 & 10/17	Chapter 11—pgs. 354-391	
9	10/22 & 10/24		10/24—Exam 3
10	10/29 & 10/31	Chapter 6—pgs. 178-211	
11	11/05 & 11/07	Chapter 12—pg. 392-427	
12	11/12 & 11/14		11/14—Exam 4
13	11/19 & 11/21	Chapter 15—pgs. 496-529	
14	11/26 & 11/28		11/28—No Class
15	12/03 & 12/05	Chapter 16—pgs. 530-557	12/01—Research Participation Due 12/03—Research Essay Due
16	12/10 & 12/12		12/12—Final Exam/Exam 5 10:30am-12:30pm