

General Psychology

Psychology 100
Winter, 2012

General Course Information

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Office Hours: By appointment.
Text: *Psychology, 9th edition* by David Myers;
Companion website: www.worthpublishers.com/myers9e
PsychPortal: <http://courses.bfwpub.com/myers9e>
Video website: *Discovering Psychology* videos:
<http://www.learner.org/resources/series138.html>

Course Description

General Psychology broadly surveys the knowledge and methods of the discipline of Psychology. This course will emphasize the development of critical thinking skills, and familiarity with scientific research and reasoning.

Course Overview

This is an introductory-level course, which will survey most of the major issues in the field of psychology. The major goals for this course are:

1. Examine how human behavior is studied and analyzed by psychologists.
2. Gain greater insight into the behavior of ourselves and others.
3. Develop familiarity with the theories describing human behavior.
4. Familiarize ourselves with the symptoms of psychological disorders and the various treatment options.
5. Develop critical thinking skills and prepare ourselves to be cautious and analytical consumers of information that proclaims to be scientific or based on some form of research.

Course Outcomes

Upon completion of Psychology 100, students will be able to:

1. Describe the purpose, comprehensive scope, and areas of application in the field of psychology.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the scientific process by applying and/or critiquing various research methods used by psychologists in the study of behavior.
3. Recognize, compare and contrast various theoretical perspectives used to explain and guide psychological research and application.
4. Identify historical and present-day contributions of major psychologists.
5. Define important psychological terms, concepts, processes and principles.
6. Apply critical thinking to assumptions, claims, and common sense ideas about behavior.
7. Demonstrate the application of psychological principles and findings to one's own life.

In terms of general education outcomes, students will be able to:

8. Use cognitive and creative skills:
 - a. Analyzing (identifying and evaluating problems)
 - b. Synthesizing (interpreting situations, drawing conclusions, and making connections)
9. Improving communications skills:
 - a. Doing research (gathering and documenting information)
 - b. Delivering one or more written, oral and/or visual presentations with formal documentation
10. Applying personal skills: Understanding the influence of stress, nutrition, and life style on personal health and performance

Course Requirements

✓ Weekly Online Quizzes:

There will be ten online quizzes, found at [PsychPortal](#). Each quiz will contain 25 items, and will be worth 25 pts.

- Access code (Power Point tutorial on my webpage):
 - If you bought a new text through the BC bookstore, it came with an access code.
 - Go to [PsychPortal](#)
 - Select the **REGISTER an Activation Code** link. The registration screen will appear. Follow the instructions.
 - If you bought a used text, or text through another source, and you don't have an access code:
 - Go to [PsychPortal](#)
 - Select **PURCHASE access to PsychPortal** and follow the instructions.
- You may open the quiz and print it out so that you can prepare your answers over the week.
 - It is a good idea to work with your classmates to find the answers to the questions.
 - The following would be examples of cheating. Cheaters will be expelled from class.
 - Dividing the test into parts, with each student taking part, then trading answers.
 - Having one student find all of the answers to Quiz 1 and share with classmates, who then find the answers for Quiz 2 and so on.
- Quizzes are due by 9:30 am on the day indicated on the Syllabus. If you are late, PsychPortal will lock you out, and you will miss that quiz.
- The purpose of these quizzes is to keep your studying on track. If you miss a quiz, it won't kill your grade. But if you miss several, you will not do well in class.
- Absolutely no make-ups of quizzes will be allowed for any reason.

✓ Midterms:

There will be two midterms, on the dates indicated on the calendar. Midterms will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions. Each midterm will be worth 150 pts.

- **Materials:** You will need a scantron form and a #2 pencil for all midterms. Neither of these materials will be provided, so be sure to bring them with you. You may use the backs of used scantrons to save on scantrons.
- **Preparing for Midterms:**
 - The publisher's quizzes (www.worthpublishers.com/myers9e) will provide a very good basis for the types of questions that will appear on the midterms.
 - In addition, the publisher's website includes excellent study tools that will assist you in preparing for the midterms. There's a "Chapter Review," flashcards, PsychSim tutorials, other simulations & demonstrations, PsychInquiry worksheets, and more.
 - I will post a study guide for each midterm on our web page, in the link called "Study Guides."
 - I will make a hint for every question on the midterms, so that you will know exactly which topics will be covered.
 - I recommend that you study with this guide, making sure to understand the information as I described it in class, as well as how the text described it.

- You will find that there are many items on the test/study guide that can only be found in the text, so you will want to use this guide to help you to know which parts of the text are especially relevant.
- There will be items on the midterms that you didn't see on the weekly tests, and items that will be on the weekly tests that you won't see on the midterms. Use the study guide!
- ***Make-up midterms:***
 - I will allow a make-up of a missed midterm if it was missed for one of the following, documented, reasons:
 - Personal illness or injury, documented by a doctor's note, and with notification to me before the test is missed (via phone or email)
 - Death in the immediate family, documented by a note from the funeral director.
 - Midterms must be made up within one week of the test's date.
 - If you know you're going to miss a midterm for an unavoidable reason, we can administer the test before the scheduled date so that you won't miss it.
 - No make-ups after the midterm when the absence is planned.
 - No early Midterm 2 to accommodate spring break travel plans.

✓ **Projects:**

Select one topic from each project list on my webpage, complete the assignment, and submit your report to the dropbox in [PsychPortal](#) by 11:50 pm on the due date indicated on the syllabus.

- Each project is worth 50 pts.
- You will find that some projects require a very brief statement as a report, whereas others ask for longer descriptions of your thought processes or behaviors. Simply fulfill the requirements of the topic, without concern for length.
- *It is NOT acceptable to copy and paste material directly from a website*; you must reword the website's information and give me the gist. Copying and pasting is a form of cheating.
- It is OK to work with a classmate to find the information for the project that you choose, but *you must each submit your own independent work*.
- These assignments will be graded pass/fail, so if your assignment is complete, correct, and on time, you will receive full credit. *If it is incomplete, incorrect, or late, you will receive no credit*.
- Turning in projects on time:
 - You may turn in your projects any time prior to 11:59 pm on the date indicated on the syllabus.
 - Late projects will not be accepted for any reason, no matter how compelling.
- *No attachments allowed!* You must copy and paste your work into the submission box.

✓ **Attendance:**

I expect that you will attend lectures. There is a great deal of information presented in the text, and the lectures will serve to narrow that information down. Also, there will be a large number of demonstrations, film clips, and participatory activities that will enhance your experience. Attendance will not be required, but it is encouraged.

Academic integrity

It is assumed that all students will maintain the highest academic integrity. Cheating of any sort, including copying on exams, falsifying records, plagiarism (e.g. copying and pasting from a website, collaborating on tests), etc. will not be tolerated, and suspected cheaters will be reported to the Dean of Academic Education.

No electronic devices (cell phones, mp3/iPods, dictionaries, laptops, etc) will be allowed during lectures or exams.

Grade Distribution

A:	95-100%
A-:	90-94%
B+:	87-89%
B:	84-86%
B-:	80-83%
C+:	77-79%
C:	74-76%
C-:	70-73%
D+:	67-69%
D:	60-66%
F:	<=59%

Grade Breakdown

Midterms:	2 @ 150 pts =	300 pts	37.5%
Quizzes:	10 @ 25 pts =	250 pts	31.25%
Projects:	5 @ 50 pts =	250 pts	31.25
Total:		800 pts	100%

Incompletes and Hardship Withdrawals

These options are reserved for students who, through unforeseeable circumstances, cannot complete a course that they were passing. If you wish to request one of these grading options, the following criteria must be met:

1. You are passing the class at the time of the request.
2. You must make your request in writing, explaining the circumstances and including any documentation.
3. In the case of an Incomplete, the circumstances must be acute. That is, they must be something that prevents completion of the course within the current quarter, but that would be resolved in time for the student to complete the course work within the next quarter.
4. In the case of a Hardship Withdrawal, the circumstances must be ongoing, such that the student would not be able to complete the course work within the following quarter. In other words, a student could not request a hardship withdrawal and then retake the course the following quarter.
5. Qualifying circumstances for Incompletes and Hardship Withdrawals *are limited to*:
 - a. Death in the immediate family (spouse, child, parent) documented by a funeral director's note.
 - b. Significant illness or injury (documented by a doctor's note) of self or a person for whom the student is primarily responsible.
 - c. Relocation outside of the Bellevue Community College area.

Inclement Weather

If there is a winter storm and campus is open but you're not sure whether I will be holding class, please check my webpage. If I'm cancelling my classes, I will leave a message telling you so.

Reading Assignments, Video Assignments, and online lectures:

Our **text** is the most popular introductory psychology text in the world. There's a reason: It's well written and comprehensive. I know David Myers, and he's a consummate educator and absolutely loves psychology.

The **video series** *Discovering Psychology* is hosted by one of the most outstanding teachers of psychology, Phil Zimbardo.

Check the Calendar below for the week's episode(s); the episodes are not in correct order relative to our text's topics. I have included the weblink for learner.org at the top of this syllabus. Just scroll down to the weekly video assignment and click on the "VoD" button and view.

- Make sure that you have enabled pop-ups when you visit this webpage. The video will appear in a pop-up window.
- You may watch the videos wherever you have internet access.

I have prepared online versions of my Power Point **lectures**. You can access them in 6-13 minutes segments through the link on my webpage called "Online Lectures." If you miss class, or I go too fast in class, these lectures can be really helpful.

Course Calendar

Week	Date	Chapters	Discovering Psychology Videos	Assignments
1	1/3-6	Prologue	1. Past, Present, and Promise	
		1: Thinking Critically with Psychological Science	2. Understanding Research	
2	1/9-13	2: The Biology of Mind	3. The Behaving Brain 25. Cognitive Neuroscience	Mon: Quiz 1 (Pro-Ch1) Due Fri: Project 1 Due
3	1/17-20	3: Consciousness and Two-Track Mind	13. The Mind Awake and Asleep	1/16 – NO SCHOOL
4	1/23-27	4: The Nature and Nurture of Behavior	4. The Responsive Brain 17. Sex and Gender	Mon: Quiz 2 (Ch 2-3) Due
		5: The Developing Person	5. The Developing Child 18. Maturing and Aging	
5	1/30-2/3	6: Sensation and Perception	7. Sensation and Perception	1/31 – NO SCHOOL Tues: Quiz 3 (Ch 4-5) Due Fri: Project 2 Due
6	2/6-2/10	7: Learning	8. Learning	Mon: Quiz 4 (Ch 6) Due
		8: Memory	9. Remembering and Forgetting	
7	2/13-17	9: Thinking/Language	10. Cognitive Processes 11. Judgement and Decision Making 6. Language Development	Mon: Quiz 5 (Ch 7-8) Due Midterm 1 (Pro-Ch 8) Fri: Project 3 Due
		10: Intelligence	16. Testing and Intelligence	
8	2/21-24	11: Motivation & Work	12. Motivation and Emotion	2/20 – NO SCHOOL Tues: Quiz 6 (Ch 9-10) Due
		12: Emotions, Stress, & Health	23. Health, Mind, and Behavior	
9	2/27-3/2	13: Personality	14. The Mind Hidden and Divided 15. The Self	Mon: Quiz 7 (Ch 11-12) Due 3/1 – NO SCHOOL Fri: Project 4 Due
10	3/5-9	14: Psychological Disorders	21. Psychopathology	Mon: Quiz 8 (Ch 13) Due
11	3/12-16	15: Therapy	22. Psychotherapy	Wed: Quiz 9 (Ch 14-15) Due Fri: Project 5
		16: Social Psychology	19. The Power of the Situation 26. Cultural Psychology	
12	3/19	16: Social Psychology, cont'd		Tues: Quiz 10 (Ch 16) Due
	3/20	Midterm 2: Item 5401: 9:30-10:20 am		
	3/22	Midterm 2: Item 5404: 9:30-10:20 am		

GenEd Area	Rtg	Comment
Critical Thinking, Creativity, and Problem Solving	2	In Introductory Psychology students must learn to apply critical thinking methods in assessing the validity of claims about human behavior. Students learn research design and apply scientific method in the process of identifying problems and issues. Students are able to process information with valid learning generalizations and brainstorm solutions with supported opinions. Students learn to evaluate credibility of sources based on objectivity and bias. Students demonstrate competency on a test basis.
Quantitative and Logical	1	
Research/Information Literacy	1	
Reading	1	
Writing	1	
Listening and Speaking	1	
Visual	0	
Computer Literacy	1	
Self Assessment/ Life Goals	0	
Group Processes	1	
Ethics	1	
Lifelong Learning	1	
Historical and Intellectual Perspectives	1	Students learn the contributions of the major Western thinkers in Psychological theory. They examine the cultural values of past and current decades and how the pattern of change influences behavior. Students contrast Eastern and Western perspectives and industrialized and developing values in order to determine the effect on lifestyle. Students discuss these issues in class and are tested on their understanding.
Aesthetic Awareness	0	
Cultural Diversity	2	Students learn about effective mental health functioning in society. Students learn about discrimination, bias and stereotyping through discussion and value clarification activities. Our students are exposed to different perspectives in culture and are asked to compare and contrast cultural values on a global basis.
The Nature of Science	2	Students learn the scientific process of inquiry. They are familiar with research design, appropriate data collection and ultimately, discerning validity. Our students learn an interdisciplinary perspective of human behavior including anthropological, psychological and sociological methods
Science & the Natural World	1	Students study the evolutionary perspective as a unifying principle of human behavior. Our students examine examples of adaptive characteristics leading to survival and how that can influence modern behavior. Students learn about the central nervous system and how the brain communicates through the process of neurochemistry.
Technology and Society	1	

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION

Revised Winter 2006

Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing*

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue Community College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue Community College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services.

Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F").

F Grade

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

Final Examination Schedule

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BCC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

Withdrawal From Class

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of "HW" (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Support Services (DSS) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DSS office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DSS accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Support Services, and review those needs with the instructor as well.

Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BCC Web site.

Return of Papers and Tests

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.

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**If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue Community College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (A251), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.*