

★ Fall 2013 ★

Welcome to
Introduction to Psychology PSY 1010
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Text and Equipment

S.K. Ciccarelli & J.N. White Psychology, 3rd edition, with access to the eBook, audiobook, and MyPsychLab.



The cover for the standard edition is shown on the left; the custom edition sold at the UT bookstore may have a different cover and say 1st edition, but the authors and title should be the same. The least expensive option is to purchase access to the ebook and online materials either from the bookstore or directly at the publisher's website for about \$104. If you prefer a hard copy of the textbook, the custom edition with the online access will be about \$130. If you purchase the text separately, you will need to purchase online access to MyPsychLab Plus. Virtually the entire course (other than classroom lectures and discussion) will be contained in MyPsychLab Plus, but you will enter MyPsychLab Plus through the UT Blackboard course site. If you have an iPad or similar device, you may be able to do much of the reading and assignments right there. You will have about two weeks of free access to MyPsychLab

Plus through the top button to the left of your screen.

Most of your course activity will be in MyPsychLabPlus. Click on that link to see all the assignments in the calendar. Firefox and Safari are the best browsers for use with Blackboard. Do not use Internet Explorer. If you have trouble, click on Learner Support for help.

Begin each chapter using the Study Plan. That presents you with a Pretest for the chapter, hints on where to find information on items you miss, and a Posttest for the chapter. Then watch all the assigned videos and do any simulations assigned and take the quizzes over them.

You will have two opportunities to take these, so you can get the best possible score. If you miss any questions the first time, re-do the assignment and try again. You will be given the correct answers for any you miss after the second attempt. Finally, take the chapter Quick Reviews that are assigned and again you can have two chances to get a perfect score. Quick Reviews are listed by topic in the assignment calendar and you can see your progress in the MyPsychLab tab called "My Progress" after you click on "Explore more media resources". These quizzes are short and help you review and assess your learning. Some of these questions reappear in exams. All of these assignments constitute 20% of your course grade. There are also short writing assignments to help

you organize your thinking and to improve your composition skills. These are automatically graded and constitute 5% of your grade.

Finally, take the chapter exams. You only take these once and they constitute 75% of your grade. You can do assignments and exams before they are due but there will be a 20% penalty for every day they are late.

Course Description

This is a General Education Social Science Core course and there are no prerequisites. This course is designed to help you gain an appreciation of the scientific basis of the entire discipline of Psychology. You will learn about what psychologists study, how they study it, what they know (or might know), and, if you have some skepticism, you will recognize some of the difficulties in understanding behavior.

This course is comparable in content and effort requirements to a standard classroom course. As for any 3-hour course that lasts a full 15 weeks, expect to spend about 9-12 hours per week reading the textbook, going through the online media materials (paying special attention to those that are specifically assigned), doing chapter reviews, flash cards, writing assignments, and studying on your own if you want to get the highest grade of which you are capable.

Learning Objectives

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding representing appropriate breadth and depth in selected content areas of psychology:
 - a. Theory and research representing each of the following four general domains:
 1. learning and cognition
 2. individual differences, psychometrics, personality, and social processes, including those related to sociocultural and international dimensions
 3. biological bases of behavior and mental processes, including physiology, sensation, perception, comparative, motivation, and emotion
 4. developmental changes in behavior and mental processes across the life span
 - b. The history of psychology, including the evolution of methods of psychology, its theoretical conflicts, and its sociocultural contexts
 - c. Relevant levels of analysis: cellular, individual, group/systems, and culture
 - d. Themes, persistent questions, & enduring conflicts in psychology
 1. the interaction of heredity and environment
 2. variability and continuity of behavior and mental processes within and across species
 3. free will versus determinism
 4. subjective versus objective observations
 5. the interaction of mind and body
- Students will be able to enumerate evidence underlying beliefs about behavior—
 - a. Recognize major perspectives of psychology (e.g., behavioral, biological, cognitive, evolutionary, humanistic, psychodynamic, and sociocultural).
 1. Compare and contrast major perspectives
 2. Describe advantages and limitations of major theoretical perspectives
 - b. Recognize different research methods used by psychologists.

1. Describe how various research designs address different types of questions and hypotheses
 2. Articulate strengths and limitations of various research designs
 3. Distinguish the nature of designs that permit causal inferences from those that do not
- Students will demonstrate an influence of psychological principles on their behavior, specifically study strategies
 - a. Demonstrate self-regulation in setting and achieving goals
 1. Regular and spaced study sessions in the form of recall practice quizzes
 - b. Assess your own performance accurately
 1. Use feedback from quizzes and study plan to realistically assess own knowledge
 - Students will answer short essay questions with concise clear statements that directly address the question
 - a. Demonstrate professional writing conventions (e.g., grammar, audience awareness, formality) appropriate to purpose and context

Grading

Grades will be based ~75% on Exams, ~20% on Quick-Review Quizzes and Quizzes over the media assignments, and ~5% on Writing assignments. Knowledge of the material in the textbook and online material as well as successful completion of assignments will be demonstrated by correctly answering multiple choice questions on the textbook and content of the online assignments. You must submit assignments and exams on or before the due date. All assignments and exams are listed in the calendar in MyPsychLab.

Excused absences

You must inform the instructor if you have an excused absence as soon as you know about it. If you must attend a university event, turn in assignments before the due date; make arrangements to take exams early. If you are sick, you must provide some evidence of illness and let the instructor know as soon as you are able to have the automatic late penalty removed from your exam or assignment. Missed work must be made up before the last day of classes. If you cannot do this, you should withdraw from the course before the 10th week of the semester or petition for a medical or emergency withdrawal before the end of the course.

Information in the Textbook

This comprises about 75% of the course. You must understand the text, so keep a dictionary handy and use the glossary. For example, you will need to know what subjective means, the difference between affect and effect, and whether phenomena is a singular or plural word. Even spelling is important. Merriam-Webster's pronouncing dictionary is linked on the course menu. The remaining 25% of the course is based on the media assignments and writing assignments. These are listed in the course calendar in MyPsychLab.

There will be five exams each covering three chapters; check due dates in the Assignment Calendar. There is also a pretest covering the entire course to let us know how much you know about psychology before taking the course.

Assignments and Readings. These will vary for each chapter and are shown in the calendar. First read the text and do the study plan, then go through the assignments and any other items in MyPsychLabPlus that strike you as interesting and answer the questions about them, then do the short quick check quizzes to see how well you understand and remember the material. The assignments are short MyPsychLab activities or videos. These allow you to perform experiments that illustrate important concepts to help you remember complex findings, some show you how psychological findings can be used in your own life, and many let you test yourself to see how well you are learning. Some of these questions will also appear in exams, so do all assignments listed in the calendar—they are ***Required***.

Exams. There will be 5 exams each covering three chapters and associated assignments. You are not allowed to use your textbook or notes on exams. Exams have time limits. If you know the material well, you can finish with time to spare.

If you miss an exam, you can make it up but there is a penalty of 20% for every day that it is late.

If you must take an exam late because of a death in your family or your own illness, you will not be penalized if you document your reason. The best approach is to prepare early so that you can take the exam a little early in case you get called to work or something else unexpected happens.

Try to identify a backup computer and internet connection (friend, library, etc) in case you have technical problems at the last minute. Being prepared gives you flexibility so you can manage even when life gets complicated. If, because of extraordinary circumstances, you are allowed to retake an exam, the second score will be the one recorded and the first score is automatically erased.

Review Questions. All exams except the first one include review questions from previous chapters. A quick review should help you answer these and the frequent reviews will help you when it comes time to study for the Final exam. Reviewing is important to consolidate your long-term memory.

Course Pretest and Posttest. We want to know how much you learn in this course. Accordingly, there will be a comprehensive Course Pretest given the first day of the course and a comprehensive Final given at the end.

Grading Scale*

A = 92.5 - 100%
A- = 90 - 92.49%
B+ = 87.5 - 89.99%
B = 82.5 - 87.49%
B- = 80 - 82.49%
C+ = 77.5 - 79.99%
C = 72.5 - 77.49%
C- = 70 - 72.49%
D+ = 67.5 - 69.99%
D = 62.5 - 67.49%
D- = 60 - 62.49%

F = 59.9% and below

W - if you withdraw from the course after the end of the drop period.

IN - Incomplete grades are only assigned in extraordinary circumstances beyond the student's control and only if the student has completed at least 10 exams with a passing grade. Under no circumstances will a student be allowed to retake an entire course in order to complete this course.

Not Attending - Failure to do assignments and take exams will be reported to the registrar and such non-attendance may affect your financial aid.

**The percentage is determined by dividing your total points by the total points possible on assignments and exams; assignments are totaled and given a weight of 20%, writing assignments are given a weight of 5%, exams are totaled and given a weight of 75%.*

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.