

BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY
Department of Psychology
Course Syllabus

Course: General Psychology
Catalog # Psych 101
Spring 2013
Web: WWW.LEITZEL.COM
Office: McCormick 2123

Instructor: Jeffrey D. Leitzel, Ph.D.
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Best way to contact is via e-mail: jleitzel@bloomu.edu
Course Schedule: M 6-9 pm (Planning to switch back to 5-8 pm)
Office hours: M W F 12-1 pm, W 4:15-5:15 pm, Th 2:30-3:30 pm, by apt.

Course Description: Studies psychology as a system of scientific inquiry into behavior, mental processes, and social relationships. Major concepts and principles of the field are presented. This foundational class has no prerequisites. It is required for students majoring in Psychology. 3 hours of lecture per week. A number of specific areas will be surveyed in order to provide an overview of psychology as a science and a profession. Lectures, class discussions, student presentations, group activities, videos, and homework assignments will be used to meet the instructional goals.

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Determine and apply basic vocabulary and technical terminology employed in the discipline of psychology
2. Determine and apply the major areas of study and perspectives within the discipline of psychology
3. Determine and apply the elements of the standard scientific methodology used in the discipline of psychology
4. Determine and apply the major principles used in the discipline of psychology
5. Appropriately apply basic psychological concepts to everyday circumstances, thoughts, and behaviors

Students will demonstrate their attainment of these learning objectives during class discussions, via their written work, and on exams.

Required Materials

1. Ettinger, R. H. (2011). *Psychology: The Science of Behavior*. Redding, CA: BVT Publishing.
2. Turning Point Response Card XR Classroom Response Device a.k.a. "Clicker" – must be registered online in order to have responses recorded. See the link on my home page for a document with directions to register your device.

Course Requirements:

1. Class Participation – While attendance is strongly encouraged, it is not required. However, 10% of your final grade will be based on class attendance and participation. Active, thoughtful participation in class, demonstrating an understanding of the material (or at least a clear attempt to understand) is expected. You can miss one class meeting without any penalty. After the first absence, each additional absence results in a 1 point deduction from the attendance/participation grade. Participation is also an important part of your attendance/participation grade, I track classroom participation and sitting silently in class throughout the semester will result in a minimal grade in this area. I do not differentiate in any way between excused or unexcused absences. You have a class meeting that you may miss without penalty and going beyond that will have a slight impact, as discussed above. I do not ever need to see notes from the health center/doctors/coaches/advisors/etc.

2. Research review - Beginning on 2-25-13 and throughout the remainder of the semester students will obtain a copy of an original article from a primary source (e.g., a psychological journal) that is referenced in the text and provide additional information about the research beyond that which is provided in the textbook. This information will be provided via a brief verbal presentation to the class (no shorter than 5 nor longer than 8 minutes) and a brief (1-2 pages typed maximum) summary-critique of the article that will be turned into the instructor along with a copy of the article. Along with your written research review, please submit three four response option multiple choice questions, one of which will be used on the exam. You may review your questions with the class at the end of your presentation

A sign up sheet will be distributed during the second week of class where students will indicate which chapter they would like to investigate further. It is suggested that students peruse the book to identify areas they are interested in. Three or four students will each use different articles from chapter six on.

3. Examinations - There will be three examinations during the course of the semester and a comprehensive final exam, given during finals week. The exams will cover all assigned readings, class discussion, lecture, and any videos we watch in class. Format will be objective test items, i.e., multiple choice. If you miss an exam due to an illness or serious family emergency you must contact me to arrange to take the exam prior to the next regular class meeting. You will have to take any make-up exam on campus. Failure to follow this procedure will result in a grade of zero for that exam, it is your responsibility to contact me to arrange to take the exam.

4. Quiz Questions - At the beginning of the coverage of most chapters, we will start things off with three quiz questions, based on the reading. You will need to be sure that you have your turning point response card with you in order to respond to these questions. There will usually be a total of about five questions per chapter, the other two will be interspersed throughout our coverage of the chapter. I anticipate giving at least 45-50 quiz questions, possibly more during the course of the semester. Students can earn the full ten points, by answering 80% or more of the total number of these questions correctly, students answering less than 80% of the questions correctly will receive a prorated portion of the 10 points. Absolutely no make ups of the reading checks will be given for any reason. If you arrive late for class and a question is in progress you will not have "extra time" to answer. These questions will be discussed immediately. If you do not have your response card with you, you will be unable to answer the questions. It is your responsibility to have your response card with you for every class meeting. We will most likely have the first quiz questions on the second day of the class. You will need to have completed the registration process for your clicker by the previous afternoon (there is a link on my home page to help with the response card). If you have not registered your clicker you will be unable to answer the quiz questions.

Course Schedule (subject to modification)

All powerpoint lecture slides will be available prior to class from my homepage.

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topic(s)</i>	<i>Reading(s)</i>
1-28	Introductions, review syllabus Origins of Psychology	Chapter 1
2-4	Methods of Psychology (sign up for research review)	Chapter 2
2-11	Presentation by Katie Yelinek – Reference Librarian, Social Sciences Subject Specialist The Biology of Behavior	Chapter 3
2-18	Exam #1 (Ch 1-3) Begin Learning and Behavior coverage following exam	
2-25	Learning and Behavior Start Cognition: Thinking and Language	Chapter 6
3-4	No class, Dr. Leitzel @ Eastern Psychological Association Conference	
3-11	Cognition: Thinking and Language Intelligence Spring Break – No class 3-18	Chapter 10 Chapter 13
3-25	Exam #2 (Ch 6, 10, 13) Begin Development: Conception Through Childhood coverage following exam	
4-1	Development: Conception Through Childhood	Chapter 11
4-8	Development: Adolescence Through End of Life	Chapter 12
4-15	Personality Theories and Assessment	Chapter 14
4-22	Exam #3 (Ch 11, 12, 14) Begin Behavioral Disorders coverage following exam	
4-29	Behavioral Disorders	Chapter 15
5-6	Treatment of Behavioral Disorders	Chapter 16

Final Exam: Monday May 13, regular class meeting time

Evaluation/grading

Attendance/Participation	10 points	Exam #1	10 points
Quiz/Clicker Questions	10 points	Exam #2	15 points
Research review	10 points	Exam #3	20 points
Final Exam	25 points		

Grade Ranges

A = 90-100 B = 80-89.99 C = 70-79.99 D = 60-69.99 E = <60

Extra credit

There may be opportunities during the semester to earn extra credit points. These will be discussed if/when they arise.

Attendance

Attendance is required for all meetings. Since exam items will be taken from both the textbook for the course and material not in the book that I present during class, it is in your best interest to be present for class. Regular attendance and participation during class can help in the event of a borderline grade. If attendance seems problematic, I reserve the right to give pop quizzes that will count as extra credit for those students who have made the effort to be in class.

Exams

There will be three exams during the course of the semester and a comprehensive final exam. If classes are cancelled on an exam date due to snow, the exam will be given during the next class. A snow cancellation of the class preceding an exam will not affect the date of the scheduled exam. An exam given following a snow cancellation will include all material indicated on this syllabus for that exam, even if it has not yet been discussed in class.

Make-up exams will only be administered in the event of an illness or emergency. If such circumstances prevent you from being present for an exam you should contact me as soon as it is clear that you will not be present for the exam. You should contact me to schedule a time to take a make-up exam prior to the class meeting the following week. Failure to follow this procedure will result in a grade of zero for the exam in question. Only under truly extraordinary circumstances will more than one make-up exam be allowed for any student during the semester.

Exam grades will be posted to my web site listed by BU ID #, hopefully by the Wednesday afternoon following the exam.

Extra credit

There may be opportunities during the semester to earn some extra credit points. These will be discussed if/when they arise.

Any student who is interested in additional readings related to the course material should speak with me. I will be happy to provide suggestions.

Some tips on how to do well in this class

1. Attend class and participate. Attendance and active participation are essential if you hope to do well in the course. You are responsible for all information presented in class whether you are present or not.
2. Do the assigned reading prior to class and come prepared to ask and answer questions about the material. This process will help you clarify any points you do not understand as well as integrating the ideas and concepts you do understand. Active involvement facilitates learning.
3. Review your notes frequently. This will decrease the need for "cramming" prior to exams.
4. If there are things that you are just not getting despite doing the assigned reading, attending class and reviewing your notes please set up an appointment with me to obtain clarification.

Check out the stuff that corresponds to the various chapters on the web site associated with the book. There are lots of great links with loads of relevant information and numerous ways to review and consolidate your learning of the material for the course. You will need to set up an account and use a code that you should have gotten when you purchased the textbook. If you bought the book without the BVT lab, you can purchase that separately and I strongly suggest that you do so, the cost is minimal and the study aids are very valuable. The address is:

<http://www.bvtlab.com/>