



Peru State College
PSYC 121-49X: INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY
Syllabus – Summer – 2011

Professor: James R. Nevitt, Ph.D.

Office: My office is located in T.J. Majors (Room 243), however I am not regularly on campus during the summer. I am readily accessible by email, which I check daily. I will attempt to answer all emails within 24hrs.

Office Hours: See above.

Email Address: jnevitt@peru.edu

Required Textbook: *Psychology: An Introduction* (10th Edition) by Benjamin B. Lahey

Course Meets: Online from June 6 to July 29, 2011.

Required Textbook: *Psychology: An Introduction* (10th Edition) by Benjamin B.

Required Software: Microsoft Word.

Course Description & Objectives:

This course is an introduction to contemporary psychology focusing on basic concepts, principles, terminology, trends in psychological research, and the application of this knowledge. Psychology 121 is a survey course, which means you will receive an overview of many of the courses offered in the psychology major...in other words, a little bit about a lot of topics. These topics will include the brain, psychological problems and their treatment, memory, intelligence, personality, stress management, and development. An emphasis will be placed on research methods, critical thinking, and application of psychological principles to real-life situations.

This course is a general introduction to contemporary psychology, focusing on basic concepts, principles, terminology, trends in psychological research, and the application of this knowledge.

Objectives include:

- A. Teach basic psychology terminology.
- B. Discuss the topic of science as common to all disciplines, including psychology.
- C. Teach an understanding of important psychology concepts.

- D. Expose students to traditional areas of study within psychology.
- E. Empower the student to explore/utilize electronic library resources to research areas of interest in the field of psychology.

Prerequisites: None.

After completing Psychology 121, you will have explored:

- A. famous psychologists and experiments in psychology's history
- B. the diversity of fields of study within psychology
- C. how psychologists construct knowledge using research
- D. how to think critically about psychological research presented in the mass media

The instructor reserves the right to modify any aspect of the course syllabus or content. Any modifications will be communicated to students in advance.

Expectations & Instructional Approach

Introductory psychology is a class that is often taught in 16-week semesters. Because our term is 8 weeks long, you will need to be self-motivated and spend a considerable amount of time working on this class each week in order to complete it successfully. Please allow yourself enough time to do your best work, and please contact me if you are having trouble meeting the course requirements.

Attendance and participation are vital to the learning experience, even online.

Consequently, I expect you read the material, turn in all assignments, and participate fully in the weekly discussion board. In order to foster a climate conducive to learning, please join me in treating your classmates with respect. Here are some tips for success:

1. **Carefully attend to the assignment and course documents sections.** I will post instructions for course related activities in the assignment section. I will place additional reading materials, PowerPoint presentations, podcasts and exams in the course document section.
2. **Be proactive learners.** Read the assigned materials several times. Work with the student study aids in the course document section. Most students cannot absorb the large amount of text materials covered this summer with only one reading. I suggest that you read all materials at least twice. Be involved in discussion board activities. You will be evaluated on the quality of your participation. Your quizzes are demanding for students at the freshman level. Students that adopt a "passive" or "wait-and-see" approach to this course the first two weeks usually do not do well by week eight.
3. **Take exams when they are offered.** They will be available, one at a time, on a weekly basis. Each exam may be taken only once. There is no provision for making up a missed exam. **There is no provision for extra credit in this class this summer.** If you experience difficulties understanding assignments, do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail.

4. Students will be expected to use their Peru State College e-mail accounts (no exceptions). Do not try to correspond without using your assigned e-mail account. All term papers are to be done on Microsoft Word. If you do not have this software, acquire it.

Assessment and Grading

Course Overview and Grading: The major requirements of this course will include weekly written discussion board assignments, weekly chapter quizzes (the last of which is a cumulative final), a research paper..

The total point distribution is as follows:

8 Discussion Board Writing Assignments @ 20 points each.....	160 points
8 Weekly Quizzes @ 50 points each.....	400 points
1 Research Paper @ 50 points.....	50 points

Total610 points

Weekly discussion board posts: Classes that meet in person often spend significant time discussing course content. You are expected to participate on the discussion board each week. Questions that are related to the required readings will be posted weekly. A Discussion Board question will be posted early in the week (generally on Monday morning) and will be available the rest of the week and then removed the following Monday morning and scored the next day (generally on Tuesday afternoon)

The instructor expects students to demonstrate that they are knowledgeable about the selected subjects and demonstrate this knowledge by contributing at least 300-400 words of discussion each week. Discussion board responses will be evaluated with consideration as to how well-informed and thoughtful the content is. Some consideration will also be given to creativity of responses. Student will be evaluated on spelling and grammar as well. Consider the discussion board items exercises in writing as well as a forum of opinion. Improper spelling, profanity, incomplete sentences, etc. will result in a lower weekly score. NOTHING WILL LOWER YOUR SCORE QUITE AS MUCH AS FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIRED LENGTH OF THE WRITING ASSIGNMENT.

Consistency is the key here. A student will earn points weekly, they will be evaluated weekly. Neglecting to respond to a question one week will result in zero points for this part of the course. These points cannot be made up.

Student's will be expected to have opinions relating to their subjects and readings. Student opinion doesn't have to agree with the opinion of the instructor or other students. This will not be a point of evaluation. I will expect students, should

they assert opinions to be able to back the opinions up with reading and/or researched materials. Documentation of opinion is an important part of these assignments. Neglect of documentation or failure to report resources associated with reported information will result in a lower weekly score.

Chapter quizzes: There will be eight quizzes during the summer semester. Each will cover two chapters in your textbook. The quizzes are fifty questions multiple-choice items each, drawn from the readings in your textbook. Each quiz will be worth 50 points. The last quiz, on week eight, WILL BE COMPREHENSIVE and will cover all previous chapters in the text as well as the last chapters studied. The last quiz is worth 50 points, the same point value as all of the previous ones. Each week a quiz will be made available to the student on Monday. Students will have an entire week to prepare for and take each quiz. It will be removed on Sunday at 11:30 pm and replaced with a new one for the next chapters to be studied the next day (on Monday morning). The old quiz will not be placed back online once it is removed! Students may take a quiz at any time period during the week it is available. Weekly quizzes may not be taken ahead of their scheduled time. Weekly quizzes may not be taken twice. Students need to make certain they have read the textbook materials repeatedly and are prepared at the time they commit themselves to take the weekly quizzes. These are demanding quizzes. Student should make certain that they are completely prepared to take the quiz before each experience. Each quiz will be timed. Students will have one hour to complete the entire quiz. Once the time period elapses, the quiz can be scored automatically for the student. After the quiz is scored and feedback is provided to the student, the quiz will be unavailable to the student for a second attempt.

Term Paper: A five page research paper utilizing electronic and conventional library resources will be required as a portion of the evaluation process. The paper must be written in APA style. There are many other styles of writing reports and term papers. However, APA style is the most frequently used writing style in the fields of psychology, counseling, criminal justice, sociology, social work, and many other areas in social sciences and business. I will not read a paper that is submitted in a style other than APA writing style. A useful overview for those that need assistance writing a paper for this course can be found in the document "How to Write A Term Paper" which is in the document section. A model for writing the term paper is found in the OWL Purdue writing lab link in the documents section as well.

The instructor does not simply regard the paper as an exercise in writing. It is a chance to learn about APA style (for those that don't yet know it) and an opportunity to research a special area of interest. I'm assuming that those students attempting this project this summer will choose to use electronic references, but students may use other traditional references (e.g. a book such as the course text) as well, provided that the citations and reference page of the paper is consistent with APA style. The term paper must be done in Microsoft Word. If you do not have this software available to you, please acquire it! I will not accept papers in any other form.

You can use EBSCOHost associated with the PSC online library to find a scholarly article on a psychological topic of interest to you. An outline for the term paper is due at the end of week 3. The term paper is worth 50 points and is due at the end of week six.

Late Assignment Policy: It is very important that students turn in their work in a timely fashion. *Assignments that are submitted after the deadline will not be scored unless there is a valid reason and a student has made prior arrangements with me.* Please make it a priority to submit your work in on time.

Grading Scale

Final course grades will be assigned as follows:

Course grade	Percentage of points earned	Number of points earned
A	100-90%	610-549
B+	89-86%	548-525
B	85-80%	524-488
C+	79-76%	487-464
C	75-70%	463-427
D+	69-66%	426-403
D	65-60%	402-366
F	Below 60%	365 or fewer

College's Incomplete Coursework Policy

To designate a student's work in a course as incomplete at the end of a term, the instructor records the incomplete grade (I). Students may receive this grade only when serious illness, hardship, death in the immediate family, or military service during the semester in which they are registered prevents them from completing course requirements. In addition, to receive an incomplete, a student must have completed substantially all of the course's major requirements.

Unless extenuating circumstances dictate otherwise, students must initiate requests for an incomplete by filling out an Incomplete Grade Completion Contract, which requires the signature of the student, instructor, and Dean. The Incomplete Grade Completion contract cites the reason(s) for the incomplete and details the specific obligations the student must meet to change the incomplete to a letter grade. The date by which the student agrees to complete required work must appear in the contract. The Dean, the instructor, and the student receive signed copies of the Incomplete Grade Completion Contract.

Even if the student does not attend Peru State College, all incomplete course work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester. Unless the appropriate Dean approves an extension and if the student does not fulfill contract obligations in the allotted time, the incomplete grade automatically becomes an F.

College's Academic Integrity Policy

The College expects all students to conduct themselves in a manner that supports an honest assessment of student learning outcomes and the assignment of grades that appropriately reflect student performance. It is ultimately the student's responsibility to understand and comply with instructions regarding the completion of assignments, exams, and other academic activities. At a minimum, students should assume that at each assessment opportunity they are expected to do their own original academic work and/or clearly acknowledge in an appropriate fashion the intellectual work of others, when such contributions are allowed. Students helping others to circumvent honest assessments of learning outcomes, or who fail to report instances of academic dishonesty, are also subject to the sanctions defined in this policy.

Instances of academic dishonesty may be discovered in a variety of ways. Faculty members who assign written work ordinarily check citations for accuracy, run data base and online checks, and/or may simply recognize familiar passages that are not cited. They may observe students in the act of cheating or may become aware of instances of cheating from the statements of others. All persons who observe or otherwise know about instances of cheating are expected to report such instances to the proper instructor or Dean.

In order to promote academic integrity, the College subscribes to an electronic service to review papers for the appropriate citations and originality. Key elements of submitted papers are stored electronically in a limited access database and thus become a permanent part of the material to which future submissions are compared. Submission of an application and continued enrollment signifies your permission for this use of your written work.

Should an occurrence of academic misconduct occur, the faculty member may assign a failing grade for the assignment or a failing grade for the course. Each incident of academic misconduct should be reported to the Dean and the Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA). The VPAA may suspend for two semesters students found to be responsible for multiple instances of academic dishonesty. The reason for the suspension will be noted on the student's transcript.

A faculty member need present only basic evidence of academic dishonesty. There is no requirement for proof of intent. Students are responsible for understanding these tenets of academic honesty and integrity. Students may appeal penalties for academic dishonesty using the process established for grades appeals.

Title IX Compliance Notice

Peru State College is an equal opportunity institution. PSC does not discriminate against any student, employee or applicant on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or age in employment and education opportunities, including but not limited to admission decisions. The College has designated an individual to coordinate the College's nondiscrimination efforts to comply with regulations implementing Title VI, VII, IX, and Section 504. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies and practices may be directed to Eulanda Cade, Director of Human Resources, Title VI, VII, IX Compliance Coordinator, Peru State College, PO Box 10, Peru, NE 68421-0010, (402) 872-2230.

Students requesting reasonable accommodation and tutoring services should contact the Center for Achievement and Transition Services (CATS).

Tentative Course Schedule

The following course schedule includes topics, reading assignments, and the dates of exams. However, I do reserve the right to change this course calendar as needed. You will always be notified if our plan deviates from this schedule.

WEEK ONE (Monday, June 6 - Sunday, June 12, 2011)

Topics: Introduction to Psychology and Research Methods

Readings: Chapters 1 and 2

Read chapters one and two several times in text then review appropriate PowerPoint presentations in the course document section. Take exam 1 found in course document section. Answer discussion board 1 questions found in discussion board section.

Readings - Pay special attention to terms in bold and the chapter reviews on pp. 22-23 and pp. 47-48

WEEK TWO (Monday, June 13 - Sunday June 19, 2011)

Topics: Biological Foundations of Behavior and Interplay of Nature and Nurture

Readings: Chapters 3 and 4

Read chapters three and four several times in text then review appropriate PowerPoint presentations in the course document section. Take exam 2 found in course document section. Answer discussion board 2 questions found in discussion board section.

Readings - Pay special attention to terms in bold and the chapter reviews on pp. 120-122 and pp. 233-234

WEEK THREE (Monday, June 20 - Sunday, June 26, 2011)

Topics: Sensation and Perception; States of Consciousness

Readings: Chapters 5 and 6

Read chapters five and six several times in text then review appropriate PowerPoint presentations in the course document section. Take exam 3 found in course document

section. Answer discussion board 3 questions found in discussion board section. Select a research paper topic and turn in a one page outline.
Readings - Pay special attention to terms in bold and the chapter review on p. 88

WEEK FOUR (Monday, June 27 - Sunday, July 3, 2011)

Topics: Principles of Learning and Memory

Readings: Chapters 7 and 8

Read chapters seven and eight several times in text then review appropriate PowerPoint presentations in the course document section. Answer Discussion Board 4 questions. Take exam 4 found in course document section.

Readings - Pay special attention to terms in bold and the chapter reviews on p. 164 and p. 198

WEEK FIVE (Monday, July 4 - Sunday, July 10 2011)

Topics: Cognition, Language, and Intelligence; Developmental Psychology

Readings: Chapters 9 and 10

Read chapters nine and ten several times in text then review appropriate PowerPoint presentations in the course document section. Take exam 5 found in course document section. Answer discussion board 5 questions found in discussion board section.

Readings - Pay special attention to terms in bold and the chapter reviews on pp. 268-269 and pp. 309-310

WEEK SIX (Monday, July 11 - Sunday July 17, 2011)

Topic: Motivation and Emotion; Personality

Readings: Chapters 11 and 12

Read chapters eleven and twelve several times in text then review appropriate PowerPoint presentations in the course document section. Take exam 6 found in course document section. Answer discussion board 6 questions found in discussion board section. The term paper is due on or before the end of week six

Readings - Pay special attention to terms in bold and the chapter review on pp. 508-509 and p. 538

WEEK SEVEN (Monday, July 18 - Sunday July 24, 2011)

Topics: Stress and Health; Abnormal Behavior

Readings: Chapters 13 and 14

Read chapters 13 and 14 several times in text then review appropriate PowerPoint presentations in the course document section. Take exam 7 found in course document section. Answer discussion board 7 questions found in discussion board section.

Readings - Pay special attention to terms in bold and the chapter review on p. 434 and 469

WEEK EIGHT (Sunday July 25 - Friday, July 29, 2011)

Topics: Therapies and Social Psychology

Readings: Chapter 15 and 16

Review entire text book as well as read chapters 15 and 16 several times in text then review appropriate PowerPoint presentations in the course document section. Take exam 8 found in course document section. Remember the last exam is comprehensive and will cover previous readings as well as the last two chapters assigned. Answer discussion board 8 questions found in discussion board section.
Readings - Pay special attention to terms in bold and the chapter review on pp. 401-402

*Note: week 8 is a shortened week. All coursework must be completed by **Friday, July 29th at 10 PM**. Please plan accordingly.