

Introduction to Psychology

PSY 111 Section C

Fall 2007

Instructor: Christina M. Brown	CRN: 15942
E-mail: browncm5@muohio.edu	Class Time: Monday & Wednesday 6:00 - 7:50 pm
Office Hours: 336 Psych M&W 5:00-6:00	Location: 127 PSYC
Office Phone: (513) 529-1755	Website: http://www.users.muohio.edu/browncm5/psy111

Required Readings

Gazzaniga, M. S., & Heatherton, T. F. (2006). *Psychological science* (2nd ed). New York: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to psychology, which is the study of mind, brain and behavior. The focus of this course will be *psychological science*; that is, scientific research about mind, brain, and behavior. Although we will spend time discussing theories, particular attention will be paid to scientific findings.

How does our brain process thought and emotion? How do our genes influence our personal characteristics? Is human behavior today a product of our evolutionary history? What motivates people to engage in certain social behaviors? Why does emotional stress manifest itself in our physical body? What cognitive changes occur from infancy to childhood? Why did that one incident of bad chili make you nauseous every time you see chili afterwards? Are emotions universal? Why do colors look different depending on whether the room is light or dark? Is there such a thing as "personality"? Why do some people become depressed while others are paranoid schizophrenic, and why do medicines that alter neurotransmitter functioning treat these disorders? What makes people conform and obey authority? Why do we hold stereotypes about groups of people? These are just a few of the issues that psychologists study.

My purpose for this course is to give you an introduction to the various areas of psychology. As you will see, psychology is a broad field that covers diverse topics, from neurological functioning to the experience and expression of emotion. Each topic we will cover (which will correspond to the chapters of your textbook) represents a distinct area of psychology that is a field in and of itself. Because psychology is so broad, I hope that at the end of the semester you walk away with an understanding of the basic issues studied within each sub-area of psychology and the awareness that there is more to psychology than therapy and mental disorders. Should you desire to take additional classes in psychology, you can find an entire class on any of the topics we will cover.

Course Objectives

- To increase your understanding of human mind, brain, and behavior
- To appreciate the value and necessity of empirical research
- To apply psychological concepts to your own life
- To be able to identify psychological principles when they occur, outside of class
- To understand the basic concepts of each sub-field of psychology

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Readings
Mon 8/20	Syllabus Review & Introduction to Psychology	Chapter 1
Wed 8/22	Research Methodology	Chapter 2
Mon 8/27	Physiological Psychology: Genetics & Biological Foundations.	Chapter 3
Wed 8/29	Physiological Psychology: The Brain	Chapter 4 (pp. 117 – 140)
Mon 9/3	NO CLASS: Labor Day Holiday	
Wed 9/5	Consciousness	Chapter 4 (pp. 140 – 154)
Mon 9/10	Sensation	Chapter 5 (pp. 159 – 181)
Wed 9/12	Perception & Attention, cont.	Chapter 5 (pp. 182 – 204)
Mon 9/17	EXAM I	
Wed 9/19	Learning and Reward	Chapter 6
Mon 9/24	Learning and Reward, cont.	Chapter 6
Wed 9/26	NO CLASS	
Mon 10/1	Memory	Chapter 7
Wed 10/3	Memory, cont.	Chapter 7
Mon 10/8	Thought and Intelligence	Chapter 8
Wed 10/10	Motivation (Social) PAPER 1 DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS	Chapter 9
Mon 10/15	Motivation (Biological)	Chapter 9
Wed 10/17	EXAM II	
Mon 10/22	Human Development	Chapter 11
Wed 10/24	Social Psychology	Chapter 15
Mon 10/29	Social Psychology, cont.	Chapter 15
Wed 10/31	Human Sexuality	handout
Mon 11/5	Human Sexuality, cont.	handout
Wed 11/7	Emotions & Health	Chapter 10
Mon 11/12	Emotions & Health, cont.	Chapter 10
Wed 11/14	EXAM III	
Mon 11/19	Personality	Chapter 12
Wed 11/21	Disorders of the Mind and Body	Chapter 13
Mon 11/26	Disorders of the Mind and Body, cont.	Chapter 13
Wed 11/28	NO CLASS: Thanksgiving Holiday	
Mon 12/3	Treating Disorders of Mind and Body PAPER 2 DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS	Chapter 14
Wed 12/5	Wrap-up Day	
Mon 12/2	7:45pm -- EXAM IV (cumulative)	

GRADING

Final grades will be based on a point system:

3 Exams	300	A	465 – 500 (93 - 100%)	C	365 – 384 (73 - 76%)
Final Exam	150	A-	450 – 464 (90 - 92%)	C-	350 – 364 (70 - 72%)
Term Paper	<u>50</u>	B+	435 – 449 (87 - 89%)	D+	335 – 349 (67 - 69%)
	500	B	415 – 434 (83 - 86%)	D	315 – 334 (63 - 66%)
		B-	400 – 414 (80 - 82%)	D-	300 – 314 (60 - 62%)
		C+	385 – 399 (77 - 79%)	F	0 – 299 (0 - 59%)

METHODS OF EVALUATION

EXAMS

There will be three “regular” exams and one final exam. The first three exams will cover the material presented after the previous exam. The final will be cumulative, meaning that it will include information from the last part of the class as well as earlier in the course. (Most of the questions on the final will be on the material covered in the last ¼ of the class, but there will be a few questions on topics covered earlier in the semester. These questions will be about basic concepts, so provided you understood them earlier in the semester you shouldn’t need to study them again before the final exam.) The exams will consist primarily of multiple-choice questions with a few fill-in-the-blank, matching, and short-answer problems. Not all of the material from the lecture is covered in the textbook, so come to class! Furthermore, the exam may include material from the textbook that is not covered in class, so read the chapters.

TERM PAPER

See separate handout.

RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS

All PSY 111 students are required to learn about psychological research. The total research requirement is 12 hours of commitment over the course of the semester. This can be achieved in a number of ways: You can participate in psychology experiments (the best, most frequently used, and easiest way to complete the research requirement), read research articles, watch research videos, etc. If you do not complete the 12-hour research requirement you will receive an Incomplete (“I” grade) in the class, which automatically turns into an “F” if you do not fulfill the requirement by the end of the next semester. See the handout for more details about the research requirement.

CLASS POLICIES

ATTENDANCE

You will not be graded on your attendance, but there will be material on the exams that is only covered in the lectures. The class period is long, but I will do my best to make class interesting while varying the activities throughout class (TRANSLATION: I will not be lecturing at you for 1 hour and 50 minutes). We will also take at least one 5-10 minute break each class. Please attend every class unless there is an emergency. I cannot stress the importance of attendance enough.

CHEATING & PLAGIARISM

Don't cheat. Don't plagiarize. It's not worth it. Your academic career could be ruined. Refer to Sections 01.501-01.507 of Undergraduate Academic Regulations in the 2005-2006 Student Handbook for Miami University's policy on academic misconduct. Do not try to cheat or plagiarize; getting a couple more points on a test or paper is not worth risking your entire academic career.

LATE POLICY

For every day you turn in an assignment late, 10% will be deducted from your grade on that assignment. Assignments are due at the end of the class period, not the end of the day. If you turn it in after class on the day it's due, 5% will be deducted from your score. No exceptions. In the case of such extenuating circumstances as death or severe injury, you must display proof of the event for the deadline to be extended.

EXAM MAKE-UP POLICY

No make-up exams will be allowed *after* the exam has been given (unless you have an extenuating circumstance, which is limited to severe emergencies). In the event of a foreseeable schedule conflict (which you must have a good reason for), you must meet with me at least five days before the exam to reschedule. In the case of other emergencies that arise immediately before the exam, please contact me (by e-mail or phone) or the psychology department as soon as possible *before* the exam. If you miss an exam without contacting me ahead of time in accordance with the above policy, you will receive a 0 on that exam.

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus at any time during the semester.