

Psy 101 General Psychology Spring 2008 Syllabus

Instructor: Judith A. McLaughlin, PhD

Time and Room: TR 8:40-10:10 am, LA 148

Office & Hours: TR 9:15-10:15
LA 505, 657-2961 or 657-2242; email: jmclaughlin@msubillings.edu

Text: Griggs, R. A. *Psychology: A Concise Introduction*. New York: Worth, 2006

Web Page: Copies of the course syllabus and study guides are available in PDF format at www.msubillings.edu/CASFaculty/mclaughlin/. Copies of the Power Point presentation slides used in class are also available.

Course Objectives:

1. To gain an introductory knowledge of the principles of psychology;
2. To understand the role of theory and research in the study of psychology;
3. To understand the processes of psychological functioning, including sensation, perception, consciousness, learning, memory, thinking, intelligence, development, motivation, emotion, personality, social relations, and abnormal functioning and its treatment.

Attendance

Beginning Tuesday, January 22, attendance sheets will be posted at the entrance to LA 148, for students to sign before class begins. Attendance sheets may not be signed after 10:35 a.m. Occasionally, students may be asked to resign at the end of class, and those who signed at the beginning of class and not at the end will lose all attendance points up to that date. Attendance will not be taken on test days. Students will earn ½ point for each day in attendance, for a maximum of 12.5 points. These points will be added to the total test points, raising the final grade percent by up to 4%.

Examination Points:

There will be four in-class examinations. Each exam will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions. All questions will come from material covered in lecture. Each question will be worth 2 points, so that each exam will be worth a total of 100 points. A study guide will be distributed before each exam, describing all material to be covered on the exam. Material not listed on the study guide will not be on the exam.

Students who miss an exam may take a make-up exam, which will be essay. To schedule a make-up exam, please see one of the teaching assistants. Makeup exams must be completed before the next scheduled exam. Please note that except for extraordinary circumstances, students will be allowed to make up only one exam.

Extra Credit

Occasionally there may be opportunities for students to earn extra credit for participating in psychological research. These opportunities will be announced in class and are entirely voluntary.

Grading:

There are 4 tests, each worth 100 points. The lowest test grade will be dropped. **However, the grade for test 4 will be dropped only for students who attend all classes between tests 3 and 4.** Points earned for attendance will be added to the total test points, and the result divided by 3, to arrive at the final grade percent. Final grades will be assigned on the following basis:

A	90% or higher (270 points or higher)
B	80% - 89.9% (240 to 269 points)
C	70% - 79.9% (210 to 239 points)
D	60% - 69.9% (180 to 209 points)
F	lower than 60% (179 or fewer points)

Tentative Course Schedule (note that “tentative” means “subject to change”!)

<u>Unit 1:</u>	<u>Foundations of Psychology</u>
Jan 17	Introduction to Psychology (Ch 1)
Jan 22-24	Developmental Psychology (Ch 7)
Jan 29-31	Social Psychology (Ch 9)
Feb 5	TEST 1: Chapters 1, 7, 9
<u>Unit 2:</u>	<u>The Brain</u>
Feb 7-12	Neuroscience (Ch 2)
Feb 14-21	Sensation & Perception (Ch 3)
Feb 26	TEST 2: Chapters 2 & 3
Feb 29	Interlude
<u>Unit 3:</u>	<u>The Mind</u>
Mar 11-13	Learning (Ch 4)
Mar 18-25	Memory (Ch 5)
Mar 27	Cognition, Intelligence & Creativity (Ch 6)
Apr 1	TEST 3: Chapters 4, 5, 6
Apr 3	OPEN TOPIC DAY
<u>Unit 4:</u>	<u>Mental Health</u>
Apr 8-10	Personality (Ch 8)
Apr 15-12	Abnormal Psychology (Ch 10)
Apr 24	TEST 4: Chapters 8 & 10
Final Exam Period	Makeup Exams
Tues, Apr 29, 12:00	