

PSYC 101 INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

Syllabus

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*In order to maintain the privacy of the instructor, the pseudo-name, “Dr. Headshrink,” will be used.

COURSE CREDIT:

Three Semester Hours

COURSE MATERIALS:

To order textbooks or obtain information about book titles you may go to www.exstudies.adams.edu and click on the “ASC Bookstore” icon.

Use **Section Number: 600** to order books from Bookstore site.

Required Textbook:

Rathus, S. A. *Psychology Concepts and Connections*. Wadsworth, 2005.
ISBN: 0-534-462871 case bound, 0-534-63305-6 loose-leaf

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides students with a survey of research and theory in the science of psychology. An important goal of the course is to broaden the student’s understanding of self and others. Course topics include critical thinking skills, research methods, neuroscience, sensation and perception, life-span development, learning, memory, personality, psychological disorders, and social psychology.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- To give the student a foundation in contemporary psychological theory and research.
- To give the student an opportunity for self-understanding within the context of psychological principles.
- To stimulate critical thinking about psychology through the understanding of scientific principles.
- To understand the role that biology plays in behavior and mental processes.
- To examine the course of physical, cognitive, and social development in humans.
- To gain a basic understanding of sensory systems and the role they play in perception.
- To examine basic components of learning (classical conditioning, operant conditioning, and observational learning) and how they relate to everyday living.

- To gain a basic understanding of memory encoding, storage, and retrieval and how these processes can be used to improve memory.
- To study different theories developed to understand individual differences in personality.
- To examine the biological and social bases of major psychological disorders and study the major symptoms, causes, and treatments for these disorders.
- To examine social thinking, social influence, and social relations within a multi-cultural context.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Each of the four assignments will include four essay questions covering material presented in the text. This will cover all sixteen chapters of the book. Because you may use your text, notes, or any other source to help you in responding to the essay questions, it is expected that your responses be detailed, thorough, and well thought out. When people ask me how long a paper or presentation needs to be, I tell them it needs to be like a curtain. It should be long enough to cover the window, but not so long that it drags on the floor. Keep in mind that the assignments cannot possibly cover everything presented in the text. Therefore, they are designed to address the broad issues presented in each chapter.

The proctored, comprehensive final exam will be open-book and timed (1.5 hours). There will be fifty multiple-choice questions (two points each), as well as four essay questions each worth ten points. The multiple-choice items on the final exam will focus on more detailed information as presented in the text. The exam will include information from all chapters in the text.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALE:

In alignment with ASC academic policies, no D may apply to a major or minor field.

Grade Distribution:

Assignment 1	40 points	10 points each
Assignment 2	40 points	10 points each
Assignment 3	40 points	10 points each
Assignment 4	40 points	10 points each
Proctored Comprehensive Final Exam	<u>140 points</u>	
Total Points	300	

Scale:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59% and below	F

COURSE INSTRUCTIONS

The final examination is proctored. Text and notes are allowed. There is a 1.5 hour time limit on the exam. Refer to the Guidelines for Proctored Exams and submit your Exam Request Form.

All other assignments are to be completed on your own, using the textbook or any other sources you like. These assignments can be e-mailed to the instructor at the e-mail address shown above, or submitted by conventional mail to the mailing address shown above.

If you do not have access to e-mail, all communication including assignments and exams can be conducted through postal mail. If you want graded assignments and/or other questions returned to you by postal mail, you must include a postage-paid, self addressed envelope when you submit your completed assignments.

All exams and assignments are graded as soon as possible upon receipt. I know how important time is to most of you, and I will try to get your results back to you within a few days. The final exam will not be returned to you because it may be used to test other students. If you would like to see your exam, arrangements can be made with your proctor for you to view the exam and then return it to us.