

General Psychology (PSY 1010 Section 7, CRNs 40236)
Fall 2013, Aug. 19 – Dec. 13
Prof. Robert Carlson

Class Information

Class Days: Mon., Wed., & Fri.
Class Time: 11:00 – 11:50
Class Location: McDonald 104

Contact Information

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Disclaimer: Details of this syllabus are subject to change (I hope not, but you never know).

Contacting Prof. Carlson: The most effective way to contact me is by e-mail (contacting me through Canvas will generally be ineffective, however). I check my e-mail regularly, and I am much more likely to remember to respond to an e-mail than to a comment made to me before or after class (I tend to forget those comments, unfortunately). 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 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: *Psychology*, 2nd Edition, by Schachter, Gilbert and Wegner. (Required)

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

Office Hours: Tue., 10:20-11:10, 1:00-1:50; Wed., 10:00-10:50, Thu., 2:00-2:50

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>). In this class, the most obvious way to cheat is to share questions and/or answers from quizzes or exams with other students. **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.

Attendance Policy: I expect you to attend class regularly. There is a strong correlation between **class participation** and grades in my course, and it is impossible to participate in class when you are not there. 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 missed work or announcements made in class. 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 (**make-up quizzes are never allowed**).

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 are used in the classroom, unless I give explicit permission**.

Grading Information: Final grades in this course will follow a percentage-based system, and there will **not** be a "curve" used to determine grades.

Grade Components: Quizzes (15%), Midterm Exams (60%), Final Exam (25%).

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, but students must take the quizzes without the help of others. Questions on quizzes and midterm exams 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 at least a half-hour **before** every class period (except the first day of class), based on the reading assignment for the coming class period. Each quiz will be a short test (typically 5 questions) of your knowledge of the coming class's reading assignment (usually part of a chapter). You will always be allowed at least 24 hours during which to complete a quiz (ideally, the quiz will be available at 12:00 noon on the day of the previous class period, but this may not always be the case). Your lowest three quizzes will not be used to calculate your quiz average (i.e., they will be "thrown out"). You will be allotted 5 minutes to complete each quiz; quizzes that are not submitted within the allotted time will receive a grade of 0 (Canvas will not inform me which answers were submitted before the time expired). **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

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%

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. 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 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 12:00 p.m. (noon) on September 13, and you must complete (not just start) Exam 1 before 10:30 a.m. on September 16. **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.

<u>Exam</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Window</u>
Exam 1	1-171 (Ch. 1-4)	9/13/13 12:00 pm – 9/16/13 10:30 am
Exam 2	175-303 (Ch. 5-7)	10/2/13 12:00 pm – 10/4/13 10:30 am
Exam 3	245-418 (Ch. 7-10)	11/4/13 12:00 pm – 11/6/13 10:30 am
Exam 4	427-569 (Ch. 11-14)	12/4/13 12:00 pm – 12/6/13 10:30 am

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). 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.

Course Reading Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Reading Description</i>	<i>Ch:Pages</i>	<i>Quiz</i>
Mon., Aug. 19	Welcome to the Course	---	None
Wed., Aug. 21	Psychology's Less-Scientific Roots	1:1-15	1
Fri., Aug. 23	Behaviorism and Modern Psychology	1:16-35	2
Mon., Aug. 26	Introduction to the Scientific Method	2:39-51	3
Wed., Aug. 28	Correlations and Experiments	2:52-73	4
Fri., Aug. 30	How Neurons Work	3:77-91	5
Mon., Sep. 2	Labor Day (no class)	---	--
Wed., Sep. 4	Nervous System Anatomy	3:91-104	6
Fri., Sep. 6	Nervous System Functioning	3:105-120	7
Mon., Sep. 9	Introduction to Perception	4:125-144	8
Wed., Sep. 11	Visual Recognition	4:144-156	9
Fri., Sep. 13	Non-vision Senses	4:157-171	10
Exam 1 Must be Completed Between Sep 13 and Sep 16			
Mon., Sep. 16	What is Consciousness?	5:175-196	11
Wed., Sep. 18	Dreams, Sleep and Drugs	5:196-214	12
Fri., Sep. 20	Memory Encoding and Storage	6:219-232	13
Mon., Sep. 23	Memory Retrieval and Different Types	6:232-242	14
Wed., Sep. 25	Memory Errors	6:243-258	15
Fri., Sep. 27	Classical Conditioning	7:263-276	16
Mon. Sep. 30	Operant Conditioning	7:277-293	17
Wed., Oct. 2	Observational Learning and Cognition	7:293-303	18
Exam 2 Must be Completed Between Oct 2 and Oct 4			
Fri., Oct. 4	Emotion and Expression	8:307-321	19
Mon., Oct. 7	Lying and Basic Motivations	8:321-333	20
Wed., Oct. 9	Sex and Other Kinds of Motivation	8:334-343	21
Fri., Oct. 11	Semester Break (no class)	---	
Mon., Oct. 14	Language	9:347-360	22
Wed., Oct. 16	Mental Concepts and Basic Decision	9:360-372	23
Fri., Oct. 18	Decision Making	9:372-384	24
Mon., Oct. 21	What is Intelligence?	10:389-404	25
Wed., Oct. 23	What Affects Intelligence?	10:404-419	26
Fri., Oct. 25	Physical and Cognitive Development	11:423-437	27
Mon., Oct. 28	Social Development	11:438-456	28
Wed., Oct. 30	Adulthood	11:456-463	29
Fri., Nov. 1	Personality Traits	12:467-480	30

Mon., Nov. 4	Other Personality Theories	12:480-492	31
Exam 3 Must be Completed Between Nov 4 and Nov 6			
Wed., Nov. 6	Interacting with Others	13:505-514	32
Fri., Nov. 8	Love and Approval	13:515-531	33
Mon., Nov. 11	Viewing Others	13:531-544	34
Wed., Nov. 13	Introduction and Anxiety Disorders	14:549-564	35
Fri., Nov. 15	Mood and Dissociative Disorders	14:564-573	36
Mon., Nov. 18	Schizophrenia and Personality Disorders	14:573-585	37
Wed., Nov. 20	Psychological Treatments	15:589-605	38
Fri., Nov. 22	Biological Treatments	15:606-621	39
Mon., Nov. 25	Stress	16:627-637	40
Nov. 27-29	Thanksgiving Break (no class)	---	--
Mon., Dec. 2	Stress Management	16:637-645	41
Wed., Dec. 4	Treating Illness	16:646-653	42
Exam 4 Must be Completed Between Dec 4 and Dec 6			
Fri., Dec. 6	Review for Final Exam		---
Fri., Dec. 13	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Final Exam in Class (McD 104)	All of it	---