

General Psychology (PSY 1010 Section 1, CRN 31080)
Summer 2010, May 31 – July 22
Prof. Robert Carlson

Class Information

Class Days: Tue., Wed., & Thu.
Class Time: 1:00 – 2:50
Class Location: McDonald 103

Contact Information

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Contacting Prof. Carlson: The most effective way to contact me is by e-mail. I check my e-mail regularly, and I am much more likely to remember to respond to an e-mail than to a phone message or a verbal conversation. If you speak to me in person, **make sure to follow up any conversations with an e-mail** to remind me to promptly address the matter.

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 for students to be able to demonstrate an understanding of 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: From Science to Practice*, 2nd Edition, by Baron and Kalsher.
(Required)

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

Office Hours: Tue., Wed., Thu., 12:00-12:50

Prerequisites: None

Course Fees: None

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

Academic Integrity: Cheating of any kind is not tolerated. Students must take all quizzes and exams independently (without the help of others, except for appropriate disability services), and students are not allowed to share information (questions, answers, etc.) from quizzes and exams with anybody else until after the quiz or exam period has expired. Once everyone has taken an exam or quiz, you are encouraged to use quizzes and exams to study with other students. No notes or books are to be used when taking exams. For further information regarding student responsibilities related to academic integrity, please refer to Section 5.33.5 of the DSC policy, which can be viewed at <http://www.dixie.edu/humanres/policy/sec5/533.html>.

Attendance Policy: There is a strong correlation between class attendance and grades in my course. There is also a strong correlation between class participation and grades in my course. I

strongly recommend that you attend class regularly and participate in class discussions, but it is your decision whether you will follow this advice. Regardless of the reason for the absence, the student is responsible to find out about, and make up, missed work. Arrangements to take quizzes or exams ahead of time **must be made and approved prior to the absence**. Given that there is a range of time during which students may take quizzes and exams, it is rare for an unexpected absence to consume an entire exam or quiz 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. **No electronically media (phones, laptops, netbooks, etc.) are to be used by students during class time.**

Grading Information: Final grades in this course will be based on 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 Blackboard Vista. Midterm exams must be taken in the Testing Center, but quizzes may be taken anywhere it is convenient for the student. 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 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 12:30 p.m. on the day we will discuss that quiz’s reading assignment (except the first day of class). Each quiz will be a short test (typically 5 questions) of your knowledge of the coming class’s reading assignment. You will always be allowed at least 24 hours during which to complete a quiz (ideally, the quiz will be available at 5:00 p.m. 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 5 minutes allotted will receive a grade of 0. Make sure you **save and submit** your answers **before** the time limit has expired. **It is best to save each answer individually.**

Midterms. Midterm exams will test your knowledge of an entire section of the course. 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 (except for Midterm 4), and it is your responsibility to verify when the Testing Center is open and to make sure the Testing Center is not too busy.** The lowest of the four midterms will not be used to calculate your midterm average (i.e., it will be “thrown out”)—this only applies to midterm exams; **you must take the Final Exam (it will not be dropped)**. This means that each midterm exam contributes 20% toward your final course grade. You will be allotted 75 minutes to complete each midterm exam; if the exam is not submitted to Blackboard within that time, you will receive a grade of 0 for that exam. **Make sure you save and submit each question before the time limit has expired.** As with the quizzes, it is best to save each answer individually to ensure that Blackboard records all your answers.

Final Exam. The final exam will be administered **in class** at the end of the semester and will cover material from the entire course. **The final exam is mandatory**, and it is very unlikely that taking the final exam early will be approved (this must be approved by the

Grading Scale	
Grade	Range
A	>=91%
A-	88-90%
B+	85-87%
B	81-84%
B-	78-80%
C+	75-77%
C	71-74%
C-	68-70%
D+	65-67%
D	61-64%
D-	58-60%
F	<58%

department chair). 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 basic concepts from each class discussion that they have the most trouble remembering and understanding.

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 5:00 p.m. on June 9, and you must complete Exam 1 before 12:30 p.m. on June 14. **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. **Exam 4 must be taken in class at the time specified.**

<u>Exam</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Window</u>
Exam 1	3-150 (Ch. 1-4)	6/9/11 5:00 pm – 6/14/11 12:30 pm
Exam 2	121-236 (Ch. 5-7)	6/23/11 5:00 pm – 6/28/11 12:30 pm
Exam 3	297-418, 503-533 (Ch. 8-10, 13)	7/7/11 5:00 pm – 7/12/11 12:30 pm
Exam 4	427-569 (Ch. 11-12)	7/20/11 1:00 pm (in class)

Grade Calculation: The total number of points does not matter. Instead, grades in this class are calculated based on **percentages**. For example, if you score 45 out of 50 on one midterm exam, that counts as a grade of 90%; if you score 30 out of 40 on another midterm, that counts as a grade of 75%. Your Exam Average **would not** be 75 out of 90 (83.3%); instead, **it would be 82.5%** (average of 90% and 75%). The same principle applies to quiz grades, although most likely all quizzes will be worth the same number of points. To calculate your overall grade for the class, you also do not add up total points. Here is what you do: 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 Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reading Description</u>	<u>Ch:Pages</u>	<u>Quiz</u>
Tue., May 31	Welcome to the Course / A Brief History of Psychology	1:3-10	None
Wed., June 1	Scientific Method / How Neurons Work	1:16-28 / 2:39-47	1
Thu., June 2	The Brain / Nature and Nurture	2:47-65	2
Tue., June 7	Introduction to Perception and Vision	3:73-87	3
Wed., June 8	Non-vision Senses / Higher Perception	3:87-111	4
Thu., June 9	Consciousness	4:121-150	5
Exam 1 Must be Completed Before 12:30 p.m. on June 14			
Tue., June 14	Classical Conditioning	5:159-170	6
Wed., June 15	Operant Conditioning and Cognitive Learning	5:171-190	7
Thu., June 16	Memory Basics	6:199-217	8
Tue., June 21	Memory and Cognition	6:217-236	9

Wed., June 22	Developmental Stages	7:245-271	10
Thu., June 23	Development into Adulthood	7:271-288	12
Exam 2 Must be Completed Before 12:30 p.m. on June 28			
Tue., June 28	Motivation	8:297-328	13
Wed., June 29	Personality and Intelligence Theories	9:337-373	14
Thu., June 30	Stress and Health	10:385-402	15
Tue., July 5	Health and Behavioral Lifestyle	10:402-418	16
Wed., July 6	Social Psychology, Part I	13:503-517	17
Thu., July 7	Social Psychology, Part II	13:517-533	18
Exam 3 Must be Completed Before 12:30 p.m. on July 12			
Tue., July 12	Childhood Disorders and Mood Disorders	11:427-443	19
Wed., July 13	Anxiety and Other Psychological Disorders	11:443-460	20
Thu., July 14	Therapies	12:469-495	21
Tue., July 19	Industrial/Organizational Psychology	14:541-569	22
Wed., July 20	Exam 4 in class	Ch. 11-12, 14	---
Thu., July 21	Review for Final Exam	---	---
Fri., July 22	Final Exam in class	All of it	---