

General Psychology (PSY 1010 Section 8, CRNs 40236/44726)
Fall 2011, Aug. 22 – Dec. 16
Prof. Robert Carlson

Class Information

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

Contact Information

Office: McDonald 201
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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. 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.

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)

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

Office Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri., 10:00-10:50; Tue., 10:20-11:50

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. 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 participation** and grades in my course, and it is very difficult to participate in the class when a student is not present. I strongly recommend that you attend class regularly and participate in class discussions, but it is your decision whether you will follow this recommendation. Regardless of the reason for the absence,

the student is responsible to find out about, and make up, missed work or announcements made in class. 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, as long as the joking is not offensive to others (including the instructor). **No electronic devices are to be used in the classroom, unless I give explicit permission.**

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.

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%

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 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. You will always be allowed at least 24 hours during which to complete a quiz (ideally, the quiz will be available at 3:00 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 allotted time will receive a grade of 0 (Blackboard will not inform me which answers were submitted before the time expired). **Make sure you save and submit your questions before the time limit has expired.**

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, 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 receiving 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 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 your questions before the time limit has expired.**

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.

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 16, and you must complete Exam 1 before 10:30 a.m. on September 19. **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	Reading	Window
Exam 1	1-171 (Ch. 1-4)	9/16/11 12:00 pm – 9/19/11 10:30 am
Exam 2	175-303 (Ch. 5-7)	10/5/11 12:00 pm – 10/7/11 10:30 am
Exam 3	245-418 (Ch. 7-10)	11/7/11 12:00 pm – 11/9/11 10:30 am
Exam 4	427-569 (Ch. 11-14)	12/8/11 12:00 pm – 12/10/11 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. 22	Welcome to the Course	---	None
Wed., Aug. 24	Psychology's Less-Scientific Roots	1:1-15	1
Fri., Aug. 26	Behaviorism and Modern Psychology	1:16-35	2
Mon., Aug. 29	Introduction to the Scientific Method	2:39-51	3
Wed., Aug. 31	Correlations and Experiments	2:52-73	4
Fri., Sep. 2	How Neurons Work	3:77-91	5
Mon., Sep. 5	Labor Day (no class)	---	--
Wed., Sep. 7	Nervous System Anatomy	3:91-104	6
Fri., Sep. 9	Nervous System Functioning	3:105-120	7
Mon., Sep. 12	Introduction to Perception	4:125-144	8
Wed., Sep. 14	Visual Recognition	4:144-156	9
Fri., Sep. 16	Non-vision Senses	4:157-171	10
Exam 1 Must be Completed Between Sep 16 and Sep 19			
Mon., Sep. 19	What is Consciousness?	5:175-196	11
Wed., Sep. 21	Dreams, Sleep and Drugs	5:196-214	12
Fri., Sep. 23	Memory Encoding and Storage	6:219-232	13

Mon., Sep. 26	Memory Retrieval and Different Types	6:232-242	14
Wed., Sep. 28	Memory Errors	6:243-258	15
Fri., Sep. 30	Classical Conditioning	7:263-276	16
Mon. Oct. 3	Operant Conditioning	7:277-293	17
Wed., Oct. 5	Observational Learning and Cognition	7:293-303	18
Exam 2 Must be Completed Between Oct 5 and Oct 7			
Fri., Oct. 7	Emotion and Expression	8:307-321	19
Mon., Oct. 10	Lying and Basic Motivations	8:321-333	20
Wed., Oct. 12	Sex and Other Kinds of Motivation	8:334-343	21
Fri., Oct. 14	Semester Break (no class)	---	
Mon., Oct. 17	Language	9:347-360	22
Wed., Oct. 19	Mental Concepts and Basic Decision	9:360-372	23
Fri., Oct. 21	Decision Making	9:372-384	24
Mon., Oct. 24	What is Intelligence?	10:389-404	25
Wed., Oct. 26	What Affects Intelligence?	10:404-419	26
Fri., Oct. 28	Physical and Cognitive Development	11:423-437	27
Mon., Oct. 31	Social Development	11:438-456	28
Wed., Nov. 2	Adulthood	11:456-463	29
Fri., Nov. 4	Personality Traits	12:467-480	30
Mon., Nov. 7	Other Personality Theories	12:480-492	31
Exam 3 Must be Completed Between Nov 7 and Nov 9			
Wed., Nov. 9	Psychological Disorders in Childhood	11:427-438	32
Fri., Nov. 11	Mood and Anxiety Disorders	11:438-448	33
Mon., Nov. 14	Other Psychological Disorders	11:448-460	34
Wed., Nov. 16	Individual Psychological Therapies	12:469-480	35
Fri., Nov. 18	Other Therapies	12:480-495	36
Mon., Nov. 21	Social Cognition	13:503-514	37
Nov. 23-25	Thanksgiving Break (no class)	---	
Mon., Nov. 28	Attitudes and Behaviors	13:514-524	38
Wed., Nov. 30	Influencing Others	13:525-533	39
Fri., Dec. 2	Hiring and Training	14:541-553	40
Mon., Dec. 5	Employee Assessment and Motivation	14:553-561	41
Wed., Dec. 7	Leadership	14:561-569	42
Exam 4 Must be Completed Between Dec 8 and Dec 10			
Fri., Dec. 10	Review for Final Exam		---
Fri., Dec. 17	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Final Exam in Class (McD 104)	All of it	---