

Peru State College
PSYC 121- 49X INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY
Syllabus Summer 2010

Instructor: James R. Nevitt, Ph.D.,

Office Hours: My office is Rm 237 T.J. Majors Building. I will be in my office a very limited number of hours this summer. Please leave a message on my answering machine or with a secretary and I can usually respond back within 24 hours. Response time is much faster via e-mail.

Office Telephone: (402) 872-2293

Email Address: jnevitt@oakmail.peru.edu

Course Begins: Monday 06/07/10

Course Ends: Friday 07/30/10

Required Textbook: Psychology: An Introduction by Benjamin B. Lahey
10th Edition, McGraw-Hill Publishing, (2009).

Credit: Three (3) hours credit

Course Description and Objectives

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.

Prerequisite: None

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

- A. Demonstrate your mastery of basic psychology terminology.
- B. Express your knowledge, in writing, of the method of scientific inquiry as it applies to psychology.
- C. Express in writing your mastery of important psychology concepts and their applications.
- D. Utilize the electronic library/internet to find articles appropriate for your psychology interests and summarize these in a brief research paper.
- E. Demonstrate your knowledge of traditional areas of study within the field of psychology

Expectations

1. **Carefully attend to the assignment and course documents section).** 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. Most students cannot absorb the large amount of materials covered this summer with only one reading. Be involved in discussion board activities. You will be evaluated on the quality of your participation. Your exams 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.
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 e-mail the instructor.
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.

If you experience technical difficulties related to receiving materials or associated with the packaging of this course please contact Laura Roberts, Director of Online Services, or her staff.

Office - T.J. Majors 317, phone - (402) 872-2432

At Offutt - phone (402) 293-1764

At Annex - phone (888) 258-5558 and (402) 292-2018

e-mail at lroberts@oakmail.peru.edu.

Exams

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

Discussion Board

Topics related to readings or course content will be posted in the discussion board section. 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 boards will be evaluated with consideration as to how well informed and thoughtful the student 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.

Consistency is the key here. A student will earn points weekly, they will be evaluated weekly. Neglecting to respond one week will result in zero points for this part of the course. These points cannot be made up by responding twice as often the next week!

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.

Research 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 (conversional 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.

The topic selection will be decided by the student and submitted to instructor via e-mail prior to the third week of class. Students must indicate that they intend to write a research paper prior to the third week of class. The term paper is due at the end of week six. The paper must relate to the course topics in some logical and personally meaningful way.

Your Final Grade

The total number of points possible this semester can be seen below:

8 Exams @ 50 points each.....	400 points
8 Discussion board Evaluations @ 20 points each.....	160 points
1 Five-page term paper @ 40 points.....	40 points
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	Total 600 points

Your final grade will be based on a straight percentage of the points earned to the total possible. The scale used for grading is:

100-90%	A
89-88%	B+
87-80%	B
79-78%	C+
77-70%	C
69-68%	D+
67-60%	D
Below 60%	F

Late Assignment Policy:

Late coursework is generally unacceptable in this course. All work shall be submitted by the assigned times and dates.

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.

NSCS Board

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).

PSYC 121-49X-Schedule of Topics and Events this Summer

(Chapter Listings are referenced to the 10th edition of your textbook.
Please note that all quiz questions will be drawn from the 10th edition.)

Week One

Chapter 1 - Introduction to Psychology
Chapter 2 - Research Methods in Psychology
Quiz 1
Discussion Board 1

Week Two

Chapter 3 - Biological Foundations of Behavior
Chapter 4 - Interplay of Nature and Nurture
Quiz 2
Discussion Board 2

Week Three

Chapter 5 - Sensation and Perception
Chapter 6 - States of Consciousness
Quiz 3
Discussion Board 3

Term paper topics with an outline must be approved by Friday of week 3!
Papers submitted without prior approval will not be graded!

Week Four

Chapter 7 - Basic Principles of Learning
Chapter 8 - Memory
Quiz 4
Discussion Board 4

Week Five

Chapter 9 - Cognition, Language, and Intelligence
Chapter 10 - Developmental Psychology
Quiz 5
Discussion Board 5

Week Six

Chapter 11 - Motivation and Emotion
Chapter 12 - Personality
Quiz 6
Discussion Board 6

Students term papers are due by Friday of week 6!

Week Seven

Chapter 13 - Stress and Health
Chapter 14 - Abnormal Behavior
Quiz 7
Discussion Board 7

Week Eight

Chapter 15 - Therapies
Chapter 16 - Social Psychology
Quiz 8 - over Chapters 15 and 16 and previously studied chapters (comprehensive final exam)
Discussion Board 8

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