

**Principles of Psychology**  
**PSY 1010 – 005 Spring 2013**  
 M W 9:30 – 10:45 Wolfe Hall 1205

|               |                       |               |                         |
|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Instructor:   | Lance Jones, M.A.     | E-mail:       | Lance.Jones@utoledo.edu |
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| Office Hours: | M & W 11:15-1:45 p.m. | Skype:        | lancedjones             |

**Required Text and Access:**

- Weiten, Wayne. (2010). *Psychology: Themes and Variations* (8<sup>th</sup> ed.). ISBN: 9780495601975. Options are available here:  
<http://www.cengagebrain.com/shop/isbn/9780495601975>

**Course Description and Goals:**

This is a General Education Social Science Core course and there are no prerequisites. This course covers a broad survey of the various disciplines and content areas of psychology. For each area, you will be exposed to numerous theories, concepts, and findings. Because of the diversity within psychology, we will also spend time identifying the main themes and values that unify the field.

Psychology is quite different than many popular conceptions of psychology. One of the main goals for this course is for you to learn the basic content of psychology and, in the process, learn how that content applies to your life. You should be able to use your experience in this course to work toward the following goals:

- Describe psychological theories, principles and concepts relevant to the following topics: history and methods, physiology (biology of behavior, consciousness, perception), cognition (learning, thought, language), social, developmental, personality and psychopathology and its treatment.
- Describe how psychologists use the scientific method to research behavior and mental events, identifying strengths and limitations of different research methods.
- Identify the types of evidence that can (or cannot) support or refute cause-and-effect relationships.
- Practice recognizing psychological topics at different levels of analysis: cellular, individual, group/social, and cultural.
- Describe the advantages and disadvantages of psychological science compared to "common sense" knowledge; give examples of specific research findings that confirm or disconfirm "common sense."
- Use knowledge of psychological methods and findings to assess and critically evaluate popular sources of information, such as newspapers, lay periodicals, and the internet.
- Apply basic psychological principles to history, current events, and daily experiences.
- Recognize diversity, individual differences, and similarities in a variety of contexts.
- Develop tolerance of ambiguity and appreciate the tentativeness of scientific evidence, as well as the complexity of many psychological explanations.
- Improve your ability to learn by reading and improve your ability to study more effectively.
- Become a more critical thinker by practicing (a) verbal reasoning skills, (b) argument and persuasion analysis skills, (c) skills in using or interpreting scientific methods, (d) skills in working with likelihood and uncertainty, and (e) decision-making and problem-solving skills.

## Graded Portions of the Course

*The graded portions of this course are on two websites. A master checklist for each Chapter is available on Blackboard. I recommend that you start each week by going to Blackboard first.*

**Readings.** Most of your work will be reading, and this directly affects your performance on the rest of the graded work. Students who do not read the text typically earn D's or F's. You are expected to read the assigned chapters. The material on Blackboard is offered to aid your understanding of the text, and your ability to retain this information. You are strongly advised to complete readings and tasks in the order that they are suggested in the detailed checklists for each week (found on Blackboard).

The checklists on Blackboard are designed to guide your studies – not to replace reading the text. Lectures are designed to guide your studies – not to replace reading the text. All identified parts of the text and lectures may contribute to the exams.

**Figures and Graphs in the Text.** The textbook has many figures and graphs. Yes, you should pay attention to these! You should watch all of the videos on Blackboard. The exams can contain questions from these. For figures and graphs, make sure that you understand how they tie to the text, and what the main point is that is demonstrated in the figure or graph. Usually, the captions help identify the main points. These are not graded directly, but they can help you score better on the exams and assignments.

**Taking Notes.** Yes! You should take notes! It can be tempting to read or click through the online materials passively (without taking notes). This is not recommended. You may find that keeping a notebook or notepaper beside your computer is a useful tool for comparing the various components of the course. Some students take notes while reading. Other students write in their text, make notes in their text, or use highlighters. If you only use the e-text, you can still use a highlighter (see instructions online). However you choose to integrate the different activities, it is a good idea to be active!

**Exams.** Exams contribute 500 points toward your grade for the course. There will be 3 exams during class time and the final exam. Exams 1-3 contain 50 multiple choice questions covering 4 chapters and are worth 100 points each. The final contains 100 items and is worth 200 points. For the final, 50 items cover the final 4 chapters and another 50 items cover the semester's content. All exams are required.

**Attendance and Participation.** You can earn 20 points toward your final grade by attending and participating actively. Attendance will be taken randomly throughout the semester. Participation is based on presence, preparation, and participation in the activities of the class. Points will be deducted for failure to attend, failure to participate in the day's activities, disrupting activities (through talking, inappropriate behavior, sleeping), or coming to class unprepared (i.e. not having read the text or having the knowledge needed to participate). As part of classes you may receive some assignments and surveys. Completing these will be part of your participation score for that day.

**Paper.** You will earn 30 points by writing 1 paper, 2-3 pages, describing a personal life experience you have encountered and how it relates to a psychological concept or theory covered in the syllabus. The paper must be on a topic from the text. Do not disclose highly personal or illegal topics. The paper is due, submitted on Blackboard, on April 12<sup>th</sup> by 5:00 p.m.. You may submit the paper early. You may, but are not required, to use sources outside of your textbook for your paper, but any sources outside the textbook must be presented in a reference list (any style). The paper must be at least two pages but not more than three pages (one-sided, double-spaced pages, 12-point font, with 1" margins). If you have a reference list or title page, this does not count toward the page requirement. Your paper should be structured in the following way:

- A. Description of the life event
- B. Description of the psychological concept or theory to which it relates with sufficient detail to demonstrate you understand the concept and can use appropriate terminology
- C. Detailed description of how the event is an example of, or how it applies to, the psychological concept/theory

Each paper will be graded as follows.

- 10 points: Description of one life event and its relation to psychology
- 10 points: Description of the psychological theory or concept
- 10 points: Clarity, readability, organization of ideas, spelling, and grammar

**Extra Credit.** Extra credit can be available. However, your time is probably better spent completing the scheduled portions of the course. It is extremely important that you keep up to date and communicate with me immediately if you are struggling. There is no need for any student to struggle with a topic alone. Please e-mail me immediately if you have any questions or problems.

**Academic Integrity.** Individual assignments should reflect your personal abilities, competencies, and efforts. Cheating (using or attempting to use unauthorized materials in an academic exercise), fabrication (falsifying or inventing information), facilitating academic dishonesty (helping or attempting to help another commit an act of academic dishonesty), and plagiarism (representing the words or ideas of another as your own) will not be tolerated. Read UT's policy on academic integrity for further information. Please complete all work as instructed.

**Grading Scale.** The following 550 pt scale will be used to calculate grades. The three exams during the semester contribute 300 points, and the final contributes 200 points. Attendance contributes 20 points, and the paper contributes 30 points.

| Grade | Point Range | Earning Grade |
|-------|-------------|---------------|
| A     | 511 – 550   |               |
| A-    | 495 – 510.9 |               |
| B+    | 478 – 494.9 |               |
| B     | 456 – 477.9 |               |
| B-    | 440 – 455.9 |               |
| C+    | 423 – 439.9 |               |
| C     | 401 – 422.9 |               |
| C-    | 385 – 400.9 |               |
| D+    | 368 – 384.9 |               |
| D     | 346 – 367.9 |               |
| D-    | 330 – 345.9 |               |
| F     | 0 – 329.9   |               |

### Academic Accommodations

The University will make reasonable academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Students should contact the Office of Academic Access (Rocket Hall 1820; 419.530.4981; [officeofacademicaccess@utoledo.edu](mailto:officeofacademicaccess@utoledo.edu)) as soon as possible for more information and/or to initiate the process for accessing academic accommodations.

### Websites and Hardware/Software Requirements

**IT Helpdesk.** If you have any questions regarding your computer hardware or software, you will need to contact the ITHelpdesk, Main Campus in Carlson Library, (419) 530-2400, [ITHELPDESK@utoledo.edu](mailto:ITHELPDESK@utoledo.edu), or online at <http://www.utoledo.edu/it/CS/HelpDesk.html>. There is also an FAQ for common computer questions online at <http://www.utoledo.edu/it/FAQ/index.html>.

**Blackboard Support.** Your starting point for your course is Blackboard. You can find this syllabus, instructions on purchasing the book, and study materials on Blackboard. To go directly to blackboard, go to: <http://blackboard.utdl.edu/> and enter your UTAD username and password. For assistance, you can access an FAQ for Blackboard here <http://help.blackboard.com/student/index.htm>.

## Psychology Research Participation.

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.

### (Option 1) 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 your Rocket ID number into both the "Password" and "UserID" spaces on the front page. 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.

**Cancellations & No-Shows.** 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](mailto:psychresearch@utoledo.edu).

### (Option 2) 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 the library's website, 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.

Psychology department research participation policy: <http://psychology.utoledo.edu/researchrequirement>

## Tentative Course Schedule

There is a link on Blackboard for each week. This includes checklists, notes, and other materials to help you through the week.

| Date            |     |               | Topic  | Readings                  |
|-----------------|-----|---------------|--|---------------------------|
| Week 1          | Jan | 7<br>9        | Introduction<br>Evolution of Psychology  | Syllabus & Ch. 1<br>Ch. 1 |
| Week 2          | Jan | 14<br>16      | Research in Psychology<br>Research in Psychology   | Ch. 2<br>Ch. 2            |
| Week 3          | Jan | 21<br>23      | <b>NO CLASS</b><br>Biology of Behavior   | Ch. 3                     |
| Week 4          | Jan | 28<br>30      | Biology of Behavior<br>Sensation and Perception  | Ch. 3<br>Ch. 4            |
| Week 5          | Feb | 4<br>6        | <b>Exam 1 – Covering Ch. 1, 2, 3, 4 and lecture</b><br>Consciousness   | Ch. 5                     |
| Week 6          | Feb | 11<br>13      | Learning<br>Learning   | Ch. 6<br>Ch. 6            |
| Week 7          | Feb | 18<br>20      | Memory<br>Memory   | Ch. 7<br>Ch. 7            |
| Week 8          | Feb | 25<br>27      | Language & Thought<br><b>Exam 2 – Covering Ch. 5, 6, 7, 8 and lecture</b>  | Ch. 8                     |
| Week 9          | Mar | 4<br>6        | <b>NO CLASS</b><br><b>NO CLASS</b>   |                           |
| Week 10         | Mar | 11<br>13      | Intelligence<br>Motivation and Emotion,  | Ch. 9<br>Ch. 10           |
| Week 11         | Mar | 18<br>20      | Development<br>Development   | Ch. 11<br>Ch. 11          |
| Week 12         | Mar | 25<br>27      | Personality<br>Personality   | Ch. 12<br>Ch. 12          |
| Week 13         | Apr | 1<br>3        | <b>Exam 3 – Covering Ch. 9, 10, 11, 12 and lecture</b><br>Stress, Coping, and Health   | Ch. 13                    |
| Week 14         | Apr | 8<br>10<br>12 | Stress, Coping, and Health<br>Psychological Disorders<br><b>Paper</b> Due Friday Apr. 12 by 5:00 p.m. submitted electronically on Blackboard     | Ch. 13<br>Ch. 14          |
| Week 15         | Apr | 15<br>17      | Psychological Disorders<br>Treatment   | Ch. 14<br>Ch. 15          |
| Week 16         | Apr | 22<br>24      | Social Behavior<br>Social Behavior   | Ch. 16<br>Ch. 16          |
| FINAL EXAM WEEK |     |               | <b>Final – Half covering Ch. 13, 14, 15, 16, and half cumulative.</b><br><b>Tuesday, Apr. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013 from 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.</b> |                           |