

PSY 250 PSYCHOLOGY

Syllabus Overview

This syllabus contains all relevant information about the course: its objectives and outcomes, the grading criteria, the texts and other materials of instruction, and weekly topics, outcomes, assignments, and due dates. Consider this your roadmap for the course. Please read through the syllabus carefully and ask questions if you would like anything clarified. Please print a copy of this syllabus for reference.

Course Description

3 Credits

Prerequisite: **ENG201 English Composition II**

This course introduces the student to human behavior. It includes the study of the theories and concepts of psychology including the scope of psychology, biological foundations and the brain, sensation, perception, motivation, personality, learning/memory, emotion, states of consciousness, personality theories, cognition, life-span development, and applied psychology.

Course Outcomes

- Identify and relate the primary goals of psychological science.
- Explain ethical issues may arise when conducting psychological research.
- Analyze the main perceptual constancies.
- Differentiate between physical and psychological dependence.
- Describe the various methods used to solve psychological problems.
- Define and relate the different theories of intelligence.
- Summarize the hierarchical conception of motivational theories.
- Summarize the challenges and limitations of the various types of behavioral methods that are used to assess personality.
- Distinguish between stereotypes and prejudice and how one relates to the other.
- Summarize factors that contribute to anti-social and aggressive behavior.

Communication with Your Instructor

You will receive a welcome email from your instructor prior to the start of class. This email will contain your instructor's contact information. Your instructor will also be communicating with you via several methods in the course, including:

- **Announcements** – This communication tool, located on the navigation menu within your course in Canvas, contains important updates. Be sure to check for new announcements from your instructor each time you access your course.
- **Q&A** – Use this discussion board, located on the Home screen in your course, to communicate with your instructor and classmates regarding general course questions (i.e. missing links, assignment clarification, etc.).
- **Inbox** – Use the Inbox, located in the top right corner of Canvas, to send a message to your instructor or classmates.

Materials and Resources

Required Resources:

All readings and lectures are provided within the course accessed through Mindedge*.

*Purchase your MindEdge access code through the Bookstore.

Bookstore Information

The bookstore can be located in the left-hand navigation of any Canvas course.

Library Services

Detailed information about the eLibrary can be found in the Student Resource Center. This is a course that all students have access to during their academic career.

Canvas Help Desk and Technical Questions

If you experience technical issues in your course, please contact the Canvas Help Desk by clicking the Help link (top right corner within Canvas). There are 3 ways to contact them:

- Phone (888-628-2749)
- Live chat
- Report a problem (submit a ticket)

Be sure to notify your instructor of any technical difficulties you are experiencing.

Additional resources are available in the Student Resource Center and the Canvas Guides website:

<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-4121>

Weekly Schedule

Week 1		Introduction to Psychology History and Methods
Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and relate the four primary goals of psychological science. 2. Compare and contrast the first schools of psychological thought 3. Describe the modern psychological perspectives 4. Identify and explain the various steps of the scientific method 5. Explain where ethical issues may arise when conducting psychological research 6. Discuss the five key provisions of the APA ethical principles 	
Readings	Refer to course	
Lectures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why Study Psychology 2. The History of psychology 	
Discussion	Careers in Psychology	
Assignments	Individual Assignment	
Week 2		Biological Bases of Behavior, Sensation and Perception
Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distinguish the difference between the central nervous system and the peripheral nervous system 2. Interpret the correlation of brain chemistry and mental illness. 3. Distinguish between sensation and perception. 4. Discuss the Gestalt principles of perception 5. Interpret how the brain combines and organizes visual stimuli into meaningful perceptions. 6. Analyze the four main perceptual constancies. 	
Readings	Refer to course	
Lectures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why Study the Biological Perspective? 2. Sensation versus Perception 	
Discussion	Optical Illusions	
Assignments	Individual Assignment	
Quiz	Refer to your course	
Week 3		States of Consciousness and Learning
Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the three main aspects of human attention 2. Contrast the primary theories of selective attention 3. Categorize various sleep disorders 4. Interpret the various theories of why dreams occur 5. Summarize the techniques of meditation and hypnosis 	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Differentiate between physical and psychological dependence 7. Compare and contrast the different types of psychoactive drugs and their effects
Readings	Refer to course
Lectures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Waking and Altered States of Consciousness 2. Modern Scientific Thoughts on Dreaming 3. Why Study Learning? 4. Operant Conditioning: Applications 5. Learned Helplessness
Discussion	Conditioning
Assignments	Skinner & Behaviorism
Preparation Work	Consider completing the outline and synopsis
Week 4	Memory
Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss the three key memory processes 2. Compare and contrast sensory, short-term, and long-term memory 3. Describe the different types of long-term memory 4. Identify ways in which memory can be improved 5. Explain the process of memory retrieval
Readings	Refer to course
Lectures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is memory? 2. Imperfect Memory
Discussion	Thinking Outside the Box
Assignments	Individual Assignment Part 1 of Final Project: Outline and synopsis of the interview.
Quiz	Refer to your course
Week 5	Cognition and Intelligence
Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss how mental images and concepts are involved with cognition. 2. Describe the various methods used to solve problems 3. Compare divergent and convergent thinking 4. Define and relate the different theories of intelligence 5. Identify various methods of measuring intelligence 6. Discuss various criticisms of IQ tests
Readings	Refer to your course

Lectures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why Study The Nature of Thought? 2. Emotional Intelligence and Current Research
Discussion	The Psychology of Solving Problems
Assignments	Individual Assignment
Week 6	Motivation and Emotion
Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Summarize the hierarchical conception of motivational theories 2. Distinguish between mechanistic approaches to motivation and approaches that involve cognition 3. Explain the relationship between motivation and emotion 4. Explain the neurological basis of emotions 5. Discuss the relationship between emotions and culture
Readings	Refer to your course
Lectures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Motivation 2. Emotion
Discussion	Motivation and the Business Environment
Assignments	Individual Assignment
Quiz	Refer to your course
Week 7	Personality
Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyze Erikson's theory of personality development 2. Compare and contrast the Neo-Freudian perspective with Freud's theory 3. Identify various methods used to assess personality 4. Discuss the differences between personality inventories and projective tests 5. Summarize the challenges and limitations of the various types of behavioral methods that are used to assess personality 6. Outline how trait theories of personality have evolved over time
Readings	Refer to course
Lectures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why Study Personality? 2. Assessments?
Discussion	Stages of Personality Development
Assignments	Individual Assignment Final Project Part 2
Week 8	Social Psychology

Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss the components of attitude formation and how attitudes can be changed 2. Interpret the four principles of the person perception process 3. Describe the fundamental attribution error and the self-serving bias 4. Relate how attitudes can effect behavior 5. Distinguish between stereotypes and prejudice and how one relates to the other 6. Summarize factors that contribute to anti-social and aggressive behavior
Readings	Refer to course
Lectures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is Social Psychology?
Discussion	Conformity and Compliance in Business
Assignment	No Assignment
Quiz	Refer to your course

Grading and Evaluation

Your grades will reflect the way in which you present and support your topics and positions in the various learning activities used in this course. The grades will be based on the quality and quantity of your comments and responses in the various activities.

Be sure to review the discussion and assignment rubrics in the course for specific grading criteria.

The various graded activities are weighted as follows:

Course Element	% of Final Grade
Assignments 1-6	20
Discussions	30
Quizzes	25
Minor Paper: Psychological Profile	10
Major Project: Psychological Study	15
Total	100%

Students will be expected to meet all the deadlines of the class as indicated throughout the course and in the syllabus. This is primarily so we don't get behind in the course. In addition, discussions cannot overlap from one week to the next. This is to ensure that all discussions and submissions take place within the week they are scheduled in order to be of value to the entire class as well as to help you not get behind. If there are extenuating circumstances, you will need to communicate that to the instructor and make arrangements accordingly, if appropriate.

Late Assignments: Exceptions are to be determined by the instructor on a case-by-case basis. There will be no opportunities for extra credit.

Learner Success Guidelines

These guidelines are provided to help you succeed in your coursework:

- Participate in the class introduction activity on the first day of class.
- Submit ALL assignments by the posted due dates and times.
- Check your emails daily.
- Contact Portal Help for logon problems or Canvas Help for technical issues with Canvas.
- Participate fully in all threaded discussions.
- Contact your instructor if you have questions about an assignment or need additional help completing your work successfully.

Academic dishonesty is grounds for dismissal from the program.

Academic Policies

The following Academic Policies can be found in the [Student Resource Center](#).

- Grading Criteria
- Reasonable Accommodations Policy
- Student Attendance Policy
- Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy
- Student Engagement and the Granting of Academic Credit
- Copyright Policy

Caveat

The above schedule, content, and procedures in this course are subject to change. All policies are superseded by the latest College Catalog available on our website:

<https://www.cambridgecollege.edu/student-rights-complaints-grievances/student-code-conduct>