

# PSYC 1301.001: INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

Spring 2024

Syllabus

## **Class information:**

Class time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:30-3:50 PM

Classroom: HPR 253

**Instructor:** Dr. Amy Hayes, Associate Professor of Psychology

Office: HPR 227

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Office Phone: 903-565-5753

Office hours: Mondays 1-2:30 PM, Thursdays 10-11:30 and by appointment

**Text:** Ciccarelli & White (2020). Psychology (6<sup>th</sup> Edition). Pearson. ISBN-10: 0-13-663684-5

## **Course Overview:**

This class is designed to give you a broad overview of the field of psychology and behavioral sciences. We will cover a brief history of the field of psychology, research methods and ethics in psychology, and spend time learning about the main branches of the field, including learning and memory, cognitive psychology, social psychology, developmental psychology, and clinical and health psychology. Please see the course calendar for the full range of topics.

## **Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Gain a familiarity with the biological, social, cognitive, and environmental underpinnings of human behavior.
2. Apply the science of psychology to real world situations, including evaluating claims that you encounter in your environment.
3. Students will foster critical thinking skills and apply these skills in analyzing psychological research and media.
4. Students will practice communications skills (both written and oral) in the expression of ideas and analysis related to the psychology topics covered in class.
5. Students will practice quantitative literacy skills by analyzing the findings in psychological research studies.
6. Students will gain deeper understanding of the cultural and individual differences that are present in the range of topics discussed in class.

## **Class Format and Policies:**

**This is a face to face, in person class.** I will generally introduce each topic with some background information and/or lecture on some selected aspect of each topic, but much of what you learn from the class will be information that you glean from the readings and class discussions. Active student attendance and participation will be required. **Classes will be delivered in person and will not be streamed on zoom.**

**Evaluation and Grading:**

**EXAMS:** There will be 3 non-cumulative exams that cover material from class and the readings. The first 2 exams will take place during a regular class period, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> exam will take place during the final exam period (though it is NOT a cumulative final, it covers the last unit of material). Each non-cumulative exam will be worth **20% of your final grade.** The exams will utilize multiple choice and short answer formats.

**Make up exams:** Make-up exams will be given under *compelling* circumstances. If you need to make-up an exam, please let me know as soon as possible that you will not be able to take them exam on the scheduled day. Make-up exams will be in the same format as the regular exams, but will be an alternate version of the test (i.e., different questions than the rest of the class got). **Make up exams will be taken at the same time as your final exam during the scheduled exam period.** So, if you need to make up Exam 1, you will take an alternate version of Exam 1 and the regular Exam 3 in the same sitting.

**PSYCHOLOGY MYTH BUSTERS PROJECT:** In addition to your exams and class participation, you will complete an individual research project working to “bust” one of the many myths that people believe about human psychology and behavior. The product for this project will be a short, 3-page paper in which you will present research about the psychology myth and explain what you learned.

**IN CLASS PARTICIPATION:** I will enter your participation grade after our last in person class day. Your grade will be based on completing a series of in-class assignments that I will give out in class during the semester. I will not announce the dates of the assignments ahead of time, so it is important that you attend class. I will drop the lowest assignment grade, so it is ok if you miss one and I will not need any sort of documentation to drop this lowest/missing grade (that is, you won’t need to bring me a doctor’s note or worry about making it up).

**Class Grade Breakdown:**

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Percentage of Grade</u>
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%
Myth Busters Project	25%
<u>In-class Participation Assignments</u>	<u>15%</u>
Total points	100%

PSYCHOLOGY 1301: COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK	TOPIC	READINGS and assignments
Jan 15-17	The Science of Psychology (No class on Monday 1/15 for MLK day)	Ch. 1
Jan 22-24	Biological Perspectives	Ch. 2
Jan 29-31	Learning and Memory	Ch. 5& 6
Feb 5-7	Cognition	Ch. 7
Feb 12-14	Monday: Wrapping up <b>Wednesday: Exam 1</b>	
Feb 19-21	Development Across the Lifespan and	Ch. 8
Feb 26-28	Theories of Personality	Ch. 13
March 4-6	Motivation and Emotion	Ch. 9
Mar 11-13	<b>Spring Break: No Class</b>	
Mar 18-20	Stress and Health	Ch. 11
Mar 25-27	<b>Monday: Exam 1</b> Wednesday: Sex and Gender	Ch. 10
April 1-3	Mythbusters Project work week	
Apr 8-10	Social Psychology	Ch. 12
Apr 15-17	Psychological Disorders	Ch. 14
Apr 22-24	Psychological Therapies	Ch. 15
Finals Week	<b>EXAM 3 (Date and time TBA)</b>	