

General Psychology: Psyc 101

Professor: Dr. Matthew N. McMullen

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Office Hours: M, T, Th 10:30-11:30; after class; or by appointment

Text: Psychology, Themes and Variations, Briefer Version (7th ed.) Weiten.

Course description:

Have you ever awakened from a nightmare and wondered why, and how often, we dream? Wondered what types of techniques are used in psychotherapy? Played with an infant and wondered what's going on in the mind of a child? Wondered what happens to people's brains when they use drugs? Listened to music and wondered whether subliminal messages are real?

If so, you have already shown an interest in Psychology. Unfortunately, most people's perception of Psychology comes from "pop psychology" – the talk shows and self-help books that trivialize and distort our field. You will find that Psychology is very different, and much more, than "How to Heal Your Inner Child" and "Daily Affirmations for Self-Esteem." In this class you will be exposed to the field of Psychology as it really is, perhaps for the first time. In the process, you will experience the excitement of our discoveries, our research, and our debates; more importantly, you will gain a new perspective on yourself and others.

Grading:

Exams: 60 points each (4 exams)

Total: 240 points

I will announce the grading scale for each exam after they are graded. I generally follow a straight (90%, 80%, etc.) scale fairly closely. The final grading scale will be the sum of the grading scales for the individual exams.

Exams will be multiple choice. Questions will come from the text and from lectures.

Each exam will cover three chapters. The final exam is not cumulative.

Extra Credit

There may be a few opportunities for extra credit. Any extra credit will be available to all students – no individual arrangements will be made. All extra credit opportunities will be announced in class, and therefore receiving the extra credit does require class attendance.

Late/make-up tests

All tests taken at a time other than the regularly scheduled exam time will be essay form. If you do not contact me about missing an exam on or before the date of the exam, you will lose one full grade for every day neglected.

Students with disabilities

If you have a disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please see me. Validation from Disability Support Services authorizing your accommodations is required.

Course Calendar

Week	Dates	Topic	Chapter
1	Sept. 4	Introduction/The Evolution of Psychology	1
2	9	The Biological Bases of Behavior	3
	11	The Biological Basis of Behavior	3
3	16	Sensation and Perception	4
	18	Sensation and Perception	4
4	23	Sensation and Perception	4
	25	Exam 1: Chapters 1, 3, & 4	
5	30	Variations in Consciousness	5
	Oct. 2	Variations in Consciousness	5
6	7	Learning	6
	9	Human Memory	7
7	14	Human Memory	7
	16	Exam 2: Chapters 5, 6, & 7	
8	21	Cognition and Intelligence	8
	23	Cognition and Intelligence	8
9	28	Motivation and Emotion	9
	30	Development across the lifespan	10
10	Nov. 4	Election Day No Classes	
	6	Development across the lifespan	10
11	11	Veteran's Day No Classes	
	13	Exam 3: Chapters 8, 9, & 10	
12	18	Psychological Disorders	13
	20	Psychological Disorders	13
13	25	Treatment of Psychological Disorders	14
	27	Thanksgiving break Nov. 26-28	
14	Dec. 2	Treatment of Psychological Disorders	14
	4	Social Behavior	15
Finals week: Dec. 8 - 11			
Exam 4: Chapters 13, 14, & 15. Wed., Dec. 10, 12:00			