



Course Information

Course Name: General Psychology
Course ID: PSY 101 - 7101
Semester: Summer 2019
Mode: Online

Instructor Information

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Course Description

PSY 101 provides an introductory overview of the study of psychology. The course will explore the fundamental questions regarding human thought and behavior and provide an overview of the theories and research used in the study of psychology. The course will emphasize psychology as a science, including the relationship between data and theory. At the completion of this course, you should be able to discuss the major questions and issues confronting psychologists and how psychology has contributed to human knowledge and understanding.

Prerequisite:

This course has no prerequisite.

Course Credits:

3 credits

Required Text:

Grison, Graviton, & Gazzaniga (2017). Psychology in Your Life (2nd ed). New York: W. W. Norton & Company. ISBN: 978-0-393-26592-7.

Access can also be purchased online:

https://digital.wwnorton.com/psychlife2?_ebook

Required Materials:

Supplemental readings may be posted on myCourses.

Course Objectives

The goal of this course is to acquaint students with how the brain creates what we call the “mind” by examining common topics in psychology, such as attention, sensation and perception, learning and problem solving, memory, thinking, moral and social development, language, intelligence, personality theories, and abnormal psychology. Specifically, by the end of the course students should be able to:

- Understand the emergence of psychology as a discipline unique from historical influences.
- Explain some of the methods and principles behind a science of psychology.
- Describe how psychologists have come to understand how the brain works by directly and indirectly measuring its activity.
- Evaluate how scientific experiments can lead to theories and revision of theories.

- Integrate individual topics in general psychology into a unified understanding of the field.
- Apply lecture material to real-life situations.

Communication Plan

Expectations for Electronic Communication

Please use email ***ONLY*** when the subject is of a personal and confidential matter. If the question you ask is of a nature that even one other person in the course could benefit from the answer, post the question in the appropriate discussion board forum.

I check my email daily Monday through Friday during normal business hours only. You can expect a reply from me via email within 24 hours during the workweek. You ***may*** get an email reply during the weekend, but that would be an exception not the rule. I will also check the discussion forums daily during the workweek. I will post often during the first weeks of the course and then drop off in Activity while expecting participants to fill any void. Rest assured however, I ***will*** be participating in what I hope will be lively discussions and will ***always*** reply to any discussion comment directed specifically at me.

Time Considerations

Students should be prepared to spend a minimum of 12 hours a week on reading and on course assignments. While you may feel that I'm displaying a lot of information to you on a weekly basis, remember that in a traditional "live" course you would be coming to class for 3 ½ months and spending 3 hours in class per week (and an additional 3-6 hours, at least, outside of class on assignments and reading). In our month-long online course environment, my expectation is that you will be spending those class hours on your own, working on the concepts that you would usually get in a live lecture. Please be sure to budget your time accordingly!

Substantive participation in online discussions should:

- Add value to the discussion and avoid simply repeating, agreeing with, or answering yes or no to peer's comments
- Challenge comments in class, including those of the facilitator
- Ask insightful questions
- Answer other people's questions
- Exemplify the point with real-life events, when possible
- Make comments that are relevant to the course content and objectives

Things to keep in mind as you write discussion posts and communicate with other students:

- Share an experience related to the discussion. Comment on other participants' experiences that relate to the course.
- Ask others questions about their ideas and experiences that are related to the course
- Challenge a point that another participant made in a respectful manner. Offer a different perspective on an idea that is being discussed
- Give insights gained from assigned readings for the week. If you need more information, ask the participants a question about the week's reading
- Discuss a work issue that is related to the course or discussion and ask for feedback
- Relate how you have applied what you have read, learned or discussed regarding the course to your personal and professional life.
- Share another resource such as Web links, books, etc. that you have used to answer other participants' questions or as you explore the topics of the course (as it is a violation of copyright law to copy the actual page)

Methods of Instruction

Final Grade Breakdown:

Course Component	Weight Toward Final Grade
Participation/Attendance	40%
Activities/Assignments	40%
Exams	20%

Explanation of Final Grade Components:

This course is based on 1000 achievable points:

- Participation/Attendance (400 pts. total or 40% of your grade): Active participation is essential. Therefore, you are expected fully engage in discussions. The phrase “fully engage” means that you are prepared to participate and do so appropriately. Participation means contributing to group discussions and asking questions. You are expected to participate NOT ONLY during graded activities!
- Activities/Assignments (8 * 50 pts. each = 400 pts. total or 40% of your grade): Each week you will have two assignments. These activities will be related to the specific units covered during that week and are designed to help you learn, remember, and recall the most important information. Assignments will be given in two different formats: online discussions forums and short written assignments.
- Exams (4 * 50 pts. each = 200 pts. total or 20% of your grade): At the end of each week you will have an exam. The exams are NOT CUMULATIVE and will only cover information completed prior to the test date (i.e., information covered during that week).

Final grades will be assigned based on the total percentage achieved:

A+	970-1000 %
A	930-969 %
A-	900-929 %
B+	870-899 %
B	830-869 %
B-	800-829 %
C+	770-799 %
C	730-769 %
C-	700-729 %
D+	670-699 %
D	641-669 %
D-	600-640 %
F	<600 %

Late Assignments:

Late assignments will not be accepted without a documented medical excuse or emergency. Your assignments are given to you in advance (course schedule) so there is no excuse to be late. If you know, in advance, that you will be unable to submit an assignment by a due date, it is your responsibility to complete it early.

Center for Access and Success

In accordance with University policy, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, please meet with the instructor at the beginning of the semester and provide the appropriate paperwork from the Center for Access and Success. The necessary paperwork is obtained when you bring proper documentation to the Center.

University Academic Policies

These policies are also available in the student handbook on the University website - umasd.edu.

- [Information on Incompletes](#)
- [Student Behavior](#)
- [Student Academic Integrity](#)
- [Definition of Credit Hour](#)

- [Course Withdrawal](#)
- [Grade Appeal](#)
- [Attendance Policy](#)
- [Academic Calendar](#)
- [Title IX and Sexual Assault/Harassment](#)

Academic and Technical Support

Tutoring

If you have difficulty with the coursework, please reach out to me or contact the Academic Resource Center.

Technical Help

- 24/7 email, live chat, and phone support for myCourses is available at the myCourses support portal.
- Do you need help with other UMass Dartmouth technologies? Please contact CITS.

Course Schedule (Tentative)

Start/End Dates	Units	Student Responsibilities
<p>Week 1</p> <p>6/11/19 – 6/17/19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing the World of Psychology • The Role of Biology in Psychology • Consciousness • Sensation and Perception 	<p>Watch lecture videos</p> <p>Reading: Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 5</p> <p>Activity 1: Video “Epigenetics: Nature vs nurture” and online discussion</p> <p>Activity 2: short written assignment “Psychology in the news”</p> <p>Assessment: Exam 1</p>
<p>Week 2</p> <p>6/18/19 – 6/24/19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning • Memory • Thinking and Intelligence 	<p>Watch lecture videos</p> <p>Reading: Chapters 6, 7 and 8</p> <p>Activity 1: online discussion</p> <p>Activity 2: short written assignment</p> <p>Assessment: Exam 2</p>
<p>Week 3</p> <p>6/25/19 – 7/1/19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Across the Life Span • Motivation and Emotion • Social Psychology • Self and Personality 	<p>Watch lecture videos</p> <p>Reading: Chapters 4, 9, 12 and 13</p> <p>Activity 1: online discussion</p> <p>Activity 2: short written assignment</p> <p>Assessment: Exam 3</p>

Start/End Dates	Units	Student Responsibilities
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7/2/19 – 7/11/19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Well-Being • Psychological Disorders • Psychological Treatments 	<p>Watch lecture videos</p> <p>Reading: Chapters 11, 14 and 15</p> <p>Activity 1: online discussion</p> <p>Activity 2: short written assignment</p> <p>Assessment: Exam 4</p>