

Fall 2008

Shepherd University

*Introduction to Psychology (PSYC 203)*

3 credits

## SYLLABUS

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**Section 05 CRN: 30632**

Meets MWF 11:10-12 noon in WH 113

**Section 06 CRN: 30877**

Meets MWF 1:10-2 pm in WH 303

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

OFFICE HOURS: MWF 2:30-4 pm, Tues. 2-3:30 pm -- Other times by appt.

**NOTE: My office is in the Free School, a small brick building about 2 blocks down Princess St.**

Textbook: ***Introduction to Psychology, 8<sup>th</sup> ed.*, by James W. Kalat  
(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.

### **SOME THOUGHTS**

*On higher education:*

“ .. (you go to a great school not for knowledge so much as for arts and habits; for the habit of attention, for the art of expression, for the art of assuming at a moment's notice a new intellectual posture, for the art of entering quickly into another person's thoughts, for the habit of submitting to censure and refutation, for the art of indicating assent or dissent in graduated terms, for the habit of regarding minute points of accuracy, for the habit of working out what is possible in a given time, for taste, for discrimination, for mental courage and mental soberness. Above all you go to a great school for self-knowledge.”

*William Johnson Cory*

*On science:*

“Science is not a collection of facts, any more than opera is a collection of notes. It's a process, a way of thinking, a method, based on a single insight – that the degree to which an idea seems true has nothing to do with whether it is true, and that the way to distinguish factual ideas from false ones is to test them by experiment.”

*Timothy Ferris*

*From The New Yorker, 7-20-98*

## **NOTE:**

**FREE TUTORING! ANY COURSE! TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A FREE “PERSONAL TRAINER FOR THE MIND!”**

**ACADEMIC SUPPORT CENTER IN 114 KNUTTI HALL:**

**[www.shepherd.edu/ascweb](http://www.shepherd.edu/ascweb); 876-5221; 8:00 – 4:30 am**

## **ABOUT THIS COURSE**

I am trying something new in this course – I will be interested in hearing feedback from you about how it goes. The textbook by Kalat that I chose for this course is (I think) very clear, interesting, and relatively easy to read. Your job will be to complete the assigned readings and to come to class prepared to ask any questions you may have and to discuss important ideas from those readings. On Fridays, we will have a quiz on the material from class and the readings from that week. Quizzes 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 the quiz, review the chapter (paying special attention to key terms in blue and their definitions and the “Summary” and “Concept Check” sections), and study your notes from class. You will take the quiz individually and submit it, then work on the same quiz in a small group and submit that too.

In class time, I will review with you the more important ideas from the readings, and answer any questions you have. I will also bring in interesting activities and videos to further explore and supplement the text material. (If you have any ideas about things we can do in class that will illustrate important points, please share them with me and maybe we can use them in class.)

The basic idea of this plan is to avoid lectures that just reiterate what you have read, and instead for us to try some exercises that apply the material, explore, and discuss what it all means to us. On Fridays, you have a chance to show your mastery of the material on your own, then the opportunity to work together with your group to improve your mastery even more. Give this a try with me, and let me know what you think.

## **GOALS FOR INTRODUCTION TO 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 types of scientific methods** as they are applied to the study of 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**

**6 EQUAL PARTS TO YOUR GRADE.** I will average these grades to obtain your final grade for the course.:

### **1) INDIVIDUAL QUIZZES**

Each Friday there will be a quiz on the material (readings and lectures) from that week. Questions will be objective in nature – multiple-choice, fill-in-the blank, matching, etc. First you will take the quiz individually. These individual quiz grades will be averaged for this 1/6<sup>th</sup> of your grade.

## 2) GROUP QUIZZES

After submitting the individual quiz, you will work on the same quiz again in your work group. Each work group will then submit one quiz, and these group quiz grades will be averaged for this 1/6<sup>th</sup> of your grade.

## 3) MIDTERM

Covers the first half of the semester. Objective questions (multiple-choice, fill-in-the blank, matching, etc.) plus short-answer essay questions.

## 4) FINAL

Comprehensive -- covers the whole semester. Objective questions (multiple-choice, fill-in-the blank, matching, etc.) plus short-answer essay questions.

## 5) APPLICATION PAPERS

Three 3-4 page papers where you apply something we have learned to a personal experience, a news article, or an example from literature, music or film. More details to come about this assignment. The three paper grades will be averaged for this 1/6<sup>th</sup> of your grade.

## 6) CLASS PARTICIPATION

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. Our classes will be richer, more interesting, and more memorable if class members will take the risk to share thoughts and experiences through participation.

One word of caution: this is of course a big group, and we don't know each other well (at least, not yet). If you are considering sharing information that is personal and sensitive (e.g., about difficulties in your own life or your family), take a moment to think about it and make sure that you are comfortable with this.

You will earn **1 pt. for each time you participate.**

**40 pts. or more = A; 23-39 = B; 6-22 = C; 5 or less = D**

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### Attendance policy

Sometimes things come up over the course of the semester that interfere with class attendance. **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 unexcused absences: OK

3 unexcused absences: 5 pts. deducted from Participation grade.

5 unexcused absences: 10 pts. deducted from Participation grade.

More than 5 unexcused absences is unacceptable, and will have a serious impact on your grade.

If you have an emergency that leads to *excessive absences* (more than 1 class), you will need to contact me to explain the reason. Some kind of 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. [Exception: For this course, collaboration is expected on group quizzes.]

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 examinations, you must do your own work. Talking or discussion is not permitted during the examinations, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way. Any collaborative behavior during the examinations will result in failure of the exam, and may lead to failure of the course and University disciplinary action. [Exception: For this course, collaboration is expected on group quizzes.]

Your papers should reflect your own words and thoughts, unless you indicate otherwise. Academic honesty requires that you give credit for ideas or statements that are not your own. Thus, if you are summarizing someone's ideas in your own words, you must cite the source of the ideas. It should be clear **in every statement or sentence** whether you are expressing your own thoughts, or reporting those of someone else. If you find a quote that you think will add substantially to a paper, you must use quotation marks around the quote, and give the precise source of that quote, including the author, source, and page no.

***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**

Students are only allowed to make up an examination 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. Makeup exams may be given in the Academic Support Center in 106 Knutti Hall.

**Shepherd Late Work Policy**

Late work is not accepted unless the student can provide documentation of an emergency preventing them from submitting work on time. The instructor reserves the right to deny the request.

**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.

**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. You've heard that saying, "There is no such thing as a stupid question" – I believe that is true. I enjoy meeting with students one-on-one, and I hope you will not hesitate to share your thoughts with me.**

**Let's have a great semester!**

**Introduction to Psychology – schedule of readings and assignments**

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
<b>8/18</b> Intro. to the course; Module 1.1	<b>8/20</b> Read Module 1.2	<b>8/22</b> Quizzes (Last day to add/drop)
<b>8/25</b> Read Modules 2.1 & 2.2	<b>8/27</b> Module 2.3	<b>8/29</b> Quizzes
<b>9/1</b> Labor Day – no classes	<b>9/3</b> Modules 3.1 & 3.2	<b>9/5</b> Quizzes
<b>9/8</b> Modules 3.3 and 4.1	<b>9/10</b> Modules 4.2 and 4.3	<b>9/12</b> Quizzes
<b>9/15</b> Modules 5.1 and 5.2	<b>9/17</b> Modules 5.3 and 5.4	<b>9/19</b> Quizzes <b>Application paper #1 due</b>
<b>9/22</b> Modules 6.1 and 6.2	<b>9/24</b> Modules 6.3 and 6.4	<b>9/26</b> Quizzes
<b>9/29</b> Modules 7.1 and 7.2	<b>10/1</b> Modules 7.3 and 7.4	<b>10/3</b> Quizzes (Last day to apply for May graduation! -- Registrar)
<b>10/6</b> Modules 8.1 and 8.2	<b>10/8</b> Module 8.3	<b>10/10 Midterm exam</b> (chaps. 1-8)
<b>10/13</b> Modules 9.1 and 9.2	<b>10/15</b> Module 10.1	<b>10/17</b> Quizzes
<b>10/20</b> Modules 10.2 and 10.3	<b>10/22</b> Modules 11.1 & 11.2 <b>Application paper #2 due</b>	<b>10/24</b> Quizzes
<b>10/27</b> Modules 11.3 and 11.4	<b>10/29</b> Modules 12.1 and 12.2	<b>10/31</b> Quizzes
<b>11/3</b> Modules 12.3 and 13.1	<b>11/5</b> Modules 13.2 and 13.3	<b>11/7</b> Quizzes
<b>11/10</b> Modules 13.4 and 13.5	<b>11/12</b> Modules 14.1 and 14.2	<b>11/14</b> Quizzes
<b>11/17</b> Modules 14.3 and 15.1	<b>11/19</b> Modules 15.2 and 15.3	<b>11/21</b> Quizzes
<b>11/24</b> Thanksgiving recess	<b>11/26 Happy Thanksgiving!!!</b>	<b>11/28</b> Thanksgiving recess
<b>12/1</b> Modules 16.1 and 16.2	<b>12/3</b> Modules 16.3 & 16.4 <b>Application paper #3 due</b>	<b>12/5</b> Quizzes (Last day of classes)
<b>Section 05 Final exam</b> <b>Mon., 12/8 12-2 pm</b>		
<b>Section 06 Final exam</b> <b>Mon., 12/8 3-5 pm</b>		