

PSYC 110: INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Spring Semester 2024

PROFESSOR INFORMATION

Name: Mark A. Ferguson, Ph.D.
Email: mark.ferguson@uwsp.edu
Office: SCI D331
Hours: MW 10-11:30am or
by appointment

COURSE INFORMATION

Section/Credits: 1/3
Meetings: MWF 9-9:50am
Location: SCI D102
Prerequisites: None
GEP AD/BS: HC/SS

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Schacter, D. L., Gilbert, D. T., & Nock, M. K. (2023). *Psychology* (6th ed.). Worth.

The first few chapters are posted on Canvas to give you time to obtain your hard copy from Text Rental. Also, please do not rely on previous editions of the textbook for this course. There are often important updates in newer editions that will typically be reflected in quizzes and exams. Psychology is a scientific discipline that grows and changes through ongoing research.

COURSE WEBSITE

In this course, Canvas will be used to distribute documents, administer quizzes, and post grades. To access Canvas, you will need an internet connection and a web browser (login at <https://www.uwsp.edu/canvas/Pages/default.aspx>) or you can download the Canvas Student mobile app for Android or iOS from your preferred app store. You will need your UWSP login and password to access the website and app. If you use the mobile app, **PLEASE IGNORE THE GRADE PERCENTAGE**. It is a **FAULTY AND MISLEADING INDICATOR** of your grade.

If you would like to learn more about how to use Canvas features (such as discussion boards or quizzes), please review the helpful resources posted at https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Canvas-Student/ct-p/canvas_student. If you need technical support, contact Canvas Support directly by clicking on the Help button in Canvas. They have a number of options available.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to some essential concepts and principles in *psychology*—the systematic study of thoughts, feelings, and behavior. The course begins with an overview of the science and profession of psychology. It then considers a range of key topics in psychology, such as neuroscience, memory, motivation, development, personality, and social behavior. The course concludes with a look at psychology as applied to health and wellness.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain or apply major concepts, theories, or methods used in psychological science to investigate, analyze, or predict human behavior.
2. Examine and explain how social, cultural, or political institutions influence individuals or groups.

COURSE CALENDAR

Module	Dates	Reading	Quiz Due
1: Evolution of Psych. Science	W 1/24, F 1/26, M 1/29	Chapter 1	M 1/29
2 : Methods in Psychology	W 1/31, F 2/2, M 2/5	Chapter 2	M 2/5
3 : Neuroscience and Behavior	W 2/7, F 2/9, M 2/12	Chapter 3	M 2/12
Exam 1, Modules 1-3, M 2/19			
4 : Memory	F 2/16, W 2/21, F 2/23	Chapter 6	None
5 : Learning	M 2/26, W 2/28, F 3/1	Chapter 7	M 2/26
6 : Emotion and Motivation	M 3/4, W 3/6, F 3/8	Chapter 8	M 3/4
Exam 2, Modules 4-6, M 3/11			
7 : Development	W 3/13, F 3/15, M 3/25	Chapter 11	M 3/25
8 : Personality	W 3/27, F 3/29, M 4/1	Chapter 12	M 4/1
9 : Social Psychology	W 4/3, F 4/5, M 4/8	Chapter 13	M 4/8
Exam 3, Modules 7-9, M 4/15			
10 : Stress and Health	F 4/12, W 4/17, F 4/19	Chapter 14	M 4/22
11 : Psychological Disorders	M 4/22, W 4/24, M 4/29	Chapter 15	M 4/29
12 : Treatment of Psych. Disorders	W 5/1, F 5/3, M 5/6	Chapter 16	M 5/6
Exam 4, Modules 10-12, W 5/15, 12:30-2:30pm			

This class will not be held on M 3/18, W 3/20, or F 3/22 due to Spring Break, nor on F 4/26 due to a professional conference. Four other days (W 2/14, W 4/10, W 5/8, and F 5/10) will be used in class for getting ahead, catching up, or other activities. This calendar is preliminary and subject to revision. All changes will be announced in class, via email, or on Canvas (including changes due to poor weather conditions). There is a 24-hour grace period AFTER quiz due dates, which means that late submissions within this window will be accepted WITHOUT penalty.

GRADED ASSIGNMENTS

Quizzes. You must complete eight-of-eleven available quizzes based entirely on the readings in your textbook (only your best eight will count toward your final grade). Each quiz will consist of 10 multiple-choice questions (10 questions x 1.25 points per question = 12.5 points) based on one chapter of material. The quizzes will be administered on Canvas and drawn randomly from a pool of questions. You should complete the quiz after reading the chapter and studying the material. You will have 15 minutes to complete a quiz. You are allowed to take the quiz twice if you prefer (each attempt will contain different questions, even for the same student). This offers you an opportunity to earn a better grade on the second attempt (you will receive the highest of the two attempts) and another chance to complete the quiz if a technology failure occurs (such as dead computers and poor internet connections). Each quiz will be available on Canvas one week before its due date (Mondays at 9pm, except for exam weeks). Since you already have two chances to complete a quiz over a week's time, makeup requests are typically NOT granted unless they clearly fall under the course extensions policy. I strongly encourage you to complete ALL of the quizzes. Students who opt out of early quizzes are usually disappointed if they earn lackluster scores on later ones (and multiple quizzes will NOT be manually reopened for you at the end of the semester). Skipped quizzes are missed opportunities to learn the material and improve your grade! Please note that one other quiz (on Memory) is also posted for students who want the extra exam prep. This quiz is optional and ungraded (see details on Canvas).

The quizzes help you out in many ways: they encourage you to keep up with readings, prepare for class, practice thinking about the material, offer feedback on your progress, identify topics that you need to review, and reduce the percentage of your grade that is based on exams.

Exams. Four exams will be administered in this course. The exams will cover three weeks of material and will consist of 45 multiple-choice questions. You will choose the 40 questions that you want to answer and opt out of the rest (40 questions x 2.5 points per question = 100 points). These four exams will take place in class. The lowest of your exam scores will be dropped and there is no requirement that you take all of the exams unless you decide to do so. However, I strongly encourage you to complete AT LEAST the first three exams. Students who opt out of one of these exams often earn lower final grades than those who do not (for many reasons).

The exams will provide you with feedback on your progress in learning the course concepts and principles, as well as on applying them to real world examples. When preparing for the exams, I suggest that you practice coming up with your own examples of the concepts. As an academic language, psychology is a knowledge-based skill that you need to use in real life to get the hang of it. Think about toddlers who use the word “cat” to identify any small mammal (whether dogs, bunnies, or squirrels). It is only through practice that they get the hang of using words that they are learning through trial-and-error. Coming up with your own examples of key concepts is not only more memorable, it helps you to better prepare for exams. Please check out the Course Resources module on Canvas (and the study skills chapter at the end of your book) for other exam prep materials.

Research. The research requirement provides you with an in-depth experience with research being conducted in the Psychology Department. This requirement involves participating in two hours (that is, two credits) of psychological research or completing some library research. This requirement does not accrue points toward your grade—it is simply a requirement that must be fulfilled in order to receive a final grade. For more information about this requirement, check out the PSYC 110 Research Requirement handout.

PROGRESS WORKSHEET

For technical reasons, the Canvas mobile app grade percentage and assignment drops will BE INACCURATE until the end of the semester. As a result, I encourage you to use this worksheet to keep track of your progress, rather than relying on FAULTY and MISLEADING information.

Quiz Number	Earned / Possible	Exam Number	Earned / Possible
1 (Introduction)	_____ / 12.5 points	1 (Introduction → Neuroscience)	_____ / 100 points
2 (Methods)	_____ / 12.5 points	2 (Memory → Emotion)	_____ / 100 points
3 (Neuroscience)	_____ / 12.5 points	3 (Development → Social)	_____ / 100 points
4 (Learning)	_____ / 12.5 points	4 (Health → Treatment)	_____ / 100 points
5 (Emotion)	_____ / 12.5 points	Exam Total	_____ / 300 points (Add only your best three exam scores)
6 (Development)	_____ / 12.5 points		
7 (Personality)	_____ / 12.5 points	Quiz Total	_____ / 100 points (Add only your best eight quiz scores)
8 (Social)	_____ / 12.5 points		
9 (Health)	_____ / 12.5 points	Final Points	_____ / 400 points
10 (Disorders)	_____ / 12.5 points		
11 (Treatment)	_____ / 12.5 points		

You can use the following grading scale to determine your final course grade:

A = 372-400 points B = 332-347 points C = 292-307 points D = 240-267 points
 A- = 360-371 points B- = 320-331 points C- = 280-291 points F = 0-239 points
 B+ = 348-359 points C+ = 308-319 points D+ = 268-279 points

**REMEMBER TO COMPLETE THE RESEARCH REQUIREMENT BY FRIDAY,
 MAY 10TH IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A GRADE FOR THIS COURSE!**

COURSE POLICIES

Assessment. To maintain the integrity of classroom exams, the use of mobile devices will not be permitted during exams without prior documented approval from the Disability Resource Center or other pertinent offices on campus. This includes requests to use mobile devices for foreign language translation assistance. Students found using devices will be dismissed and receive zeroes on their exams. Additional penalties will be considered under the misconduct policy.

Attendance. The professor will not take formal attendance. Nonetheless, consistent attendance has been repeatedly shown to improve performance in college courses, especially for freshmen. Classes will clarify the readings and include other material that is covered on the exams. If you cannot attend class, be sure to get the slides from Canvas and a copy of the notes from another student. This is the best way to keep up with the course during absences and you are welcome to clear up any specific points of confusion during office hours.

Communication. Please contact the professor with your questions or concerns related to this course, as well as other academic or career-related issues. Office hours are the most reliable means of contact. The professor holds three office hours per week. If you cannot attend office hours, please schedule an appointment. Email is the next most reliable means of contact. The professor generally respond to emails within two business days (not on evenings or weekends). To avoid being snagged by junk mail filters, type PSYC 110 in the subject line. Emails requiring extensive discussion will be referred to office hours. Other methods of contacting the professor (such as stopping by outside of office hours) are generally unreliable.

Emergencies. In the event of a *medical emergency*, call 911 or use one of the Red Emergency Phones on the hallway wall across from our classroom. Offer assistance if trained and willing to do so. Guide emergency responders to those in need. In the event of a *tornado warning*, move to the lowest level interior room without windows. See <https://www.uwsp.edu/emergency/Pages/floor-plans.aspx> for floor plans showing the severe weather shelters (such as interior hallways and classrooms). Avoid wide-span structures (such as gyms, pools, or large classrooms). In the event of a *fire alarm*, evacuate the building in a calm manner and meet on the north side of SCI (across the street from MCCH). Notify staff members or emergency command personnel of any missing individuals. In the event of an *Active Shooter/Code React*, run/escape, hide, and fight. If trapped, hide, lock doors, turn off lights, spread out, and remain quiet. Call 911 when it is safe to do so. Follow the instructions of emergency responders. See the Emergency Management site for details about emergency procedures: <https://www.uwsp.edu/emergency/Pages/emergency-procedures.aspx>.

Equal Access and Disability Accommodations. If you have a condition that may impact your learning or participation in course activities, contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC). They work with students and instructors to identify appropriate accommodations and services. Since accommodations are rarely applied retroactively, it is vital that students make timely requests. Please check out the DRC site for more information: <https://www.uwsp.edu/disability-resource-center/>. If you have questions, feel free to email (drc@uwsp.edu), call (715-346-3365), or stop by (108 CCC) for assistance.

Extensions. Extensions will generally only be considered for students who cannot complete assignments on time due to academic, athletic, military, or religious obligations, major illnesses, and comparable reasons. Requests for extensions might require documentation, such as letters from coaches or physicians. In most cases, assignments will need to be completed within one week of the initial deadline to receive credit.

Incompletes. Incomplete grades will only be considered for students in exceptional situations, such as serious medical and emergency situations. They are not for students who simply feel overwhelmed by routine academic or extracurricular commitments. Requests for incompletes must be accompanied by documentation. In most cases, all coursework must be completed within one regular semester (fall or spring) to avoid receiving an automatic F in the course.

Misconduct. The professor takes academic misconduct (such as cheating and plagiarism) very seriously. The minimum penalty for an instance of misconduct will be a zero for the assignment. Further penalties will be considered under university policy. Please do not put yourself or others through disciplinary hearings. To read about UWSP's policies, go to <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx>.

Professionalism. Respectful behavior in the classroom is necessary for an environment conducive to learning and intellectual exchange. Although I minimize the formality of this course, there are limits that I ask you to respect. Students who—answer cell phones, text message, use their laptop or handheld devices inappropriately (for email, games, internet surfing, listening to music, messaging, completing homework for another class, etc.), carry on conversations with others, habitually arrive late and disturb others as they take their seats, pack belongings before the end of class, habitually leave early and disturb others as they exit doors, sleep and snore, and read newspapers, magazines, or other materials during class—can distract the professor and other students in the class (even when they are trying to be polite or subtle about it). Such disruptions are disrespectful and hinder the experience of everyone in class. Students who are unable to respect these limits may be asked to leave the room until they can show that they are able to give the class their complete attention. If you find that one or more students in the class are hindering your educational experience, please contact me privately as soon as possible.

Safety and Reporting. UW-Stevens Point is committed to the promotion of safe, inclusive, and productive campuses—where people from all backgrounds and perspectives can actively and comfortably contribute to our learning communities. Thus, under federal and state laws, as well as university policies, the professor is required to report acts of an offensive or criminal nature that occur inside or outside of class. This includes acts of sexual harassment and assault, bias and hate crimes, illicit drug use, and violence. Disclosure or description of such incidents, past or current, may be reported to the Dean of Students office (<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/>) or local authorities. If you would like to report incidents anonymously, please review the options on the Dean of Students' website: <https://www3.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Anonymous-Report.aspx>.