

General Psychology (Psyc 0001)
University of Vermont
Spring 2007
Hills 234, Tuesday 5:00-8:00pm

Instructor

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Required Text

Weiten, W. (2004). Psychology: Themes and Variations (6th edition, Briefer Edition). Belmont, CA; Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.
ISBN: 0-534-63288-2

Recommended Study Aids

The textbook has a website at: http://www.wadsworth.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20b&product_isbn_issn=0534632882&discipline_number=24

I will also be posting information related to class on WebCT located at <https://www.uvm.edu/webct/>

Course Description

This class is a survey course designed to provide you with an introduction to the field of psychology and an overview of the different topics in the field of psychology. We will be covering a lot of information throughout the semester. Some topics will be covered briefly while others will be covered more in-depth. Throughout the semester we will attempt to investigate the biological, cognitive, behavioral, developmental, social and clinical areas of psychology. In each area we will discuss theories, research and applications. We will also examine some specific issues and topics in-depth that are of particular interest to the students.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course you should be able to:

- 1) Describe the main theories and fields of psychology.
- 2) Describe the major themes and research in the areas of biological, behavioral, clinical, cognitive, developmental and social psychology.
- 3) Provide examples of how research is able to advance the knowledge of psychology.
- 4) Apply psychological concepts to your own and others daily lives and illustrate the ways in which psychological science is relative to the functioning of practicing psychologists, parents, teachers, schools, agencies and public programs.

In order to attain these goals you must:

- 1) Attend all classes.
- 2) Pay attention and participate in class discussions.
- 3) Read textbook assignments in a timely manner.
- 4) Take notes on class lectures.
- 5) Complete approximately 3 hours of studying each week.
- 6) Participate in extra credit activities.
- 7) Contact me as soon as you realize you are having difficulty in class, (e.g. following class lectures, completing class assignments, etc...). It is too late to get help if you wait until the end of the semester.

Course Format

This class will be taught in an interactive format. Lectures will be integrated with discussions, activities and examples. In-class activities and tests will assist you in actively learning course information.

Course Requirements

- 1) **Class participation:** Class attendance and participation are expected.

You are expected to be on time for class. Attendance will be recorded and will not directly factor into your grade, although it will be taken into consideration when determining your final grades. As

a student, you are expected to complete all readings prior to class so that you will be prepared for class lectures and discussions. If you miss a class you should arrange to get a copy of the notes you missed from a classmate. An outline of each lecture will be available on WebCT to help you prepare for classes and to prevent you from getting behind if you have to miss a class.

There will be 11 small in-class assignments. These will not be announced prior to class. Each assignment will be worth 3 points. One of these assignments will be dropped, so you will be able to miss 1 without penalty. There will be no makeup's for these assignments.

You will also be responsible for 2 take-home assignments. These will consist of short (1 page) thought questions. Each question will be worth 10 points. You will have 2 weeks to complete these assignments. You will not be allowed to turn these assignments in after the due date. The due dates will be announced in class.

2) **Exams:** There will be four exams. All exams will consist of multiple-choice questions. You will need to provide your own #2 pencil for the exams. At the end of the semester the lowest of your four exam grades will be dropped. Therefore, if you miss an exam you will receive a 0 for the exam, and that 0 will be dropped at the end of the semester. This means that there will be no test make-ups unless you miss more than one test. If you have already missed an exam and are going to miss a *second exam* then you *must also provide me with a legitimate excuse for missing the exam or you will not be allowed to take the exam after the designated test day.* An emergency situation or a university-sponsored sporting event constitutes a legitimate excuse.

Each exam will take place at the beginning of class, at 5:00. You should be on time for each exam, because you will only have 1 hour to complete each exam.

Due to our restricted schedule, there will not be a formal test review prior to the exams. However, I will provide a exam review sheet the week prior to the exam and will be available to answer any questions prior to the test. We will not have time to discuss the answers to the tests in class. If you have questions about your grade or the questions please email me, call me or make an appointment to meet me to discuss your concerns.

Evaluation

Your final grade for this course will be based upon in-class assignments and class examinations. Class attendance, extra-credit participation and improvement throughout the semester will also be taken into account.

- 1) In-Class Assignments/Quizzes: 30 points (3 points each)
- 2) Take Home Assignments: 20 points (10 points each)
- 3) Exam I: 50 points
- 3) Exam II: 50 points
- 3) Exam III: 50 points
- 4) Exam IV: 50 points

Total: 250 points

Grading Criteria:

A- 250- 225 points	C- 199 - 175 points	F- below 150 points
B- 224 - 200 points	D- 174 - 150 points	

Class announcements, outlines and other information will also be posted online at WebCT.

Extra Credit

Throughout the semester you will have different opportunities to earn a maximum of 2 extra credit grade points. These points will be added to your final grade. These points may be earned by participating in a research study or by writing an extra credit paper. Myself and other researchers will be announcing opportunities to participate in research studies throughout the semester. If you choose to write a paper please see me to discuss a topic. The paper should be five pages in length (double-spaced) and include at least 3 outside references (not including the textbook).

Course Outline

<u>Date</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1/16/07	Chapter 1	Course Introduction History of Psychology
1/23/07	Chapter 2	Scientific Research in Psychology Research Methods in Psychology
1/30/07	Chapter 3	Biological Basis of Behavior
2/6/07	Chapter 5 (pp 130-141)	Exam I Neurobiology of Sleep
2/13/07	Chapter 4	Sensation and Perception
2/20/07	Chapter 6	Learning
2/27/07	Chapter 7	Exam II Human Memory
3/6/07		No Class- Town Meeting Day!!
3/13/07		No Class- Spring Recess!!
3/20/07	Chapter 8	Language and Thought
3/27/07	Chapter 9	Motivation Emotion
4/3/07	Chapter 10	Human Development
4/10/07	Chapter 15	Exam III Social Psychology
4/17/07	Chapter 15	Social Psychology
4/24/07	Chapter 5 (pp 146-151)	Drugs of Abuse
5/1/07	Chapter 13	Psychological Disorders

Exam IV (Final Exam): Tuesday 5/8/07: 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Hills 234