



# PRAIRIE COLLEGE

## Online Education Course Syllabus for SS 210 INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

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3 Credit Hours

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### I. Course Description

In this course you will study the fundamental principles of human behavior and mental processes. You will learn to recognize and interpret various psychological theories and approaches, apply basic psychological principles and strategies to contemporary issues, accomplish a research project involving a major psychological concept and work cooperatively with classmates to begin to formulate an integrative approach to psychology.

### II. Course Rationale

This course is intended not only to provide you with an overview of the discipline of psychology upon which to build understandings for further study, but to form initial thoughts on the study of psychology from a Christian Biblical perspective. It is recognized that no problem is strictly psychological, social, physical or spiritual but when something goes wrong with one part of a unified individual, the whole being is affected. Therefore, a critical examination of psychology and theology should lend toward an integrated view of the intersection of those disciplines and reinforce a holistic view of humanity.

### III. Course Objectives

Completion of this course should enable you, through tests, assignments, discussion and a research project to...

1. demonstrate the use of appropriate terminology in discussing psychological principles and issues.
2. demonstrate familiarity with common psychological theories.
3. interpret and apply basic psychological principles and theories.
4. demonstrate appreciation of an integrated view of psychology and theology.
5. use critical thinking strategies in analyzing psychological issues.
6. apply principles of psychological inquiry to a research project.

### IV. Required Textbook

Myers, David G. (2019) Exploring Psychology in Modules – 11<sup>th</sup> Edition. Worth Publishers:  
New York, NY.

The student may rent or purchase the e-text at: <https://www.vitalsource.com/products/exploring-psychology-in-modules-david-g-myers-c-nathan-v9781319129668>

## V. Performance Evaluation

Course Objective	Requirement/Assessment Strategy	Weight
1, 2, 3	Module Tests	20%
1, 2, 3, 4	Section Exams (3)	35%
1, 2, 3, 4	Final Exam	15%
2, 3, 4, 5	Integration Reading Paper	10%
1, 2, 3, 5, 6	Applied Research Project	20%

## VI. Course Requirements

### A. Module Tests (Online, Open book) (20%)

The student is responsible to study the specified module of the textbook, to answer the questions in the online test and submit the test for grading. The module tests can be accessed on Brightspace. You will be given instruction and access to this site. The use of open-text tests is to encourage the student's interaction with key concepts and theories in each module. The submission of these tests for grading will assist the student in evaluating where there are gaps in the understanding of concepts.

### B. Section Exams (Online, Closed Book, 35%)

At the culmination of each Learning Section, the student will take a Section Exam that will encompass the key points discussed in that Learning Section. You will be given instruction as to the procedures for these exams.

### C. Final Exam (Online, Closed Book, 15%)

The exam will be on selected textbook modules. Exam content will include:

Multiple Choice:

Modules 3, 4 and 5 - Neural & Hormonal Systems and the Brain

Modules 19, 20 & 21 - Learning

Modules 35, 36 & 37 - Social Psychology

Modules 38 and 39 - Personality

Short Answer: Theories of Piaget, Kohlberg and Erickson (Modules 11 & 12)

Short Essay: Human need and the integration of psychology and Christianity from readings and the Integration paper.

### D. Integration Reading Paper (10%)

The student will submit a paper based on reading and reflection from the following two articles:

Goehring, M. M. (2003). Christianity, Psychology, and Biography: This Much I Know. *Journal Of Psychology & Christianity*, 22(1), 71.

Johnson, E. L. (2011). The Three Faces of Integration. *Journal Of Psychology & Christianity*, 30(4), 339-355.

These two articles can be accessed through links on the Brightspace course page. Other articles or books may be used to supplement your thoughts but are not required. The paper should include:

- A short introduction that indicates a rationale and direction for the paper.
- A section stating your stance and opinion on the integration of psychology and Christianity using the rationale provided in the 2 articles.
- A section stating the strengths and weaknesses of your stance and opinion.

- A short conclusion that summarizes the paper.

Make sure that within the paper, you reference all ideas and thoughts that are not originally yours (as shown below). Please do not use any direct quotations. All the writing should be in your own words. The paper should be 4 to 5 pages in length, double spaced, 12 point font with a separate title and reference pages.

**E. Applied Research Project (20%)**

Each student will present an individual paper on an applied research study that they have designed and implemented, with the following guidelines:

1. Must be in one or more of the topic areas as follows: Section 3 – Sensation and Perception; Learning, Section 4 – Memory; Thinking, Language & Intelligence; Motivation & Emotion, Section 5 – Stress, Health and Human Flourishing; Personality, and Section 6 – Social Psychology (not including Psychological Disorders or Therapy). Please note that the research is to be a person-to-person sampling and not an internet sampling.
2. The individual student's research instrument will be in the form of a survey.
3. The paper should consist of the following elements:
  - a. The body of the paper (not including Title page and Works Cited) should be 5-7 pages in length, double-spaced, 12 point font.
  - b. Paper should include a separate Title page and Works Cited page with appropriate referencing. Works Cited should contain a minimum of 5 references that include the course textbook, and at least 4 other book, journal, or internet sources that are cited correctly in the body of your paper.
  - c. Content Headings must include:
    - I. Project Abstract – a brief (80 words or less) summary of the project including study question, process and result.
    - II. Project Literature Review – What is the study you're doing (include the question you are wanting to research)? Why are you doing it? What other research, theories or understandings currently exist that validate and support your project.
    - III. Project Hypothesis – on the basis of your literature review and your research question, what are the outcomes you expect previous to the research being carried out?
    - IV. Project Subject(s) and Process – Who is the subject of your study? What is the context (setting), the time frame and how are you going about the study. Is it a Quais-Experiment or a survey? Give a brief synopsis of the content of your research instrument.
    - V. Project Results – What were the results of the study? This is a compilation and comparison of your data only.
    - VI. Project Conclusions – What do you conclude from the results about the project's question and hypothesis? What do the results prove? Give an application of your conclusion(s) to a real life situation.
4. For additional resources on paper format see the PC Writer's Guide on the Registrar's webpage: <https://prairie.edu/current-students/registrars-office/>.

## VII. Academic Policies

- A. Plagiarism is an academic offence in which a student presents another person's work as their own. There are penalties outlined in Prairie's Academic Guide found at <https://prairie.edu/current-students/registrars-office/>.
- B. Prairie College's timeline for grading and assignment feedback is 7-10 days. The instructor will endeavour to respond to student communications within 2 days excluding weekends, holidays, and vacation time.
- C. Prairie College Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Number Grade	Rating	Point Value
A+	90-100		4.0
A	85-89	Excellent	4.0
A-	80-84		3.7
B+	77-79		3.3
B	73-76	Good	3.0
B-	70-72		2.7
C+	67-69		2.3
C	63-66	Satisfactory	2.0
C-	60-62		1.7
D+	55-59		1.3
D	50-54	Poor	1.0
F	0-49	Failure	0.0
P	-----	Pass	
AU	-----	Audit	
I	-----	Incomplete	
W	-----	Withdrew	

Numerical course grades are not rounded.

### VIII. Learning Section Divisions

Section	Myers Unit Title	Myers Module	Assignments Due
1	Thinking Critically With Psychological Science <i>(not tested)</i>	1 – The History & Scope of Psychology 2 – Research Strategies: How Psychologists Ask & Answer Questions	
2	The Biology of Behavior	3 – Neural & Hormonal Systems 4 – Tools of Discovery & Older Brain Structures 5 – The Cerebral Cortex & our Divided Brain 6 – Genetics, Evolutionary Psych & Behavior <i>(not tested)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Module 3 Test</li> <li>▪ Module 4/5 Test</li> </ul>
	Consciousness and the Two-Track Mind <i>(not tested)</i>	7 – Consciousness: Some Basic Concepts 8 – Sleep and Dreams 9 – Drugs and Consciousness	
	Developing Through the Life Span	10 – Developmental Issues, Prenatal Development, and the Newborn 11 – Infancy and Childhood 12 – Adolescence 13 – Adulthood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Module 10/11 Test</li> <li>▪ Module 12/13 Test</li> </ul>
	Sex, Gender, and Sexuality <i>(not tested)</i>	14 – Gender Development 15 – Human Sexuality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Section 2 Exam</b></li> </ul>
3	Sensation & Perception	16 – Basic Concepts of Sensation and Perception 17 – Vision: Sensory and Perceptual Processing 18 – The Nonvisual Senses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Module 16/17/18 Test</li> </ul>
	Learning	19 – Basic Learning Concepts & Classical Conditioning 20 – Operant Conditioning 21 – Biology, Cognition, and Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Module 19/20/21 Test</li> </ul>
4	Memory	22 – Studying and Encoding Memories 23 – Storing and Retrieving Memories 24 – Forgetting, Memory Construction & Improving Memory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Module 22/23/24 Test</li> <li>▪ <b>Integration Reading Paper</b></li> </ul>
	Thinking, Language & Intelligence	25 – Thinking 26 – Language and Thought 27 – Intelligence & Its Assessment <i>(not tested)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Module 25/26 Test</li> </ul>
	Motivation and Emotion	28 – Genetic and Environmental Influences on Intelligence <i>(not tested)</i> 29 – Basic Motivational Concepts, Affiliation, and Achievement 30 – Hunger 31 – Theories and Physiology of Emotion 32 – Expressing and Experiencing Emotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Module 29/30 Test</li> <li>▪ Module 31/32 Test</li> <li>▪ <b>Section 3/4 Exam</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Initial Research Update</b></li> </ul>
5	Stress, Health, & Human Flourishing Social Psychology	33 – Stress and Illness 34 – Health and Happiness 35 – Social Thinking and Social Influence 36 – Antisocial Relations 37 – Prosocial Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Module 33/34 Test</li> <li>▪ Module 35 Test</li> <li>▪ Module 36/37 Test</li> </ul>
6	Personality	38 – Classic Perspectives on Personality 39 – Contemporary Perspectives on Personality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Module 38/39 Test</li> <li>▪ <b>Section 5/6 Exam</b></li> </ul>

	Psychological Disorders <i>(not tested)</i>  Therapy <i>(not tested)</i>	40 – Basic Concepts of Psychological Disorders 41 – Anxiety Disorders, OCD, and PTSD 42 – Major Depressive Disorder and Bipolar Disorder 43 – Schizophrenia and Other Disorders 44 – Introduction to Therapy and the Psychological Therapies 45 – The Biomedical Therapies & Preventing Psychological Disorders	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Applied Research Project</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Final Exam</b></li> </ul>