

**General Psychology (PSY 1010 Section 4, CRNs 20327)**  
**Spring 2015, Jan. 12 – May 7**  
**Prof. Robert Carlson**

**Class Information**

Class Days: Tue. & Thur.  
Class Time: 10:30 – 11:45  
Class Location: McDonald 106

**Contact Information**

Office: McDonald 222  
Phone: 652-7893  
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**Disclaimer**: Details of this syllabus are subject to change (I hope not, but you never know). If changes are made, they will be announced in class during the scheduled class time.

**Contacting Prof. Carlson**: The most effective way to contact me is by e-mail (note: sending me a message or making a comment through Canvas is **NOT** the same as e-mail—I generally won't see Canvas messages or comments). I check my DSU e-mail account regularly (rcarlson@dixie.edu), and you can generally expect an e-mail response within one academic day (a day the campus is in session). If you speak to me in person, especially away from my office, **make sure to follow up any conversations with an e-mail** to remind me to address the matter in a timely manner (I tend to forget). I may not be in my office a lot outside of office hours, but you are welcome to drop by any time to see if I have time to meet with you. If you want to be sure I will be there to talk with you during a time other than official office hours, please feel free to contact me via e-mail to make an appointment.

**Course Description**: “For students in all disciplines who are interested in the fundamental scientific principles of behavior. The student will study learning, motivation, emotion, personality, mental disorders, treatment alternatives and other related subjects as part of the course. Critical thinking will be explored in examining these aspects of behavior. Students will have frequent examinations and quizzes as part of the course requirements. This course satisfies general education requirements in the social sciences area. 3 lecture hours per week.” (Description from Course Catalog)

**Course Objectives**: The purpose of this course is to teach students many of the scientific approaches used to study human behavior, from many different psychological perspectives: biopsychology, clinical and counseling psychology, cognitive psychology, developmental psychology, health psychology, social psychology, etc. Students will also learn significant findings and theories developed within a variety of sub-disciplines of psychology. Students will demonstrate their learning through short quizzes and longer exams.

**Course Requirements and Information**:

Textbook: *Introducing Psychology*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, by Schachter, Gilbert and Wegner.  
(Required)

Canvas: We will use Canvas on a regular basis. (Required)

Office Hours: Mon., Wed., 11:00-11:50; Tue., 11:50-12:40; Fri., 10:00-11:50; and by appointment

Prerequisites: None

Course Fees: None

General Education: This course fulfills a general education requirement for social and psychological phenomena.

**Academic Integrity**: There aren't many things students do that make me angry, but cheating is one of them. To clarify what constitutes cheating in general, please refer to the policy in Section

5.33.5 (<http://www.dixie.edu/humanres/policy/sec5/533.html>). A more specific explanation of plagiarism within psychology can be found in Canvas. In this class, the most obvious way to cheat is to share questions and/or answers from quizzes or exams with other students. This type of behavior, in any form, is forbidden. **Do not share test or quiz questions or answers with other students.** Also, you may not use notes or books when taking exams. Cheating will be dealt with harshly. What you may think is a minor instance of cheating can result in serious penalties.

**Attendance Policy:** I expect you to attend class regularly. There is a strong correlation between **class participation** and grades in my course, because there is a strong correlation between class participation and grades. Because of this, I strongly recommend that you **attend** class regularly **and participate** in class discussions. If you are unable to attend a class period, regardless of the reason for the absence, you (the student) are responsible to find out about information you have may have missed from that class period. Arrangements to make up missed work, such as taking exams, **must be made and approved prior to the absence.** Given that there is a range of time during which students may take exams, it is rare for an unexpected absence to consume an entire exam period. Therefore, it has been rare for me to grant make-up exams after the exam period has ended. Because quizzes can be taken any place and any time during the time the quiz is available, **make-up quizzes are never allowed.** In case you forget to take a quiz or are unavoidably prevented from taking a quiz, three quizzes are dropped from the calculation of your quiz average for the semester.

**Classroom Policy:** All students are encouraged to participate in classroom discussions (see above), but appropriate levels of maturity and respect (to the instructor and other students) must be demonstrated. Joking around with the professor is generally tolerated, and usually encouraged, as long as the joking is not offensive to others (including the instructor, but I don't offend easily). I want participation from everyone, so even if you believe your comments or opinions will not be appreciated by others, please feel free to offer your perspective. Other than not being offensive, I have very few rules in my classroom. If you are late or need to leave early, please try not to be disruptive to others. One rule that is important to me, however, is that there are to be **no electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, tablets, laptops) are used in the classroom, unless I give explicit permission.** Just because one student receives permission does not mean all students will receive permission.

**Grading Information:** Final grades in this course will follow a percentage-based system (**total points are irrelevant**), and there will **not** be a “curve” used to determine grades.

**Grade Components:** Quizzes (15%—27 total, highest 24 count), Midterm Exams (60%—4 total, highest 3 count), Final Exam (25%—only one, and it counts).

Grading Scale	
Grade	Range
A	>=92%
A-	89-91%
B+	86-88%
B	82-85%
B-	79-81%
C+	76-78%
C	72-75%
C-	69-71%
D+	66-68%
D	62-65%
D-	59-61%
F	<59%

**Quizzes and midterm exams will only be administered through Canvas. Midterm exams must be taken in the Testing Center (using their computers), but quizzes may be taken anywhere it is convenient for the student.** All quizzes, exams and the final exam must be taken without the help of others. Questions on all quizzes, midterm exams and the final exam will be either True/False or Multiple Choice. Quizzes and midterm exams taken after the assigned quiz or exam period (if Canvas were to allow this) will be graded as a 0; also, quizzes or midterm exams that exceed the time limit will be graded as a 0.

**Quizzes.** Quizzes must be completed by at least a half-hour **before** every class period (except the first day of class). The content covered for each quiz will be based on the reading assignment for the **next** class period (e.g., Quiz 1 must be completed by 10:00 a.m. on

Thursday, January 15. Each quiz will be a short test of true-false and multiple choice questions (typically 5 total) of your knowledge of the coming class's reading assignment (usually part of a chapter). The quiz will be available at 11:45 a.m. on the day of the previous class period (i.e., after class) and must be completed before 10:00 a.m. on the day of the next class period. Your lowest three quizzes will not be used to calculate your quiz average (i.e., they will be "thrown out"). If you take longer than 5 minutes to complete a quiz, that quiz will receive a grade of 0 (Canvas will not inform me which answers were submitted before the time expired, so they are either all late or all on time). **Make sure you submit your answers before the time limit has expired.** After finishing the quiz, I recommend checking the gradebook to make sure the quiz score was recorded. If there was an error, contact me as soon as possible; I may be able to correct the error if there is time before the quiz period ends.

*Midterms.* Midterm exams will test your knowledge of an entire section of the course, comprising multiple chapters. Midterm test questions are often more difficult than quiz questions, and there is significantly more information to study for a midterm exam than for a quiz, so last-minute "cramming" is a poor study strategy. **Midterm exams must be taken at the Testing Center, and it is your responsibility to verify when the Testing Center is open (and you should remember that the Testing Center closes one hour before closing time). Not being able to begin a test because the Testing Center was full is not a valid excuse for being allowed to take a make-up exam.** The lowest of the four midterms will not be used to calculate your midterm average (i.e., it will be "thrown out"). This means that each of your three highest midterm exam scores (based on their percentage, not total points) will contribute 20% toward your final course grade. You will be allotted sufficient time to complete each midterm exam, so time pressures will not be a factor; however, if the exam is not submitted to Canvas before leaving the Testing Center, you will receive a grade of 0 for that exam. **Make sure you submit your questions before leaving the Testing Center.**

*Final Exam.* The final exam will be administered **in class** at the end of the semester and will cover material from the entire course. It is your responsibility to verify the time and day this class's final exam will be held (you can find the Final Exam Schedule at <http://dixie.edu/reg/?page=spring2015>, if you scroll down toward the bottom of the page). You will need to bring an answer sheet (e.g., a Scantron™ form) to the final exam. It is impossible to effectively cram all the material covered in this course at the end of the semester; however, if you have been diligently studying throughout the semester and performing well on quizzes and midterms, you will probably find that the final exam is not overly difficult. I recommend that students focus their studying for the final exam on the most basic parts of each reading assignment, focusing on those parts that they have the most trouble remembering and understanding.

*Extra Credit.* A minimal amount of extra credit is available. See the handout available on Canvas for more details. No other extra credit assignments, other than those explicitly specified in the handout, will be offered to students.

**Exam Schedule:** You must take each midterm exam during the exam period specified in the table to the right. For example, you cannot attempt to take Exam 1 until 11:45 a.m. on February 5, and you must complete Exam 1 before 10:00 p.m. on February 9 (but you must start the exam before 9:00 p.m. on February 9 since the Testing Center closes at that time). **It is your responsibility to verify when the Testing Center is open during each exam period.** The reading assignments for each midterm exam are specified on the Exam Schedule (see above) and the Course Reading Schedule.

<b>Exam</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Window</b>
Exam 1	1-171 (Ch. 1-4)	2/5/15 11:45 am – 2/9/15 10:00 pm
Exam 2	175-303 (Ch. 6-9)	3/5/15 11:45 am – 3/16/15 10:00 pm
Exam 3	307-492 (Ch. 10-12)	4/2/15 11:45 am – 4/6/15 10:00 pm
Exam 4	505-653 (Ch. 13-15)	4/23/14 11:45 am – 4/27/14 10:00 pm

**Grade Calculation:** Grades are calculated based on percentages, not total points. For example, if you score 4 out of 4 on one quiz, that counts as a grade of 100%; if you score 4 out of 5 on another quiz, that counts as a grade of 80%. Those two quizzes would lead to a Quiz Average of 90% (average of 80% and 100%), **not** 88.9% (8 out of 9 total points). The same principle applies to midterm exam grades. **The total number of points does not matter.** To calculate your grade for the class, first calculate your Quiz Average (QA) by averaging the **percentage scores** from each quiz, except for the three lowest quizzes which are not counted toward your grade. Next, calculate your Midterm Average (MA) by averaging the **percentage scores** from your three highest midterm exam scores (based on each midterm's percentage score, not the total points for each midterm exam). To calculate your overall grade, use the following formula:

$$(QA\% * .15) + (MA\% * .60) + (FE\% * .25)$$

This sum will be your total percentage grade in the course; use this figure to determine your letter grade in the course based on the Grading Scale listed above.

NOTE: The textbook we are using is new for this year. It has the same authors as the textbook used last year, but the content and pagination is a little different. Please make sure you have the correct textbook.

### Course Reading Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reading Description</u>	<u>Ch:Pages</u>	<u>Quiz</u>
Tue., Jan. 13	Welcome to the Course	---	None
Thu., Jan. 15	History of Psychology	1:1-27	1
Tue., Jan. 20	Introduction to the Scientific Method	2:31-42	2
Thu., Jan. 22	Experiments	2:42-53	3
Tue., Jan. 27	Neurons and the Nervous System	3:57-69	4
Thu., Jan. 29	The Brain	3:69-88	5
Tue., Feb. 3	Perception and Vision	4:91-114	6
Thu., Feb. 5	Non-visual Perception	4:115-127	7
<b>Exam 1 (Ch. 1-4) Must be completed between Feb. 5 and Feb. 9</b>			
Tue., Feb. 10	Encoding, Storage and Retrieval	6:165-179	8
Thu., Feb. 12	Types of Memory	6:180-195	9
Tue., Feb. 17	Classical and Operant Conditioning	7:199-217	10
Thu., Feb. 19	Beyond Conditioning	7:218-231	11
Tue., Feb. 24	Emotion	8:235-249	12
Thu., Feb. 26	Motivation	8:250-263	13
Tue., Mar. 3	Language and Thought	9:267-285	14
Thu., Mar. 5	Intelligence	9:286-303	15
Mar. 9-13	<b>Spring Break (no class)</b>	---	---
<b>Exam 2 (Ch. 6-9) Must be completed between Mar. 5 and Mar. 16</b>			
Tue., Mar. 17	Development through Childhood	10:307-323	16
Thu., Mar. 19	Adolescence and Beyond	10:324-341	17

Tue., Mar. 24	Personality: Traits and Freud	11:345-359	18
Thu., Mar. 26	Other Approaches to Personality	11:359-371	19
Tue., Mar. 31	Interacting with People	12:375-388	20
Thu., Apr. 2	Manipulating and Understanding People	12:388-401	21
<b>Exam 3 (Ch. 10-12) Must be completed between Apr. 2 and Apr. 6</b>			
Tue., Apr. 7	Psychological Disorders: Mood Disorders	13:405-419	22
Thu., Apr. 9	Other Psychological Disorders	13:420-431	23
Tue., Apr. 14	Psychological Treatment	14:435-447	24
Thu., Apr. 16	Other Treatment Options	14:448-461	25
Tue., Apr. 21	Experiencing Stress	15:465-475	26
Thu., Apr. 23	Dealing with Stress	15:475-487	27
<b>Exam 4 (Ch. 13-15) Must be Completed Between Apr. 23 and Apr. 27</b>			
Tue., Apr. 28	Review for Final Exam	All of it	---
Thu., May 7	<b>9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Final Exam in Class (McD 106)</b>	All of it	---