

Spring 2014

Principles of Psychology

Instructor: Heather Haught

heather.haught@rockets.utoledo.edu

Office: UH 6509

Phone: 419.530.8441

Office Hours: By appointment

Class hours: TTR 12:30-1:45PM

Location: SM 2100

Course Website:

Course Description

This course addresses the basic principles of psychology, the scientific study of mental processes and behavior. Among the topics surveyed are research methodology, biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, learning, consciousness, thought and memory, development, motivation and emotion, gender and sexuality, stress and health, interpersonal and intergroup relations, personality, and psychological disorders. Throughout the course is an emphasis on developing an understanding of psychology as the science of human thought and behavior and to critically evaluating “common sense” knowledge about how people function as well as current psychological perspectives.

Course Objectives

- To abandon misconceptions about the field of psychology and to appreciate its breadth and scientific rigor.
- To develop an understanding of the scientific methods used in psychological research.
- To become familiar with basic psychological terminology and current knowledge.
- To gain an understanding of psychology’s role in modern culture.
- To learn about psychology and critical thinking not only from the readings and from the instructor, but also through interactions with your colleagues.
- To come to share my enthusiasm for studying the human mind and behavior.

Method of Instruction

Research has shown that the more people interact with course material, the more they learn. Consistent with this idea, this course employs several different techniques to help you engage the course material. Please read assigned material before coming to class. While the course is primarily lecture-based, you will also participate in research, complete online activities, and engage in class discussions serving to clarify misconceptions about course material as well as to relate material to current events and personal experience. If it is apparent that the class is not completing assigned readings, pop quizzes will be incorporated into the curriculum. Your grade will consist of four exams and research participation credit.

Textbook

Psychology (3rd edition) by Drs. Sandra Ciccarelli and J. Noland White
ISBN-13: 978-0-205-83257-6

Evaluation

Reading Assignments. You are expected to do all reading assignments prior to coming to class. If students are unprepared, I will incorporate pop quizzes into the course.

Exams. There will be 4 cumulative exams during the semester. Each exam will be worth 50 points and will be weighted to reflect 100% of your final course grade. The exams will be primarily multiple choice, but may also include short answer and essay questions. They will cover material from readings as well as from lectures and class discussion.

Research requirement. Opportunities to serve as participants in student and faculty research projects will be available. These provide excellent opportunities to learn first-hand about the research process in psychology. You are required to participate in at least 4 hrs of research. Failing to do so will result in an incomplete for the course.

Extra credit. Extra credit opportunities will be discussed as they arise. These generally include participating in additional hours of research. However, alternative opportunities may be available.

Late Assignment/Missed Exam Policy. Except for health or family emergencies, all exams must be taken and all work must be turned in on the dates listed here (unless explicitly changed by the instructor). In the interest of fairness for all students, make-up tests will not normally be given and late assignments will not be accepted except in cases of genuine and **documented** emergencies.

	Due Date	Chapters	% Final Grade
Exam 1	1/30	1-3	25%
Exam 2	3/4	5-7	25%
Exam 3	4/8	8, 10-12	25%
Exam 4	4/24	13-15	25%
Research	4/24	-	-
Total:			100%

Final grades will be computed as a percentage of the possible points you earned:

A	92.5-100%	C+	77.5 - 79.99%	D-	60 - 62.49%
A-	90-92.5%	C	72.5 - 77.49%	F	< 60%
B+	87.5 - 89.99%	C-	70 - 72.49%	Where dragons roam!	
B	82.5 - 87.49%	D+	67.5 - 69.99%		
B-	80 - 82.49%	D	62.5 - 67.49%		

Questions about Grades

1. If you do not understand why you got the grade that you got, you should absolutely seek clarification. Under no conditions, will your grade be lowered. (Generally, it is a bad practice to create an appeal policy where people may be penalized for exercising a legitimate right to appeal).

2. If you do want clarification, however, you are required first to submit something in writing, explaining your question. If you think your answer was correct, you must document your belief with evidence from the text.
3. After receiving your written questions, the instructor will review your documentation and decide if a grade change is warranted, and then return your test and some written comments. If you still have a concern, please set up an appointment with the instructor.

Policy on Respect

Some of the material in this course will touch on sensitive subjects such as religion, politics, and sexuality. If you are in any way uncomfortable reading or discussing any of the material, please let me know and I will try to arrange an alternative assignment. Sometimes in lectures or discussions I may use outrageous examples to clarify points or provoke discussion; if you are offended by something that is said, please accept my apologies in advance and express your concern to me after class. I will not share your concerns with the class without your permission, but I will try to respond to them. While we will encourage informal discussion, I will insist that you always speak to others in the class in a respectful way, and to avoid comments and behaviors that disparage individuals. Speaking informally but respectfully about sensitive subjects is an important skill, and this class will help you learn it.

Students with Disabilities

Reasonable accommodations will be made for anyone with a disability that may require some modification of seating, testing, or other class requirements. Students must contact the Office of Accommodations (Rocket Hall 1820) for an evaluation and a form specifying what course accommodations are judged reasonable for that student. Please contact the instructor after class or during office hours so that appropriate arrangements may be made.

The contact information for the Office of Accommodations is as follows:

Campus Address: Rocket Hall 1820, Mail Stop #342

Phone Number: 419.530.4981

Web: <http://www.utoledo.edu/utlc/accessibility/>

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Among the aims of education are the acquisition of knowledge and development of the skills necessary for success in any profession. Activities inconsistent with these aims will not be permitted. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes academic dishonesty. If students are uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism or cheating they should seek the instructor's advice. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

- Plagiarizing or representing the words, ideas or information of another person as one's own and not offering proper documentation;
- Giving or receiving, prior to an examination, any unauthorized information concerning the content of that examination;
- Referring to or displaying any unauthorized materials inside or outside of the examination room during the course of an examination;
- Communicating during an examination in any manner with any unauthorized person concerning the examination or any part of it;

- Giving or receiving substantive aid during the course of an examination;
- Commencing an examination before the stipulated time or continuing to work on an examination after the announced conclusion of the examination period;
- Taking, converting, concealing, defacing, damaging or destroying any property related to the preparation or completion of assignments, research or examination;
- Submitting the same written work to fulfill the requirements for more than one course.

Class Schedule
Subject to change at instructor's discretion

Week	Date	Topic	Chapter
1	1/7	Introduction	
	1/9	The Science of Psychology	1
2	1/14	Research Methods	1
	1/16	Biological Perspective	2
3	1/21	Biological Perspective Continued	2
	1/23	Sensation & Perception	3
4	1/28	Sensation & Perception Continued	3
	1/30	Exam 1	
5	2/4	Learning	5
	2/6	Learning Continued	5
6	2/11	No Class	
	2/13	No Class	
7	2/18	Memory	6
	2/20	Memory Continued	6
8	2/25	Cognition	7
	2/27	Cognition Continued	7
9	3/4	Exam 2	
	3/6	Development	8
10	3/11	Development Continued	8
	3/13	NO CLASS	10
11	3/18	Sex & Gender	10
	3/20	Sex & Gender Continued	10
12	3/25	Stress & Health	11
	3/27	Stress & Health Continued	11
12	4/1	Social	12
	4/3	Social Continued	12
13	4/8	Exam 3	
	4/10	Personality	13
14	4/15	Personality Continued	13
	4/17	Psychological Disorders	14
15	4/22	Therapies	15
	4/24	Exam 4	

Psychology Research Exposure

To introduce students to the research methodology of psychology, all students in Principles of Psychology (PSY 1010) at the University of Toledo (Bancroft Campus) must accumulate 4 units of research credit during the semester. **Students failing to do so will automatically be given a grade of Incomplete (I) for the course.** These 4 units of research credit may be obtained in any combination of two different ways: (1) participating in psychology experiments and/or (2) writing research reports. Students may be able to earn additional points (i.e., extra credit) by participating in additional research experiments or writing additional reports. The decision to offer any extra is under the discretion of the course instructor.

Participation in Psychology Experiments: Students earn research credit based on the duration of each research session. For example: A session that lasts 30 minutes or less is worth one-half (0.5) credit. A session that lasts between 31 and 60 minutes is worth one (1.0) credit. A session that lasts between 61 and 90 minutes is worth one (1.5) credit. And so on...

To sign up for an experiment, you will need to login to the psychology department's research sign-up system on the internet (<http://utoledo.sona-systems.com/>). To access your account, simply type in the user ID and password that were emailed to you at the beginning of the semester. If this does not work for you (e.g., if you've added the course after the semester began), you may need to request a new account on the bottom left hand of the front page.

If it is necessary for you to miss an appointment because of illness or some other emergency, you must cancel your appointment at least **2 hours before** the experiment. All cancellations must be done via the department's research web page. If you miss a scheduled appointment without canceling or contacting the experimenter, your absence will be designated an "unexcused no show". If you fail to show up (i.e., you are designated an "unexcused no show") for 3 experiments, you will lose your privilege to sign up for additional experiments and be prompted to contact the system administrator. If an experimenter fails to show up for a session but you do not, you will still receive credit for participating. If this happens, you must wait at least 10 minutes and then contact the Research Coordinator at: psychresearch@utoledo.edu.

Writing Research Reports: Each report (worth 1 unit of research credit) will be based on a scientific article in a psychology journal that is pre-approved by the instructor. Each paper should be no more than 2-3 pages in length and will be judged on the basis of clarity, spelling, grammar, and content.

You are to summarize and critically evaluate the article by:

- ✓ Identifying the purpose of the study (why did the authors conduct this study)
- ✓ Stating the hypotheses in the study
- ✓ Summarizing in sufficient detail the method used (procedure, materials, and participants)
- ✓ Reporting the results from the study and the general conclusions

Empirical articles must be obtained through Google Scholar or PsycINFO.

To locate PsycINFO, go to:

OhioLINK

Then, click the following links:

Library Databases

Listed by name, P-Q

Scroll down to PsycINFO 1967- (present)

Empirical articles may be on any psychological topic you choose, but they must be an original scientific study (not a review article). Ideally, you should select a few before you submit them to your instructor for approval just in case one (or more) is not approved.