

**INTRODUCTORY PSYCHOLOGY, PSY 101, Spring 2011
SYLLABUS AND COURSE OUTLINE**

Tuesday & Thursday from 9:30-10:45 a.m. Room: HT 140

**Instructor: Dr. Joseph M. Price, Professor
Department of Psychology, SDSU**

I. Course Description: The focus of this course will be on: (a) major theoretical perspectives guiding current research in psychology; (b) methods of data collection and research designs used in psychological research; (c) review of recent empirical findings within the major branches of psychology; and (d) various applications of psychological theory and research.

II. Objectives: Generally, the goal of this course is to develop student understanding of theoretical perspectives of psychology, research methodology, and findings from recent empirical research. Specifically, at the completion of the course, the student will: (1) demonstrate knowledge of major theoretical perspectives within psychology by identifying principles and concepts cited on exams; (2) demonstrate knowledge of research methodology by identifying major designs and design issues cited on exams, and (3) demonstrate knowledge of the empirical research across various domains of psychology summarized in lectures and required readings by identifying recent findings cited on exams.

III. Textbook (Required):

Myers, D. G. (2010). *Psychology, 9th Edition in Modules*. New York: Worth Publishers. **The actual text book or the e-version are both acceptable.**

IV. Course Requirements:

- A. Reading Assignments as specified on course schedule.
- B. Examinations as scheduled (4). For each exam approximately 50% of the questions will come from the text readings and 50% from the lecture material. **All lecture and assigned text material is required for reading and review. Therefore, all required material will be considered for evaluation (testing).**
- C. Research Participation Hours. *Students enrolled in any Psychology 101 course at SDSU is required to take part in **four hours** (credits) of psychological research. As an alternative, students may either write two research reports, or participate in two hours of research and write one research report. You will be responsible for keeping track of your own participation credits.*

V. Attendance: Although attendance will not be taken in this course, students are expected to attend every lecture. Students will be responsible for getting notes for classroom lectures that are missed. Neither the instructor nor the T.A.s will provide notes for missed lectures. It will be difficult to receive a passing grade in this course without understanding *and knowing* the material presented **both** in the text and during the lectures.

VI. Grading Procedures and Policy

A. **Examinations: 4 (70 points each).**

1. Exam content. Exams will include questions related to material from the text, classroom lectures/presentations, video presentations, and supplemental reading and viewing assignments. The format for exam questions will primarily be multiple-choice, but may include, fill-in, and short answer essays.
2. Scaling for each exam and the final grade. There is no curving.

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| A (93.3%) | A - (90.0%) | B+ (86.6%) | B (83.3%) |
| B - (80.0%) | C+ (76.6%) | C (73.3%) | C - (70.0%) |
| D+ (66.6%) | D (63.3%) | D - (60.0%) | F (59.9% or less) |
3. Exam Policy: You must take the exam at the date and time that is scheduled. So, schedule your end-of-the semester plans accordingly. Missing an exam because you got the date, time or place wrong is **not** an acceptable excuse. *(Make-up exams are considered only in cases of illness or family emergency, and are allowed only on a case-by-case basis. Conflicts with travel plans will not be considered for make-up exams. All make-up exams must be approved by the instructor)*
4. EXAM SCANTRON: RED SCANTRON FORM NO. **F-289-ERI-L IS REQUIRED.**
5. Cheating: In the event an individual is suspected of cheating on an exam, the individual will receive 0 points for that particular exam. In addition, for all subsequent exams the individual will be proctored by the instructor at a time and place determined by the instructor (e.g., 7:00 a.m. in the instructor's office). Finally, the individual will also be referred to the University Student Affairs Office for disciplinary action.
6. Challenges to an Exam Grade or Question: All challenges to an exam grade or to the correctness of an answer to a particular exam question must be put *in writing*. You must support your challenge with empirical evidence. For example, citing the paragraph and page number in the text for an alternative answer is acceptable. However, citing an example from your own life experience is **not** acceptable. Everyone is being tested over the same material presented in the lectures, film presentations, and the text. Therefore, personal experiences are not considered as a valid source of reference. In addition, this is not an opportunity to earn points through creativity. Either there is evidence to support your answer or there is not. The instructor will decide.

- B. **Research Participation:** Students enrolled in Psychology 101 at SDSU are required to complete 4 hours (credits) of psychological research. As an alternative, students may write two research reports of articles from current American Psychological Association (APA) journals or take part in 2 hours of psychological research and write one research report. Each report is worth 2 credits. Students who drop the course may not carry over their

credits to the semester in which they re-enroll. This assignment is worth 20 points. **However, all 4 hours of credits must be completed to receive any points. If less than 4 hours of credit are completed, “0” points will be given for this assignment.**

- C. **Extra Credit:** There will be 5 extra credit questions on exams 2, 3, & 4. Extra credit questions will cover material from the prior exam. In addition, students will receive 3 extra credit points for completing 2 of the 4 research credits by the mid-semester date specified at the Psychology Research Participation Site. Students can also earn 2 extra credit points for having “0” no-shows for any of the research experiments for which they signed-up. Thus, a total of 20 extra credit points can be earned in this course. **No other methods or procedures will be provided for receiving extra credit in this course.**
- D. **Final Grades:** Final grades will be based on the sum of the four exam scores (280 possible), completion of the 4 research credit hours (20 points), and the extra credit points earned (20 possible). Final grades will be calculated on 300 points. However, with the extra credit points, it is possible to receive a total of 320 points. **Please be aware that final grades are based on the following: exam grades, research participation, and extra credit points earned between the beginning of class and the final exam. There is no way to earn extra credit other than what is specified in the course syllabus. Therefore, if you do not earn the final grade you were working or hoping for, there is no way to earn any other type of extra credit points, including after the end of the semester.**

VII. Classroom Courtesy:

Cell Phone Use. Out of courtesy to your instructor and your fellow classmates, please switch your cell phone to “off” or “silent” mode when class is in session and refrain from texting. If you need to answer a call (such as in an emergency), please exit the classroom before answering. Cell phones must be “put away” with other personnel items during exams.

Conversations During Class: This is a large class and personal conversations, especially if there are several taking place at one time, can be very distracting to others. *Out of courtesy and respect for your fellow classmates, please refrain from personal conversations during lectures, class discussions, films, and exams.* However, relevant questions during class and participation in class discussions are strongly encouraged.

VIII. Office Hours: By appointment. My office is located at 6363 Alvarado Ct., Suite 103, Room 6. Directions: From the corner of College Ave. and Alvarado Rd. (close to I-8), take Alvarado Rd. east to Alvarado Ct. This will be the first street you come to on the right. On Alvarado Ct., the first building on the right is 6363. Enter the front of the building and proceed to the right to Suite 103. Use the phone in the lobby to call me. My office phone number is: 594-5241. My email address is: jprice@sunstroke.sdsu.edu.

IX. Course Outline

| Date | Topic | Module Reading Assignment |
|---------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jan. 20 | So, what is Psychology? | 1 |
| Jan. 25 | How we learn about human behavior: | |

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| Jan. 27 | The Scientific Method The Scientific Method | 2 & 3 |
| Feb. 1 | Understanding the link between the brain and behavior | 4, 5 & 6 |
| Feb. 3 | Understanding the link between the brain and behavior | |
| Feb. 8 | Understanding how the brain interprets Experiences: Sensation and perception. | 17, 21, 22 |
| Feb. 10 | Understanding how the brain interprets Experiences: Sensation and perception. | 17, 21, 22 |
| Feb. 15 | Unit Exam #1 | |
| Feb. 17 | Understanding states of consciousness: Sleep | 7 & 8 |
| Feb. 22 | Understanding states of consciousness: Hypnosis & Drugs | 9 & 10 |
| Feb. 24 | Hypnosis & Drugs | |
| March 1 | Learning processes | 23, 24 & 25 |
| March 3 | Learning processes | |
| March 8 | Memory | 26 thru 30 |
| March 10 | Memory | |
| March 15 | Unit Exam #2 | |
| March 17 | Understanding intelligence | 33, 34, & 35 |
| March 22 | Understanding genetic and environmental Influences | 35, 11 & 12 |
| March 24 | Understanding genetic and environmental Influences | |
| March 28 – April 1 Spring Recess | | |
| April 5 | Understanding emotion | 40, 41, & 42 |
| April 7 | Understanding emotion | |
| April 12 | The nature of personality | 45, 46, & 47 |
| April 14 | The nature of personality | |
| April 19 | Unit Exam #3 | |
| April 21 | Understanding psychopathology | 48 thru 52 |
| April 26 | Understanding psychopathology | |
| April 28 | Understanding psychopathology. | |
| May 3 | Understanding social behavior | 56, 57, 58, |

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| May 5 | Understanding social behavior | |
| May 10 | Interpersonal relationships and sexuality | 59, 38 |
| May 17 | Unit Exam #4 (Final Exam) 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. (Room: HT 140) | |