

Shepherd University

Spring 2011

Introduction to Psychology (PSYC 101)

3 credits

SYLLABUS

Section 04

Meets MWF 10:10 - 11:00 am, in WH 303

Section 05

Meets MWF 1:10 - 2:00 pm, in WH 112

Please note: **This is a MWF class, but we will not meet in person on Friday. Friday class work will be on-line, through our class website on Sakai.**

I think you will enjoy the on-line aspects of this course. Also, there is the convenience of working at times and in locations that are most convenient for you. Of course, it is necessary to have access to a computer with reliable, reasonably fast Internet service; computers are available on campus on the second floor of White Hall, in the library, and in other locations as well.

If you have not taken an on-line course before, here is an opportunity to learn in a somewhat different way. It may take a little time to get accustomed to on-line work. Complete, detailed directions will be given to you, and I will show you how to access Sakai in class. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any help with this, or any, aspect of the course.

Professor: **Dr. Anne Murtagh** amurtagh@shepherd.edu *Phone:* (304) 876-5257

Office: **Stutzman-Slonaker Rm. 108**

OFFICE HOURS: Mon. 11-12 noon

Tues. 11-12 noon, 2-4 pm

Wed. 11-12 noon

Thurs. 11-12 noon

Other times by appt.

Textbook: ***Introduction to Psychology, 8th ed.,*** by James W. Kalat
(CENGAGE, Thomson/Wadsworth)

Catalog description: A survey course introducing the core areas of psychology, including neuropsychology, learning and memory, intelligence, developmental psychology, stress and health, personality, abnormal psychology, psychotherapy, and social psychology.

Welcome to Introduction to Psychology!

Psychology is a **rich and fascinating** subject. In this course we will explore **many subfields** of Psychology, each of which relates in some way to your own **thinking, feeling, and behavior**, as well as to the people (and animals!) in your life.

The **textbook by Kalat** for this course is clear, interesting, and relatively easy to read. **You are expected to read and think about the assigned readings, and to come to class prepared to answer questions and discuss facts and ideas from the text.**

In class time on **Mondays and Wednesdays**, I will discuss and review with you the more important ideas from the readings, and answer any questions you have.

Powerpoints from class lectures will be posted on Sakai (under “Resources”). Classes will also feature **activities and videos** to further explore and supplement the text material.

You will learn a lot from your classmates, too, as you all ask questions and discuss important ideas from the readings. **In-class participation will be a small part (10/100 pts.) of your grade.** I know that some of you are shy, but make an effort to participate. You will learn better and build communication skills if you come to Monday and Wednesday classes with a question or comment to share. Write it down ahead of time so you are ready.

On **Fridays**, we will not meet in person, but there will be **assignments to complete on-line, through the class Sakai site. Starting this first week (Jan. 14), every Friday** there will be a **question to answer and a small-group discussion** on-line. Each one will be worth 4 pts. For Friday assignments, **make sure you have a backup computer in case your computer at home stops working.** Some alternatives are the computer labs on campus or in the library, public libraries, or a friend's or relative's computer.

There will also be **2 Tests (7 pts. each), a Midterm and a Final exam (10 pts. each),** all of which will be taken in class. (More details below.)

GOALS FOR INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY:

- ❖ Demonstrate a basic understanding of types of **scientific methods** as they are applied to the study of psychology.
- ❖ Be able to **describe the discipline of psychology** as a whole, as well as **major fields of study** within psychology.
- ❖ Demonstrate a basic understanding of **important psychological concepts and findings** within each field of study.
- ❖ Be able to **apply psychological theories, concepts, and findings to everyday life** – relationships, work, and play.

GRADING

There will be **6 PARTS** to your grade.

1) 14 on-line discussions, 4 pts. each.

The on-line discussions are an opportunity to explore your own understanding and opinions about some important ideas in psychology, and to discuss these ideas with your group members. Some weeks the assignment will be to explore and discuss a website related to psychology. I think you will enjoy these discussions.

The questions and discussion will be **available each week beginning Tuesday at 3pm.** You should **POST YOUR RESPONSE to this question BEFORE THURSDAY AT NOON,** and **BY FRIDAY AT NOON read responses of your group members and RESPOND TO AT LEAST 2 of them.** (Part of your grade depends on your responding to group members' postings. Because of this, it is necessary to post your answer to the question before Thursday at noon, so group members can read and respond before Friday at noon.)

You will have almost 3 days each week to complete this assignment. Computer problems, minor illnesses or other personal issues will not be acceptable excuses.

Discussions will be graded on Friday at noon; after that, there will be no opportunities to make up those points.

In class, I will show you how to access Sakai and begin learning how to navigate around our class site. If for some reason you are not present at that time, it is your responsibility to either learn it on your own or to make an appointment with me to find out how this works and what is required.

2) In-class participation, 10 pts.

Come to class prepared to share your thoughts about readings and to answer questions about course material. As you read or listen to lectures, think of how these ideas apply to your own life or those of your friends and family or public figures. You will learn more and build your communication skills, and our classes will be richer and more interesting, if you will take the risk to share thoughts and experiences through participation.

3) 2 TESTS

Tests will cover important terms and ideas from the text readings, only some of which we will have time to cover in class. To prepare for tests, review the assigned readings (paying special attention to key terms in blue and their definitions and the “Summary” and “Concept Check” sections), and study your notes and Powerpoints from class. Questions will be multiple-choice. **Each test is worth 7 pts. YOU WILL NEED TO BRING A 50-question SCANTRON SHEET.**

4) MIDTERM

Covers the first half of the semester. Multiple-choice questions. **Worth 10 pts. YOU WILL NEED TO BRING A 100-question SCANTRON SHEET.**

5) FINAL

Comprehensive -- covers the whole semester. Multiple-choice questions. **Worth 10 pts. YOU WILL NEED TO BRING A 200-question SCANTRON SHEET.**

In summary, your grade will consist of

14 on-line assignments, 4 pts. each	56 pts.
In-class participation	10 pts.
2 Tests, 7 pts. each	14 pts.
Midterm exam	10 pts.
Final exam	10 pts.
Total	100 pts.

You will be able to view your grades for all assignments in “Gradebook”, on the left-hand menu of our Sakai class site.

Also Note: RESEARCH PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT

(Failure to complete this requirement will result in a penalty of 10% reduction in your grade.)

Psychology relies on empirical methods to test and refine its theories and exposure to the research process is considered an important learning experience for students. Thus, **all students taking PSYC 101 Introduction to Psychology must complete a research participation requirement.** This requirement may be completed in **one of two ways.** The **first** way is to **participate in 4 units (4 hours) of research** conducted by faculty, independent study students under the supervision of faculty, or students in

the PSYC 485 Senior Thesis class. To see what studies are available, check the bulletin board on the 3rd floor of White Hall (across from the stairway near the elevator). If you sign up for a study, **be sure to record the name of the study, the time, date, and location of your appointment, and the researcher's name and contact information. If you miss a study appointment, you will be penalized 1 hr. (you will have an additional hour required).**

The **second** way to fulfill the requirement is to **read four articles and to write a two-page paper about each one** (one paper, on one article, counts for one hour of credit). The articles must be chosen from the approved list which is posted on the Department Web site (<http://shepherd.edu/psychweb>) and on the Participant Pool bulletin board outside White Hall room 333. (These articles are not available on-line but can be borrowed at the Circulation Desk of the library – ask for Psychology reserve articles. You could also check the hard-copy journals in the library or order them through inter-library loan.) Each paper must relate to the article and must be 2 full pages long.

Whichever option you choose to complete, **you must complete it by the last day of classes, Fri., April 29th – firm deadline! (NOT the day of our final exam – will NOT be accepted then).**

Don't forget: Failure to complete all 4 hours of this requirement will result in a 10% deduction of points from your final grade in this class. I will receive periodic reports from the Participant Pool Coordinator regarding who has completed what credits – please e-mail me for an update.

More details about this requirement will be discussed in class – please let me know if you have any questions.

Accommodations for students with disabilities

Please see me to discuss any appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for student with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first three weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made. Students are encouraged to register with Disability Support Services to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations.

Attendance policy

It is not necessary to contact me about every absence. Simply **keep them to a minimum** if you want to do well in this course. If you must miss a class, **be sure to get the notes from another student, and find out what you missed.**

I will take attendance each day. **If you come in late, be sure to let me know at the end of class,** so that I can note that you were present. Please make every effort to be on time; however, it is better to arrive late or leave early than to miss an entire class.

2-3 unexcused absences: no penalty

4-5 unexcused absences: 5 pts. deducted from Class Participation grade.

6 or more unexcused absences: 10 pts. deducted from Class Participation grade.

More than 5 unexcused absences will have a serious impact on your grade.

If you have an emergency that leads to excessive absences (more than 1 class), contact me to explain the reason. Written documentation will be required for excused absences.

Policy on academic integrity

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Shepherd University Academic Integrity Procedures found in the **Shepherd University Student Handbook**. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work.

You are encouraged to study together and to discuss information and concepts covered in lecture and the sections with other students. You can give "consulting" help to or receive "consulting" help from such students. However, this permissible cooperation should never involve one student having possession of a copy of all or part of work done by someone else, in the form of an e-mail, an e-mail attachment file, a diskette, or a hard copy.

Should copying occur, both the student who copied work from another student and the student who gave material to be copied will both automatically receive a zero for the assignment. Penalty for violation of this can also be extended to include failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

During tests and examinations, you must do your own work. Talking, texting, using the Internet, or in any way obtaining help or discussing exam material is not permitted during the examination period, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way. Any collaborative behavior during tests or examinations will result in failure of the exam, and may lead to failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

Plagiarism is taking credit for the ideas or statements of someone else, presenting it as your own work. It is becoming more common these days, as people cut and paste material from the Internet, and falsely submit it as their own writing. **However, there are ways to detect this dishonesty. Plagiarism is a serious act, and it will be reported to the Dean of the College. Suspension or dismissal from the college are possible consequences.** If you have any questions at all about what is OK and what is not, please ask me. For more information about the university's policies related to academic honesty, please see the Shepherd University Student Handbook.

Exam Makeup Policy

For Midterm or Final Exams, students will be allowed to make up an examination only if an emergency prevents them from attending class that day. ("Not feeling well" is not an adequate excuse.) Written documentation verifying the emergency must be provided. The instructor reserves the right to deny the request.

Please feel free to come and talk to me (or call or e-mail) if you have any questions, concerns or comments, or if I can be of service to you in any way. I enjoy meeting with students one-on-one, and I hope you will not hesitate to share your thoughts with me. I look forward to a great semester with you!

Assignment for Wed.:
read chap. 1 (modules 1.1 and 1.2) of Kalat

Some Shepherd University resources that you might find helpful:

Sakai help First try the "Help" button at the bottom of left-hand menu -- there is abundant information there. If you get stuck, contact me or Lauryl Lewis at llewis@shepherd.edu or 304-876-5059.

IT Services User Support Desk 304-876-5457 Main IT No. 304-876-5245
email: support@shepherd.edu

Disability Support Services

216 Student Center
1-800-344-5231, X5453 or 304-876-5453

Christana Johnson, Director
cjohns12@shepherd.edu

Academic Support Center, Lower level of Scarborough Library (LIB 103)

www.shepherd.edu/ascweb; (304) 876-5221; 8:00 – 4:30 am

Free tutoring or writing assistance.

Office of Counseling Services Free counseling services are available to SU students. Located in Gardiner Hall **PHONE: (304) 876-5276**