

# PSY 101 - Introductory Psychology

San Diego State University  
Spring Semester 2008 – TTH 9:30 Section

Instructor: Mark A. Laumakis, Ph.D. (pronounced la-may-kiss)  
Office: Student Services East – 2307N  
Phone: (619) 594-8850  
E-mail: [laumakis@sciences.sdsu.edu](mailto:laumakis@sciences.sdsu.edu)  
Office Hours: Tuesday 12:30-1:30 p.m. and Thursday 8:30-9:10 a.m.  
Class Time/Location: Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:45 a.m. in AL-201  
Required Text: *Psychology* (8th edition, 2006)  
Author: David G. Myers

(note: you should purchase the textbook package in the SDSU Bookstore because it is a unique package which includes an Activation Code for the course web site and a Student Video Toolkit CD)

## Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the basic concepts that form the foundation of the field of psychology.

Topics to be discussed include the following:

- The history of psychology
- Research methods in psychology
- Biological bases of behavior
- Sensation and perception
- Consciousness
- Learning
- Memory
- Intelligence
- Development
- Emotion
- Personality
- Psychological disorders
- Treatment of psychological disorders
- Social psychology

Both the textbook and class lectures emphasize an empirical approach to a scientific understanding of human behavior across these diverse domains. Most classes will be in a lecture format in order to enable us to cover the wide expanse of material that comprises this course. Nevertheless, we will also use segments of some class meetings to discuss issues raised in lectures and readings, as well as to provide demonstrations to bring to life and personalize the material covered in this course. We will also make use of various technological tools during the lecture, including the Classroom Performance System (CPS) “clickers” that you will purchase at the bookstore and some of the interactive activities embedded in the on-line eBook for our textbook, in order to permit more active engagement on your part with the course material. My goal in taking this approach to teaching is to permit you to be an active learner in this course and to avoid the passivity that can often characterize students’ behavior in a class of this size.

In addition to learning basic content information about psychology, students will learn how psychologists ask questions, evaluate evidence, and communicate with each other. To be successful in this course, students must synthesize information presented in both the lecture and the text. Specifically, this means that your studying for quizzes and tests should involve reviewing and integrating the essential ideas contained in both the lectures and the textbook.

Graded assignments (e.g., tests and quizzes) will be used to help students identify and recall the key concepts in each sub-field of psychology. After taking this class, intended psychology majors should be able to target areas of study that they would like to pursue and non-psychology majors should have a greater insight into the science of understanding human behavior.

## Course Objectives

These are the objectives of the course. You will learn to:

1. Describe the nature of psychology as a discipline (i.e., explain why psychology is a science).
2. Use the concepts, language, and major theories of the discipline to account for psychological phenomena.
3. Explain major perspectives of psychology (e.g., behavioral, biological, cognitive, evolutionary, humanistic, psychodynamic, and sociocultural).
4. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding representing appropriate breadth and depth in selected content areas of psychology:
  - a. theory and research representing each of the following four general domains:
    - (1) learning and cognition
    - (2) individual differences, personality, and social processes, including those related to sociocultural and international dimensions
    - (3) biological bases of behavior and mental processes, including physiology, sensation, perception, and emotion
    - (4) developmental changes in behavior and mental processes across the life span
  - b. the history of psychology, including the evolution of methods of psychology, its theoretical conflicts, and its sociocultural contexts
  - c. relevant levels of analysis: cellular, individual, group/systems, and culture
  - d. overarching themes, persistent questions, or enduring conflicts in psychology, such as
    - (1) the interaction of heredity and environment
    - (2) variability and continuity of behavior and mental processes within and across species
    - (3) the interaction of mind and body
  - e. relevant ethical issues, including a general understanding of the APA Code of Ethics
5. Explain different research methods used by psychologists and identify the utility and shortcomings of several types (descriptive research, correlational research, experimental research) of research methods. Use different research methods to formulate testable questions about psychological phenomena.
6. Use critical thinking effectively.
  - a. Evaluate the quality of information, including differentiating empirical evidence from speculation and the probable from the improbable
  - b. Evaluate popular media reports of psychological research
  - c. Seek and evaluate scientific evidence for psychological claims.
7. Describe major applied areas of psychology (e.g., clinical, counseling, industrial/organizational, school, health).
8. Apply psychological concepts, theories, and research findings as these relate to everyday life.
9. Distinguish between ethical and unethical behavior in all aspects of the science and practice of psychology.
10. Demonstrate these computer skills:
  - a. Use basic word processing, email, and course management programs (e.g., Blackboard)
  - b. Search the World Wide Web for high quality information
  - c. Use proper etiquette and security safeguards when communicating through email

## PsychPortal

PsychPortal is the online site for this course. You will need an Activation Code, which comes packaged with your textbook, in order to register at the PsychPortal site. The URL for the site is <http://portals.bfwpub.com/psych.php>.

To register for PsychPortal, simply follow these steps:

1. Click on "Register an Activation Code"
2. Follow the on-screen instructions
3. Be sure to register for the correct Intro Psych section.

I will frequently refer to PsychPortal. **You are responsible for all material on PsychPortal.** The PsychPortal course materials are organized by tabs at the top of the screen as follows:

- **Home:** Check this area frequently. It includes a link to the course syllabus, a calendar to help you keep track of important dates, and a list of course announcements.
- **EBook:** This area includes links to the entire textbook in an EBook format. In addition, very useful demonstrations, animations, and video clips are embedded within the EBook. The EBook technology also permits you to highlight the EBook and to take notes as well.
- **Course Materials:** This section includes a search function with which you can find materials to help in your studying, including flashcards, web links, diagrams to label, PsychSim 5 activities, PsychInquiry activities, and a glossary. You should make use of these materials in preparing for the course. This is where you can also find incomplete versions of the in-class PowerPoint slides. Here you can also find information regarding the Research Participation Requirement described below. Finally, I have included External Links to interesting and relevant web-based materials here.
- **Assignment Center:** This section provides links to the assigned online quizzes for the course. Additional information regarding the online quizzes is provided below.
- **Quizzes:** In this section, you can view a summary of the quizzing features built into PsychPortal. Quizzes include both Pre-Lecture Quizzes and Mastery Quizzes. Note that the Mastery Quizzes are the only ones that count for points in this course. See Online Quizzes section below for more information.

## Tests

There will be four tests during the semester. The dates of these tests are noted in the Course Schedule included below. Each test will be worth 120 points. Each test will consist of 40 multiple-choice questions (3 points each). The tests will cover each section of the course independently; **they are not cumulative.**

All test questions will come from lectures and readings in the textbook. Any portion of the lectures or assigned readings may be covered on the tests. You **MUST** read the textbook. Your textbook reading should be an essential complement to the material covered in the lectures. Again, you **MUST** read the textbook.

For each of the four tests, you will need to bring your own answer sheet. The correct ParSCORE answer sheet is **#F-289**. Again, the number is **#F-289**. Bring and use the correct answer sheet or you will lose 10 points for failing to comply with these instructions. The easiest thing to do is to buy four answer sheets with the **#F-289** on them at the beginning of the semester and bring one of them to each of the four tests.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS. TAKE THE TESTS ON THE DAY THAT THEY ARE GIVEN. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.**

## Quizzes

Students will complete a total of 12 on-line quizzes from the 15 textbook chapters to be covered during the course of the semester. You will receive 10 points for each of the 10 on-line quizzes that you complete with a score of 65% or better. You can take the on-line quizzes multiple times until you get the required score. You can also continue to take additional quizzes after you get the required score, in order to give you more practice with these sorts of items. The PsychPortal gradebook is set up to record your HIGHEST score, so you will get 10 points for any attempt on which you score 65% or better, whether that score is on your first, last, or any attempt at the online quiz. **You may NOT use your textbook or any other materials, including your class notes, to assist you in completing the on-line quizzes. There is a running timer for each quiz to insure that you are not using such outside materials when completing the quiz.** There will be no extra credit awarded for completing more than 12 on-line quizzes.

The on-line quizzes are accessible via the PsychPortal web site.

Once you have logged in to PsychPortal, simply follow these directions to complete the on-line quizzes:

1. click on the Assignment Center tab at the top of the screen
2. click on the "Mastery Quiz" for whichever chapter you are working on
3. click on the "Begin \_\_\_\_\_ Quiz" for whichever chapter you are working on
4. click "Submit" when finished.

Note that the quizzes which will count towards your course grade are the "Mastery Quiz" assignments, not the "Pre-Lecture Quiz" assignments. You can certainly complete the "Pre-Lecture Quiz" assignments as well, but those will not count towards your course grade. **Again, the online quiz assignment is to complete the "Mastery Quiz" for each chapter.**

The on-line quizzes for all chapters will be accessible beginning on the first day of class this semester. Quizzes for specific chapters will be removed from the web site at 11 p.m. on the Sunday night after we complete the lecture on that chapter. For example, the on-line quiz for Chapter 1 will be available beginning on January 22, 2008. The on-line quiz for Chapter 1 will then disappear from the course web site at 11 p.m. on Sunday, January 27, 2008.

Here is a table depicting when the on-line quizzes will disappear during the course of the semester. You can also check these due dates by clicking on the Calendar link on the PsychPortal home page.

Textbook Chapter	On-line Quiz Disappears at 11 p.m. on Sunday:
Prologue	1/27
Chapter 1	2/3
Chapter 2	2/17
Chapter 5	2/24
Chapter 7	3/2
Chapter 8	3/9
Chapter 9	3/16
Chapter 11	3/23
Chapter 4	3/30
Chapter 13	4/6
Chapter 14	4/6
Chapter 15	4/13
Chapter 16	4/27
Chapter 17	5/4
Chapter 18	5/11

It is your responsibility to complete the quizzes in a timely way, that is, before they are due. This policy is intended to insure that you are working on each chapter as the material is being covered in lecture. Once the quizzes have been removed from the web site, they will **NOT** be made available to you again. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST 15 MINUTES TO DO THE QUIZZES!**

### CPS “Clickers”

Throughout the semester, we will be making extensive use of the Classroom Performance System “clickers” that you **MUST** purchase in the bookstore. You will be provided with a separate sheet of instructions about how to register your clicker for our specific course at CPSONline. The process is very simple.

The “clickers” will be used in several different ways over the course of the semester. Most often, we will use CPS “clicker questions” to review lecture content on-the-fly. Specifically, this means that I will build in conceptual and application review questions into the course PowerPoint lectures. These questions and your answers to them will permit you and me to know if you are learning what I am teaching. I will also use the “clickers” to poll the class about a variety of issues in psychology. For example, I will ask you about whether you think behavior is more a function of nature (biology, genes) or nurture (environment, learning). For such questions, there will be no right or wrong answers, but your responses will help me gauge the overall perceptions of the class with regard to specific issues of interest in the course. Finally, I will utilize the “clickers” to give you credit for class attendance.

The “clicker” attendance and participation points will be distributed as follows:

- You will receive 2 points for each correct response to a “clicker question”
- You will receive 1 point for each incorrect response to a “clicker question”
- You will receive 0 points for “clicker questions” to which you do not respond
- You will receive 4 points for each day of 10 randomly selected days of attendance over the course of the semester.

For the purposes of your course grade, you will be able to receive a maximum of 40 points for attendance (4 points for each of 10 days randomly selected by the instructor) and you will be able to receive a maximum of 60 points for participation in response to “clicker questions” (2 points for each of 30 “clicker questions” randomly selected by the instructor).

## Grading

A total of 700 points is possible. You can keep track and determine your grade using these tables.

	<u>Points Possible</u>	<u>Your Points</u>
<b>Test 1</b>	120	
<b>Test 2</b>	120	
<b>Test 3</b>	120	
<b>Test 4</b>	120	
<b>On-line Quizzes</b>	120	
<b>Attendance (10 days; 4 points each)</b>	40	
<b>“Clicker Question” Participation (30 questions; 2 points each)</b>	60	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>700</b>	

<b>Points</b>	<b>Grade</b>
651-700	<b>A</b>
630-650	<b>A-</b>
609-629	<b>B+</b>
581-608	<b>B</b>
560-580	<b>B-</b>
539-559	<b>C+</b>
511-538	<b>C</b>
490-510	<b>C-</b>
469-489	<b>D+</b>
441-468	<b>D</b>
420-440	<b>D-</b>
Below 420	<b>F</b>

## Research Requirement

Every student enrolled in Psychology 101 is required to take part in four hours (four credits) of psychological research OR write two abstracts of articles from current APA journals, OR some combination of both. Students who do not fulfill the requirement will be given a grade of “I” (incomplete) for the course. Unchanged incompletes become an “F” after one academic year. Details of the research participation requirement will be presented at the beginning of the semester and will also be available on the PsychPortal site.

## Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is one of the fundamental principles of a university community. San Diego State University expects the highest standards of academic honesty from all students. Violations of academic integrity include the following: (1) unauthorized assistance on an examination, (2) falsification or invention of data, (3) unauthorized collaboration on an academic exercise, (4) plagiarism, (5) misappropriation of research materials, (6) unauthorized access of an instructor’s files or computer account, and (7) any other serious violation of academic integrity as established by the instructor. If your academic integrity is not maintained on a test or assignment, you will automatically receive a grade of zero for that test or assignment and you will be reported to the Dean’s Office, in accordance with SDSU academic integrity policy. Penalties can be severe. More specific information is available in the SDSU Bulletin, both in print and on-line.

## Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Specific Student Learning Outcomes	Reading
Tues. 1/22	Course Overview		
Th. 1/24	Introduction	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe the emergence of experimental psychology.</li> <li>2. Describe and compare the neuroscience, psychodynamic, behavioral, cognitive, and social-cultural perspectives</li> <li>3. Explain the differences between nativism (nature) and empiricism (nurture) as two approaches to understanding human behavior.</li> <li>4. List and describe the major subfields of psychology.</li> </ol>	Prologue
Tues. 1/29	Research Methods	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify and explain different approaches to descriptive research.</li> <li>2. Describe the concept of correlation and explain how it is used in psychology.</li> <li>3. Describe the elements of an experiment.</li> <li>4. Distinguish between reliability and validity and describe their significance in psychological research.</li> <li>5. Define descriptive statistics and explain how they are used by behavioral scientists.</li> <li>6. Identify ethical issues in psychological research.</li> </ol>	Chapter 1
Th. 1/31	“	“	“
Tues. 2/5	Biological Bases of Behaviors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explain how research and technology have provided methods to analyze brain behavior and disease.</li> <li>2. Identify the structure and function of the major regions of the brain.</li> <li>3. Recognize that specific functions are centered in specific lobes of the cerebral cortex.</li> <li>4. Describe lateralization of brain functions.</li> <li>5. Classify the major divisions and subdivisions of the nervous system.</li> <li>6. Identify the neuron as the basis for neural communication.</li> <li>7. Describe how information is transmitted and integrated in the nervous system.</li> </ol>	Chapter 2
Th. 2/7	“	“	“
Tues. 2/12	“	“	“
<b>Th. 2/14</b>	<b>Test #1</b>		
Tues. 2/19	Sensation and Perception	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe the operation of sensory systems.</li> <li>2. Distinguish between bottom-up and top-down perceptual processing.</li> <li>3. Explain Gestalt concepts and principles.</li> <li>4. Describe binocular and monocular depth cues.</li> </ol>	Chapter 5
Th. 2/21	“	“	Chapter 6 (236-254)
Tues. 2/26	Consciousness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe the sleep cycle.</li> <li>2. Compare theories that explain why we sleep.</li> <li>3. Assess types of sleep disorders.</li> <li>4. Compare different theories about dreams.</li> <li>5. Characterize the major categories of psychoactive drugs and their effects.</li> </ol>	Chapter 7
Th. 2/28	Learning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe the classical conditioning paradigm.</li> <li>2. Describe the operant conditioning paradigm.</li> <li>3. Explain how observational learning works.</li> </ol>	Chapter 8
Tues. 3/4	“	“	“
Th. 3/6	Memory	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Distinguish between explicit memory and implicit memory.</li> <li>2. Distinguish between declarative memory and procedural memory.</li> <li>3. Describe the operation of short-term memory.</li> <li>4. Describe the operation of long-term memory.</li> <li>5. Discuss the serial position effect.</li> <li>6. Explain the central idea of the levels-of-processing theory.</li> <li>7. Identify factors that interfere with memory.</li> <li>8. Explain the role that interference plays in retrieval.</li> <li>9. Identify the brain structures most important to memory.</li> </ol>	Chapter 9
Tues. 3/11	“	“	“
<b>Th. 3/13</b>	<b>Test #2</b>		
Tues. 3/18	Intelligence	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe the basic statistical concepts in intelligence testing.</li> <li>2. Explain how intelligence may be influenced by heredity and environment.</li> </ol>	Chapter 11 Chapter 3 (95-107)

Th. 3/20	Human Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe physical, social, and cognitive changes from the prenatal period throughout the life span.</li> <li>2. Explain various developmental models.</li> <li>3. Identify evidence for both genetic and environmental contributions to the development of language.</li> <li>4. Describe the role of critical periods in development.</li> <li>5. Discuss what is meant by attachment, how attachment is measured, and factors that influence attachment.</li> </ol>	Chapter 4 Chapter 10 (410-418)
Tues. 3/25	"	"	"
Th. 3/27	Emotion, Stress, and Health	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe theories of emotion, including James-Lange, Cannon-Bard, and Schachter-Singer two-factor theory.</li> <li>2. Identify some of the neurophysiological bases of emotion.</li> <li>3. Distinguish between and among these terms: stress, stressor, and coping</li> <li>4. Explain how certain ways of coping may be a better "match" for certain kinds of stressors.</li> <li>5. Summarize the central ideas of Selye's General Adaptation Syndrome (GAS).</li> </ol>	Chapter 13 (512-523) Chapter 14 (548-575)
<b>Tues. 4/1 &amp; Th. 4/3</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>		
Tues. 4/8	Personality	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Distinguish between objective and projective techniques of personality assessment.</li> <li>2. Describe tests used in personality assessment.</li> <li>3. Explain the characteristics of the psychodynamic, humanistic, cognitive-behavioral, and trait approaches.</li> </ol>	Chapter 15
Th. 4/10	"	"	"
<b>Tues. 4/15</b>	<b>Test #3</b>		
Th. 4/17	Psychological Disorders	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Distinguish the common characteristics of abnormal behavior.</li> <li>2. Consider factors that influence vulnerability to abnormal behavior.</li> <li>3. Discuss major categories of mental disorders, including etiological factors.</li> </ol>	Chapter 16
Tues. 4/22	"	"	"
Th. 4/24	"	"	"
Tues. 4/29	Treatment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe major treatment approaches, including biomedical therapies and different forms of talk psychotherapy.</li> <li>2. Explain how to evaluate psychotherapy outcomes and summarize the overall conclusions of such treatment outcome research.</li> </ol>	Chapter 17
Th. 5/1	"	"	"
Tues. 5/6	Social Psychology	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe the effects of the presence of others on individual behavior.</li> <li>2. Describe circumstances under which conformity and obedience are likely to occur.</li> <li>3. Describe how attributions affect our explanations of behavior.</li> </ol>	Chapter 18
Th. 5/8	"	"	"
<b>Tues. 5/13 @ 10:30 a.m. in AL-201</b>	<b>Final Exam = Test #4</b>		