

# *Introduction to Psychology*

## *University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Spring 2017*

**Instructor:** Dr. Erica Weisgram

**Office:** Science D235

**Office Hours:** 1-2TTh, by appointment

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**Text:** Meyers, D. G., & DeWall, C. N. (2016). *Exploring Psychology*, 10th Ed. New York: MacMillian.

**Study Guide** (Recommended but not required): Study Guide for Exploring Psychology 10<sup>th</sup> Ed  
<https://www.amazon.com/Study-Guide-Exploring-Psychology-David/dp/1464199930>

**Course Website:** Desire2Learn

**Prerequisites:** None

### **UWSP GEP Social Science Learning Outcomes**

This course meets the General Education Program Investigative Level Social Science requirement for undergraduate students. The GEP Social Science Learning Outcomes are as follows:

- Define the major concepts and methods used by social scientists to investigate, to analyze, or to predict human or group behavior.
- Explain the major principles, models, and issues under investigation by the social sciences.
- Examine how the individual or groups of individuals are influenced by social, cultural, or political institutions both in their own culture and in other cultures.

### **Specific Course Objectives**

Psychology is the science of behavior and mental processes. The goal of this course is to provide students with a general understanding of psychology as a scientific discipline. Throughout the course students will learn about psychological concepts and theories, research methods used in the field, and how psychology can be applied to contexts outside the classroom. By actively engaging with course material through in-class activities, lab activities, and writing assignments, students will gain a comprehension of and appreciation for the scientific study of behavior and mental processes.

At the conclusion of this semester, students will be able to:

- identify and describe major terms, concepts, and theories in psychology.
- apply theories of psychology to “real life” experiences.
- analyze, synthesize, and evaluate major concepts and theories in psychology.
- understand and think critically about current research in psychology.

### **Course Requirements**

200 pts.	Exams (50 pts. Each)
20 pts.	Paper (20 pts.)
20 pts.	Activities (5pts).
20 pts.	Attendance (2 pts Each)

*Exams.* There will be four exams given throughout the semester with the last exam taking place during finals week. All exams will cover material presented in lecture, films, and the textbook. **The first three exams will be both multiple choice (40 pts.) and essay (10 pts.) in nature. The final exam will be entirely multiple choice.** If a student is unable to take the exam on the scheduled date for a University-Approved Reason (with documentation), arrangements may be made *beforehand* to take a make-up the exam at another time. All No Shows (students who do not notify the instructor of an absence before the exam) who do not have documentation of illness or accident will receive a 0 on the exam and will not be allowed to take the test at an alternate time. Exams will not be comprehensive. **Final exams will be given on the date scheduled by the Registrar's office, without exception.**

*Critical Analysis: Inside Out.* As a way of practicing critical analyses of psychology in the media, students will be asked to watch a popular children's film that includes many references to psychological science. Students will first develop a rubric in class, as a class, that will allow us to assess aspects of memory processes depicted in the film. Students will watch the film and then compare their findings to the Atkinson–Shiffrin model of memory discussed in class and in the text. Students will then complete a 3-4 page critical analysis paper in which they compare and contrast their observations and assessments the model. This paper will be turned in through the D2L Dropbox on the date indicated below. Late papers will receive a 10% per day penalty.

*Activities.* Throughout the semester, students will complete activities in and out of class to practice concepts related to the topic at hand. This may include analysis of popular press articles, worksheets practicing concepts, etc. These activities will be discussed and distributed in class. These activities will also be turned in in-class at the beginning of class by the date indicated on the syllabus. Late papers will receive a 10% per day penalty.

*Attendance.* Attendance is expected for this course. As exams include a significant lecture component, it is in students' best interest to attend class. Also, in-class activities (2pt. each) may be conducted without prior notice. **You must be in-class to receive attendance points.** There will be 13 opportunities during the semester to earn points and 20 points will count toward your final grades. Thus, there are three "freebies" included here in case a student is gone for illness, family emergency, athletics, etc. As a result, there will not be any opportunities to make up these points. Students who are unable to attend classes for an extended amount of time (more than three classes) due to personal or medical circumstances should contact the Dean of Students office (<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Major%20Illness%20or%20Life%20Event.aspx>; [DOS@uwsp.edu](mailto:DOS@uwsp.edu)).

*Research Participation.* Participation in research is a requirement of students enrolled in Psychology 110. Specifically, students must participate in at least 2 credits of research to fulfill this requirement. An alternative writing assignment is available for students who do not wish to participate in research which will be submitted through a separate D2L page. Students who do not complete this research participation requirement (or the alternative assignment) will receive an "Incomplete" for the course. See this website for further information: <http://www.uwsp.edu/psych/Pages/Psyc110ResearchRequirement.aspx>.

### Final Course Grades:

The total number of points possible for this course is 260.

Therefore, final grades will be determined as follows:

A	93%-100%	C	73%-76%
A-	90%-92%	C-	70%-72%
B+	87%-89%	D+	67%-69%
B	83%-86%	D	60%-66%
B-	80%-82%	F	<60%
C+	77%-79%		

## Course Policies

- Students should arrive to class on time with cell phones turned off and in their backpack. Any students found to be using their phone during class will be asked to leave until they are finished.
- Students should read the appropriate chapters in the text before attending class
- Students should be open-minded to learning new information
- Students should demonstrate respect and professionalism toward fellow students and the instructor throughout the course

## Course Communication

E-mail will be the official mode of communication for this course. Students should feel free to e-mail the instructor at any point with questions about course content. Students can generally expect a prompt response. (However, e-mails sent past 5pm may not be read until the next business day.) When e-mailing, please put "PSY 110" in the subject line to prevent being sorted into Junk Mail by the e-mail filter.

## Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty of any form (i.e., cheating, plagiarism, etc.) will not be tolerated. If a student is participating in any dishonest behavior, they will receive a "0" for the assignment or exam. It is important to uphold the academic integrity of this institution. Additional information about the consequences of academic dishonesty can be found here: <http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Academic-Misconduct.aspx>. Please consult this website if you have any questions or concerns about academic plagiarism: <http://library.uwsp.edu/guides/vrd/plagiarism.htm>

## Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities will be appropriately accommodated. Please see Disability Services for further information and contact the instructor within the first two weeks of class. <http://www.uwsp.edu/disability/Pages/default.aspx>

## Student Rights and Responsibilities

Information about student rights and responsibilities can be found at: <http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx>

## Withdrawal from Courses

See the Office of the Registrar for more information on withdrawing from courses: <https://www.uwsp.edu/regrec/Pages/default.aspx> Feb. 1st is the Last Day to drop without a grade. April 7 is the last day to drop a class with a "W."

## Mandatory reporting

*Under several federal and state laws, and according to several university guidelines, I am required to report acts of a criminal or offensive nature.* This includes acts of sexual harassment and assault, bias and hate crimes, illicit drug use, and acts of violence. Any disclosure or description of these incidents – both current and in the past – may be reported to the Dean of Students office (<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/>) or the local authorities. Due to recent legislation, if any disclosure of unreported neglect or abuse of a child, elder, or disabled individual is made to a University instructor, he or she is required to report such information to the appropriate administrative or law enforcement officials. This includes instances of sexual assault of an adult.

## Use of Electronic Devices

Electronic Devices are not to be used during class time without the consent of the instructor. Any student found distracting others or the instructor with their use of electronic devices will be asked to put said device away or leave the classroom. Students may not photograph, videotape, or audio record the instructor without the express permission of the instructor. To maintain the integrity of in-class exams, the use of electronic devices will not be permitted during exams without prior documented approval from the Disability Services office or other pertinent offices on campus. This includes, but is not limited to, requests to use cellular or wireless network-enabled mobile devices for foreign language translation assistance. Students who are found using these devices will be dismissed and receive a zero for their exams. Other penalties will be considered under the misconduct policy.

## Emergency Procedures

In the event of a medical emergency call 911 or use Red Emergency Phone (List Location). Offer assistance if trained and willing to do so. Guide Emergency Responders to victim. In the event of a tornado warning, proceed to the lowest level interior room without window.). See [www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/procedures/other/floor-plans.aspx](http://www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/procedures/other/floor-plans.aspx) for floor plans showing severe weather shelters on campus. Avoid wide-span rooms and buildings. In the event of a fire alarm, evacuate the building in a calm manner. Meet at the HEC Center. Notify instructor or emergency command personnel of any missing individuals. Active Shooter – Run/Escape, Hide, Fight. If trapped hide, lock doors, turn off lights, spread out and remain quiet. Follow instructions of Emergency Responders. See UW-Stevens Point Emergency Management Plan at [www.uwsp.edu/rmgt](http://www.uwsp.edu/rmgt) for details on all emergency response at UW-Stevens Point

## Readings in Psychology (not required)

--Here is a list of some books that may be of interest to those interested in Psychology—these are on my reading list!

- *Psychology and the Real World: Essays Illustrating Fundamental Contributions to Society* (2011). Edited by: Gernbacher, Pew, Hough, & Pomerantz. Worth Publishers.
- *50 Great Myths of Popular Psychology: Shattering Widespread Misconceptions about Human Behavior*. (2010). By: Lilienfeld, Lynn, Ruscio, & Beverstein. Wiley.
- *Forty Studies that Changed Psychology: Explorations into the History of Psychological Research (6th Edition)* By: Roger Hock. Prentice Hall.
- A few books by Malcolm Gladwell including: *Tipping Point*, *Blink*, and *Outliers*

## Resources for students:

Tutoring-Learning Center: <http://www.uwsp.edu/tlc/>

--Excellent resource for students who are in need of a little extra assistance. Tutors are UWSP students who are recommended by faculty members based on excellent performance in the program.

Counseling Center: <http://www.uwsp.edu/counseling/>

--Provides assistance for students for a number of issues including personal and academic concerns (including Time Management!)

Psychology Club: <http://www.uwsp.edu/psych/Pages/stuOrgs.aspx>

--Presentations, workshops, and meetings around the study of psychology

Peer Mentoring : <http://www.uwsp.edu/psych/Pages/stuOrgs.aspx>

--Mentoring program for psychology majors

Date	Topics	Readings
Jan 24	Introduction, Syllabus, History	Chapter 1
Jan 26	History, Research Methods	
Jan 31	Research Methods	
Feb 2	Biopsychology	Chapter 2
Feb 7	Biopsychology	<b>ACTIVITY #1 DUE</b>
Feb 9	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 6
Feb 14	Sensation and Perception	
Feb 16	Sensation and Perception	
Feb 21	<b>Exam 1 (Chapters 1, 2, &amp; 6)</b>	
Feb 23	Learning	Chapter 7
Feb 28	Learning	
Mar 2	Memory	Chapter 8, <b>ACTIVITY #2 DUE</b>
Mar 7	Memory	
Mar 9	Cognition and Intelligence	Chapter 9
Mar 14	Cognition and Intelligence	<b>INSIDE OUT PAPER DUE</b>
Mar 16-exam2	<b>Exam 2 (Chapters 7, 8, &amp; 9)</b>	
Mar 28	Developmental	
Mar 30	Developmental	Chapter 4
April 4	Motivation and Emotion	
April 6	Motivation and Emotion	Chapter 10
April 11	Gender and Sexuality	
April 13	Personality	Chapter 5, <b>ACTIVITY #3</b>
April 18	Personality	Chapter 13
April 20-exam 3	<b>Exam 3 (Chapters 4, 10, 5, 13)</b>	

April 25	Social Psychology	
April 27	Social Psychology	Chapter 12
May 2	Psychological Disorders	
May 4	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 14
May 9	Therapy	
May 11	Therapy	Chapter 15
<b>Final Exam: Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> 08:00-10:00am</b>	<b>Final Exam (Chapter 12, 14, 15)</b>	<b>ACTIVITY #4</b>