

Psychology 2301: General Psychology

Instructor: Benjamin White, M.A.

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Office: A265

Sections

A2 - MWF: 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM

A4 - MWF: 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM

A6 - MW: 12:00 PM – 1:15 PM

A9 - MW: 1:25 PM – 2:40 PM

Office Hours: Scheduled times or by appointment

MWF – 11 am – 12 pm – Room A265

MWF – 2:40 pm – 3:10 pm– Room A265

or by appointment

Course Description:

This class is designed to be an introductory course in the principles of psychology; including behavior, development, perception, learning, cognition, emotion, motivation, individual development, psychological disorders and methods of treatment, an introduction to social psychology and the basics of psychological research.

Class hours per week: Three.

Semester credits: Three.

Prerequisites:

There are no prerequisites. Good reading skills and attendance are required for success.

Core Curriculum:

This is a core course in the 42 hour core of Blinn College. As such, students will develop proficiency in the appropriate intellectual competencies, exemplary educational objectives and perspectives. For details see: <http://www.blinn.edu/corecurriculum/>

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes:

Those who successfully complete this course should be able to satisfy the following requirements:

1. Examine the goals of psychology
2. Assess the use of scientific method in Psychology.
3. Distinguish the central features of major psychological theories.
4. Examine basic psychological terms and concepts.
5. Utilize key psychological terms and concepts in real life examples.
6. Characterize the work of leading contributors to the field of psychology.
7. Evaluate how psychological, biological, and social, factors can effect behavior and mental processes.
8. Demonstrate the ability to use critical thinking skills to analyze research and reports of human behavior.
9. Assess real-life situations that may require professional psychological help and compare various treatment options.
10. Differentiate the various parts of the Nervous System and summarize their role in behavior.

Textbook, Supplies and Materials:

1. **Required:** Nairne, J.S. (2008). Psychology (5th ed.). (one copy on reserve)
2. **Required:** Scantrons - Form #882-ES (Requires #2 Pencils) – You will need 5.
3. **Optional:** Study Guide for textbook (one copy on reserve)

Course Assignments and Grading:

There will be:

1. Four major exams
2. Periodic in class quizzes / assignments
3. Homework assignments
4. A Final Exam

Grading Policy:

- All grading decisions are at the discretion of the instructor.
- If you would like to challenge a grade on a particular question, you may come see me during my office hours. If you cannot make my office hours, make an appointment.
- Grades will be available on E-Campus. Grades will not be given out over email.

Exams:

There will be four exams and a partially cumulative final. The first four exams will each consist of 40 questions in multiple-choice, true/false, matching format or will require a short written response. The material covered by each exam will only include the chapters covered since the previous exam. Your lowest test grade of these four tests will be dropped from your final score.

The Final Exam will consist of 75 multiple choice questions; most of the questions will come from the fourth portion of the course, but there will also be cumulative content that will be drawn from the entire course. The final is mandatory.

In Class Quizzes / Assignments:

Periodic in class assignments or quizzes will be given throughout the semester that covers material previously reviewed in lecture. The number and nature of these assignments throughout the semester will be determined by the instructor.

Homework

There will be approximately 10 homework assignments throughout the semester. If more than 10 assignments are given, the lowest homework grade(s) will be dropped from your final score. You are responsible for any homework assignments you miss due to excused or unexcused absences. In most cases, assignments will be up on e-campus.

Research Methods Assignment

You will be required read and analyze a psychological journal article (chosen from a list provided) and answer a series of questions in complete sentences. You will be provided with a rubric for this assignment. Additional details will be given in class.

*[Extra Credit]:**Videos*

You may submit videos from the internet (youtube, etc.) for extra credit. The videos must be relevant to the current chapter that we are covering in class. Each video accepted will be worth 2 points. This assignment is ongoing and capped at a maximum of 10 points.

Research Paper

This paper will be a 5-6 page analysis of a single topic in psychology. Students will need to use at least 3 to 4 scholarly sources (book chapters or articles) to complete this assignment. This paper will be worth a maximum of 80 points. Further instructions will be provided in class.

All papers should be typed and in APA format (guidelines and resources will be provided), *include a cover page with name, course section and title and a separate bibliography in APA format.* Title page and bibliography do not count towards the page requirements.

All parts of the paper must be turned in by their due date on the syllabus. Papers can be turned in early.

No late papers will be accepted.

Additional extra credit

Additional extra credit assignments will be given in class at the discretion of the instructor.

Point breakdown for all assignments and tests is as follows:

Test 1	80
Test 2	80
Test 3	80
Test 4	80
Final Exam	150
Homework	135
In Class Assignments	75
Total Score	600

** The lowest 80 point test grade will be dropped*

Final grades will be assigned as follows:

A = 540 – 600

B = 480 – 539.99

C = 420 – 479.99

D = 360 – 419.99

F = < 419.99

Make-up Exams

The instructor must be notified prior to the exam if you are unable to attend. *Students missing an exam without contacting the instructor prior to, or within 48 hours following the test will receive a 0 for that test.* Make-up exams for term tests will be given **ONLY** in the case of excused absences (serious illness, death in immediate family, Blinn-related activity). The make-up exam is to be scheduled within one week of the missed exam at a time and place convenient to the instructor and student.

ADA Statement:

Information regarding procedures for documenting disabilities can be obtained from the Counseling Office, Rm. S157 (209-7250). To enable students with disabilities to achieve their highest potential, reasonable accommodations on exams or assignments will be made for documented disabilities. Students must present documentation as soon as possible for the instructor to arrange accommodation.

Civility Statement:

Members of the Blinn College community, which includes faculty, staff and students, are expected to act honestly and responsibly in all aspects of campus life. Blinn College holds all members accountable for their actions and words. Therefore, all members should commit themselves to behave in a manner that recognizes personal respect, and demonstrates concern for the personal dignity, rights, and freedoms of every member of the College community, including respect for College property and the physical and intellectual property of others.

If a student is asked to leave the classroom because of uncivil behavior, the student may not return to that class until he or she arranges a conference with the instructor: it is the student's responsibility to arrange for this conference.

Attendance:

The College District believes that class attendance is essential for student success; therefore, students are required to promptly and regularly attend all their classes. Each class meeting builds the foundation for subsequent class meetings. Without full participation and regular class attendance, students shall find themselves at a severe disadvantage for achieving success in college. Class participation shall constitute at least ten percent of the final course grade.

It is the responsibility of each faculty member, in consultation with the division chair, to determine how participation is achieved in his or her class. Faculty will require students to regularly attend class and will keep a record of attendance from the first day of class and/or the first day the student's name appears on the roster through final examinations.

If a student has one week's worth of unexcused absences during the semester, he/she will be sent an e-mail by the College requiring the student to contact his/her instructor and schedule a conference immediately to discuss his/her attendance issues. **Should the student accumulate two weeks worth of unexcused absences, he/she will be administratively withdrawn from class.**

There are two forms of excused absences recognized by the institution:

1. Observance of religious holy days. The student should notify his/her instructor(s) not later than the 15th day of the semester concerning the specific date(s) that the student will be absent for any religious holy day(s)
2. Representing Blinn College at an official institutional function
3. Other absences may be excused at the discretion of the faculty member.

Electronic Device Policy

All the functions of all personal electronic devices designed for communication and/or entertainment (cell phones, pagers, beepers, iPods, and similar devices) must be turned off and kept out of sight in all Blinn College classrooms and associated laboratories. Any noncompliance with this policy will be addressed in accordance with the Blinn College civility policy (Administrative Policy).

Additionally, any communication understood by the instructor to be in the nature of cheating will have consequences in accordance with this Blinn College policy section regarding academic dishonesty [FLB (Local)]. Students exempted from this policy section include active members of firefighting organizations, emergency medical services organizations, commissioned police officers, on-call employees of any political subdivision of the state of Texas, or agencies of the federal government. Exempted students are expected to set the emergency-use devices on silent or vibrate mode only.

Any student violating this policy shall be subject to discipline, including suspension, in accordance with FM.

Blinn Email

Students can find instructions for using their Blinn College emails at <http://www.blinn.edu/acadtech/studentemail>. Blinn administration will use this for important messages such as financial aid, drop warnings etc and I may use it to reach you as well.

Drop Policy

There will only be 6 drops allowed in your entire academic career. This means 6 drops here at Blinn plus any other schools you may attend in the future. This makes it highly imperative that you not get dropped for excessive absences.

Other Policies

- 1) No food or drinks are allowed in the classroom. Appropriate dress is required.
- 2) Blinn College does not tolerate cheating or plagiarism. Procedures for dealing with these acts are outlined in the Scholastic Dishonesty Policy.
- 3) Please be aware that arriving late or leaving class (and returning) is disruptive to other students as well as the instructor and is to be avoided.
- 4) All cell phones and pagers must be turned off upon entering any classroom, library, or the learning center.
- 5) ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE NOT ALLOWED in the classroom. Cell phones, laptops, pagers, PDAs, etc, must be turned off and put away before class begins. Book bags must be placed on the floor, off the desks.
- 6) Students can find instructions for using their Blinn College emails at <http://www.blinn.edu/acadtech/studentemail>. Blinn administration will use this for important messages.

Important Dates to Remember

- January 19th – First day of classes
- January 22nd – Last day to register or change classes
- February 3rd – Day of record
- March 13th – 22nd Spring Break
- April 2nd – Holiday
- May 5th – Last Class Day
- May 6th – 12th – Finals period
- May 7th – Holiday

Additional Information

Psychology is a very broad field and as such, an introductory course covers a large breadth of material. It is nearly impossible to cover every detail of every chapter in class and your success in this course will require you to stay on top of chapter readings and come to class prepared. I highly recommend that you already have read the chapter we will be discussing on any given day. This enables you to ask questions that arose during your readings in addition to building the necessary framework for understanding key concepts.

If you miss a class with an unexcused absence, it is your responsibility to contact classmates and get any information you need. Even if you plan to attend class 100% of the time, I suggest you obtain contact information from a few classmates as soon as you can, just in case the unforeseeable happens.

Course Schedule [MWF Sections]

	Date	Required Readings	Exams & Assignments
Wednesday	20-Jan	Introduction - No required reading	
Section 1 - Introduction			
Friday	22-Jan	Ch 1 - Introduction to Psychology	
Monday	25-Jan	Ch 1 - Introduction to Psychology	
Wednesday	27-Jan	Ch 2 - Psychological Research	
Friday	29-Jan	Ch 2 - Psychological Research	
Monday	1-Feb	Ch 2 - Psychological Research	
Wednesday	3-Feb		Test # 1
Section 2 - It's All In Your Head			
Friday	5-Feb	Ch 3 - Biological Processes	
Monday	8-Feb	Ch 3 - Biological Processes	
Wednesday	10-Feb	Ch 3 - Biological Processes	
Friday	12-Feb	Ch 5 - Sensation & Perception	
Monday	15-Feb	Ch 5 - Sensation & Perception	
Wednesday	17-Feb	Ch 6 - Consciousness	EC: Reference section DUE
Friday	19-Feb	Ch 6 - Consciousness	
Monday	22-Feb	Ch 6 - Consciousness	
Wednesday	24-Feb		Test # 2
Section 3 - Memory & Learning			
Friday	26-Feb	Ch 8 - Memory	
Monday	1-Mar	Ch 8 - Memory	
Wednesday	3-Mar	Ch 7 - Learning	EC: Outline DUE
Friday	5-Mar	Ch 7 - Learning	
Monday	8-Mar	Ch 7 - Learning	
Wednesday	10-Mar		Test # 3
Section 4 - Growing Up Human			
Friday	12-Mar	Ch 10 - Intelligence	
	3/15 - 3/19	Spring Break	
Monday	22-Mar	Ch 10 - Intelligence	
Wednesday	24-Mar	Ch 10 - Intelligence	
Friday	26-Mar	Ch 4 - Human Development	
Monday	29-Mar	Ch 4 - Human Development	
Wednesday	31-Mar	Ch 11 - Motivation	
Friday	2-Apr	Good Friday - Holiday - No Class	
Monday	5-Apr	Ch 11 - Motivation	EC: First Draft DUE
Wednesday	7-Apr		Test # 4
Section 5 - When Things Go Right And When Things Go Wrong			
Friday	9-Apr	Ch 11 - Emotion	
Monday	12-Apr	Ch 11 - Emotion	
Wednesday	14-Apr	Ch 11 - Emotion	
Friday	16-Apr	Ch 12 & 15 - Personality & Therapy	
Monday	19-Apr	Ch 12 & 15 - Personality & Therapy	
Wednesday	21-Apr	Ch 12 & 15 - Personality & Therapy	
Friday	23-Apr	Ch 13 - Social Psychology	
Monday	26-Apr	Ch 13 - Social Psychology	
Wednesday	28-Apr	Ch 13 - Social Psychology	EC: Final Paper DUE
Friday	30-Apr	Ch 13 - Social Psychology	
Monday	3-May	Ch 14 - Disorders	
Wednesday	5-May	Ch 14 - Disorders	
TBA	TBA		FINAL EXAM

Course Schedule [M/W Sections]

	Date	Required Readings	Exams & Assignments
Wednesday	20-Jan	Introduction - No required reading	
Section 1 - Introduction			
Monday	25-Jan	Ch 1 - Introduction to Psychology	
Wednesday	27-Jan	Ch 2 - Psychological Research	
Monday	1-Feb	Ch 2 - Psychological Research	
Wednesday	3-Feb		Test # 1
Section 2 - It's All In Your Head			
Monday	8-Feb	Ch 3 - Biological Processes	
Wednesday	10-Feb	Ch 3 - Biological Processes / Ch 5 - Sensation & Perception	
Monday	15-Feb	Ch 5 - Sensation & Perception	
Wednesday	17-Feb	Ch 6 - Consciousness	EC: Reference section DUE
Monday	22-Feb	Ch 6 - Consciousness	
Wednesday	24-Feb		Test # 2
Section 3 - Memory & Learning			
Monday	1-Mar	Ch 8 - Memory	
Wednesday	3-Mar	Ch 8 - Memory / Ch 7 - Learning	EC: Outline DUE
Monday	8-Mar	Ch 7 - Learning	
Wednesday	10-Mar		Test # 3
Section 4 - Growing Up Human			
	3/15 - 3/19	Spring Break	
Monday	22-Mar	Ch 10 - Intelligence	
Wednesday	24-Mar	Ch 10 - Intelligence	
Monday	29-Mar	Ch 4 - Human Development	
Wednesday	31-Mar	Ch 11 - Motivation	
Monday	5-Apr	Ch 11 - Motivation	EC: First Draft DUE
Wednesday	7-Apr		Test # 4
Section 5 - When Things Go Right And When Things Go Wrong			
Monday	12-Apr	Ch 11 - Emotion	
Wednesday	14-Apr	Ch 11 - Emotion	
Monday	19-Apr	Ch 12 & 15 - Personality & Therapy	
Wednesday	21-Apr	Ch 12 & 15 - Personality & Therapy	
Monday	26-Apr	Ch 13 - Social Psychology	
Wednesday	28-Apr	Ch 13 - Social Psychology	EC: Final Paper DUE
Monday	3-May	Ch 13 - Social Psychology	
Wednesday	5-May	Ch 14 - Disorders	
TBA	TBA		FINAL EXAM

Doing Well In This Class

Welcome to General Psychology. This class will be challenging, but if you can keep up with the work and study as you go, you will do well. It's all up to you and there are several resources available to help you succeed, but in the end, it's completely up to you. If you slack off and don't work, then your grade will reflect this.

Homework counts for a substantial part of your grade. **DO ALL HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS.**

The Majority of points come from test grades. You will be better off if you study for the tests. The tests are tuned so that if you do an average job studying, you will most likely end up in the 'C' range for the exam.

Extra Credit. If you think you'll need it, do it early and do it often.

There are several resources available to you:

1. The book. All of my test questions are generated with your textbook in mind. Keep this in mind. It is worth your while to read the chapter BEFORE we cover it in class. Each chapter is roughly 40 pages long. This is not a lot of reading. If you get behind, you'll have a lot more to do in less time.
2. Take notes. I will give clues in class on what will be on the test. The people that do well in my classes tend to take notes in class.
3. E-Campus. Visit this resource regularly. Announcements, homework assignments and study guides will be posted on e-campus. If you miss a homework assignment, it will be online for you to make up and turn in when it is due in class.
4. Office Hours. You may come in and ask questions / chat / whatever during my office hours. This is the time I make myself available to you. If you need study tips, I am happy to help you work on study skills during this time. If you cannot make office hours, then you should make an appointment to visit me via email.
5. e-mail. I am available on email. If you are going to miss class, let me know. If you are going to miss a test, let me know. If you miss class, please let me know as soon as possible. I WILL enforce the attendance policy.
6. Your Classmates. Study with one another. I require that unless specified, you do your homework assignments on your own. I HAVE seen cheating before and I DO know what it looks like. Even if you think you are cleverer than I, remember, it's YOUR grade and your transcript, not mine.