



General Psychology

Course Syllabus PSY 101.50 Fall 2019 (Split A Term)
General Education Course: SBS/Individuals & Communities

Instructor: Dr. Brooke Bennett-Day
Class meets: Online; Once-weekly live chat times TBA
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Office hours: MW 1-2:30; T 3-5pm (virtual or in person)

Textbook: Myers and DeWall (2018). Psychology (12th ed; ebook)
Additional materials, as well as announcements and schedule changes will be posted on Canvas. This course also makes use of [LaunchPad](#), an interactive site associated with our textbook. LaunchPad is integrated with our course page, so you should be able to access it directly through links provided in the weekly modules. Wesleyan students will receive the code needed to sign up through the textbook program. Access to your ebook comes as part of the LaunchPad site.

Course Description and Objectives

This course will provide you with a general introduction to the field of psychology. At the end of this semester, a student in this course should be able to

- Recognize the major perspectives within the field of psychology and identify findings relevant to those perspectives.
- Use theories and research findings to describe and predict behavior and mental processes, both in laboratory and real life settings.
- Explain the role of behavioral research techniques in creating a scientific study of psychology.
- Summarize and interpret articles based on psychological research.

Classroom Expectations

Online courses offer great flexibility for students who have busy schedules. Please keep in mind, though, that “online” does not equal easy! The most effective online courses are not self-paced independent studies but highly interactive, collaborative learning environments where we can hold in-depth conversations, ask hard questions, and share our work in progress—just as we would if we were meeting face-to-face. Being successful in an online course at Wesleyan requires careful time management, attention to detail, a willingness to ask for help when you need it, and the ability to read detailed instructions and work independently.

Because we will not be meeting together in a traditional classroom, you will be responsible for participating and demonstrating your understanding of course material in different ways: through our weekly live chat sessions, discussion forums, and online assignments.

To ensure that you are participating fully and successfully in this course, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- ✓ You should join each discussion forum and live chat activity on time and prepared to participate fully in class discussions and collaborative activities. Always have on hand your textbook, notebooks, pens/pencils, and any other materials requested by your professor. Frequent tardiness, absences, low participation, and/or unpreparedness may result in a lower course grade.
- ✓ Your professor will offer at a real-time meeting in our virtual classroom each week. These live chat sessions are a vital opportunity for you to ask questions, ensure you are on track with your understanding, and interact with your classmates and professor—just as you would in a face-to-face classroom. Weekly live chat attendance is flexible, but missing a live chat session is the same as missing class time. Please be aware you are responsible for all information, instructions, and discussion points covered during the sessions regardless of whether you attended. You should aim to attend a minimum of five live chats over the course of the term, but attending more often will boost your overall performance in this course. If for some reason you cannot attend a weekly live chat session, you should plan to review the recording and complete a Live Chat Exit Ticket by the end of the week. The recording and Live Chat exit ticket info will be linked from the same page where the weekly chat information is posted. A live chat scheduling poll and further instructions will be provided prior to the start of class, with results shared in the first few days.
- ✓ You should initiate communication with your professor when help or extensions are needed and resolve any technical issues as soon as possible.
- ✓ You should check your Wesleyan email daily and respond to your professor's e-mail requests within 24 hours (sooner would be better).

- ✓ Every week you will have reading and assignments to be completed. As a rule of thumb, you should expect to spend 6–7 hours each week participating in forum discussions, attending (or reviewing the recordings of) live chat sessions, studying independently, and completing homework. Be sure to plan your weekly schedule carefully to ensure you have adequate time to complete course activities and assignments thoroughly and on time.
- ✓ Meeting scheduled deadlines is essential. You are expected to submit assignments in a timely and regular fashion without reminders from your professor. Don't wait until the last minute because computer problems, last minute disasters, and sudden outages DO happen!

Academic Honor Code

The Honor Code is the foundation upon which life in the Wesleyan College community is built. Academic violations of the Honor Code include, but are not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, inventing or falsifying information, turning in work for more than one class without authorization, or helping someone else violate the Honor Code. Students must self-report academic violations of the Honor Code to the faculty member teaching the class. If a student knows of an academic violation of the Honor Code by another student, she must report that violation to the faculty member if the student does not self-report.

I do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of cheating within my courses. Instances of either on assignments will result in a zero for that assignment, with possible further repercussions as per college guidelines. Be aware that your summaries of research findings should be in your own words, just like everything else. All academic violations of the Honor Code will also be reported to the Provost, who may impose additional penalties for repeat offenders. Repeat offenders will be sent to Honor Council by the Provost, who may impose additional social penalties. For more information on how the Honor Code works, including the appeals process, refer to *The Wesleyanne: Student Handbook*.

A note on online exams: the online environment restricts my ability to monitor your use of notes and the text during test-taking. Thus, I don't feel comfortable setting up an environment where some students may perform better than others, simply because they felt cheating was okay. So my rules for online exams are only that you cannot work with anyone else, but you may use any of your own course materials when taking exams. Given that you may be taking the exams at different points in time, using other students' notes is explicitly forbidden. You also may not have outside help with any exam. Either of these forms of cheating may result in your failure of the course. Please don't mistake open-book/notes

exams for easy exams. The exams will be timed and will involve application questions (not just definitional ones); if you haven't studied in advance it is unlikely you will be able to do well on the exam.

Students with Disabilities

Wesleyan College is committed to equal education, full participation and access to facilities for all students. Any student who requires reasonable academic accommodations, use of auxiliary aids or facility access for a class must first register with Disability Resources by contacting Jill Amos, (478) 757-3800 or jamos@wesleyancollege.edu. If reasonable accommodations are established, students should request Accommodation Letters from Disability Resources then schedule an appointment to meet with the professor to determine how the accommodations will be implemented for each class as early in the semester as possible. Accommodations require advance notice to implement and will not be retroactively administered for the semester. Accommodations that decrease the integrity of a course will not be approved.

Virtual Classroom & Forum Behavior

Civility in the Academic Community:

Students, faculty, and staff are expected to treat one another with respect in all interactions. In the classroom, rude, disruptive and/or disrespectful behaviors as determined by a faculty member interfere with other students' rights and with the professor's ability to teach. Therefore, any student exhibiting unacceptable behaviors during a class will be asked to leave and will be counted absent for that class period. Failure to cooperate with this process will result in disciplinary action that may include withdrawal from the class or dismissal from the College. Violations will be reported to the Provost.

Privacy in the Classroom:

In order to promote an environment in which ideas may be freely expressed, the interior office and classroom spaces at Wesleyan are private spaces. The unauthorized creation of photographic images, audio, or video recordings of students or faculty in these spaces is considered to be disruptive behavior which may result in a student's removal from class according to the professor's discretion. The distribution of any such recordings of students or faculty without the express written permission of the College is strictly prohibited and is subject to disciplinary action by the Provost of the College.

Personal Electronic Devices:

Electronic devices (such as televisions, cell phones, tablets, and iPods) may not be used during live chat time, group work, or individual appointments. All devices must be turned off (or in silent mode) and stowed out of sight. Remember to stay with your professor in the virtual classroom at all times (no

toggling between Internet windows!) unless instructed to do otherwise.

Grading and Exams

Exams (225 pts total). There will be three equally weighted exams (75 points each), consisting of multiple choice questions. The exam will be timed, with 1.5 minutes allowed for each of the 50 items. I realize this might sound brief, but it is longer than the standard recommended time per question, and will be plenty of time. Exams will be taken within a provided window of time. If extenuating circumstances impact your ability to take it within that window, please contact me ASAP.

Exams will be taken on the dates below between Thurs 8am and Friday at 11:59pm.

Exam 1 (Ch P-3; 5) will be open Sept 5th-6th

Exam 2 (Ch 6-8; 10) will be open from Sept 26th-27th

Exam 3 (Ch 13-16) will be open from Dec 10th-11th

Be sure to give yourself enough time to complete each exam so that you don't get locked out of the system. I will send an email reminder regarding each exam. Given that the window in which to take the exam is pretty broad, I can't guarantee that I'm always right by my phone should an issue arise. However, I will plan on checking in frequently to the extent that I can. Texts or emails sent after 10pm may not receive a response until the next day.

Written assignments (50 pts total). There are two additional readings assigned at various points in the semester that come with a written assignment. These will be graded on content, depth of thought, and grammar. Remember to proofread your work before turning it in. Written assignments are due on the dates shown below. Late assignments may be turned in, with a 10% per day late penalty. Turn these in via the online upload on our class site. Acceptable file formats include Word, google doc, or PDF. Additional details will be provided on these.

Written assignment 1 (Creating false memories) – due on Sept 19th (Thurs) at 11:59pm

Written assignment 2 (Depressingly easy) – due on Oct 3rd (Thurs) at 11:59pm

Discussion board (35pts total). Each full week there will be a question to respond to on the discussion board. For this class, these posts are just a way to get to know each other a little better, and check in with your thoughts on the material. Each week's participation on the discussion board can earn a potential 5 points, including your initial post and two responses as requested for that week. Initial posts are due on Mondays, in order to give everyone time to respond to each others' ideas before the week closes out on Thursday night. See the separate guidelines for discussion board posts on Canvas.

Launchpad activities (55 pts total). Your textbook publisher offers a collection of materials that can greatly aid in your understanding of the content. Think of

these as the way you'll get add to, or refine, your understanding of psychology. One of the most useful assignments in this section is called LearningCurve. It's an adaptive quizzing program that presents randomly selected questions from a section; it provides you the chance to read up on items you're not sure about without any penalty, and in the end produces a guide to show what areas you'll want to focus your studying on. Each of these assignments is worth 1 point toward your total; while this doesn't seem like much, I'd like you to think of these as akin to participation in a course session. Completing these will help you earn a better grade on your exams and papers.

You should plan on taking around 20 minutes to complete most of these. The LearningCurve quizzes will likely take longer, but this will vary based on the extent to which you need to check your understanding of concepts before responding to items. In fact, expect that the bulk of your time during the week will come from working through these activities and watching the videos that are interspersed among them. I've carefully selected all of the resources to cover our assigned content. Don't feel as though you need to read the textbook completely first; instead, use the textbook as a resource when you find that you need to fill in gaps in your understanding.

Live chat (40 pts total). Each week will have a live chat associated with it. Within each week, you'll notice that I have a feature topic. Make sure that you've reviewed that material prior to the chat, as we'll be working primarily with that. Depending on the week, we might also be incorporating some exam review, reflection about a past exam, or preparation for an upcoming paper. There will be more info on how to participate in the live chat on Canvas, along with details on how to earn your points if you have to miss a chat.

So, with a grand total of 405 possible points, the grading scale is as follows:

A	=	363-405 points (90-100%)			
B	=	322-362 points (80-89%)	D	=	241-281 points (60-69%)
C	=	282-321 points (70-79%)	F	=	below 241 (< 60%)

Potential Changes to Course Syllabus and/or Course Schedule

The following class schedule is a general plan for the course. You will find more detailed instructions for each week's activities and assignments on our Canvas course site. Deviations may be necessary, depending on students' learning needs, and will be announced in advance via announcement and/or e-mail. Students should check their course site announcements and Wesleyan e-mail accounts at least once every twenty-four hours during the semester to watch for updates regarding this class. Students should also respond to all emails from the professor within twenty-four hours.

Class schedule

Our typical online week will run Friday through Thursday to allow you the weekends for independent reading and studying as you choose. Each Friday morning, you will find all of the upcoming week's course work posted on our course site. Make it a habit to take some time on Fridays to log in to our course site and look over your next set of readings, assignments, and deadlines so you may plan your study time accordingly. Please note our first "week" is a short one in order to get us onto that Fri-Thurs schedule.

Week 1 (Aug 19th-22nd)

Getting acquainted with each other, our course, and with LaunchPad.

Chapter: Prologue

Graded assignments: Launchpad, Live Chat

Week 2 (Aug 23rd-29th)

Psychological Methods + Our Brains

Chapters: 1 & 2

Graded assignments: Launchpad, Live Chat, Discussion Board

Week 3 (Aug 30th-Sept 5th)

Consciousness + Child and Adult Development

Chapters: 3 & 5

Graded assignments: Launchpad, Live Chat, Discussion Board, Exam 1

Week 4 (Sept 6th-Sept 12th)

Sensation and Perception + Learning

Chapters: 6 & 7

Graded assignments: Launchpad, Live Chat, Discussion Board,

Week 5 (Sept 13th-Sept 19th)

Memory

Chapter: 8

Graded assignments: Launchpad, Live Chat, Discussion Board, Written Assignment 1

Week 6 (Sept 20th-Sept 26th)

Intelligence

Chapter: 10

Graded assignments: Launchpad, Live Chat, Discussion Board, Exam 2

Week 7 (Sept 27th-Oct 3rd)

Social Psychology + Personality

Chapters: 13 & 14

Graded assignments: Launchpad, Live Chat, Discussion Board, Written Assignment 2

Week 8 (Oct 4th-Oct 11th)

Psychological Disorders + Therapy

Chapters: 15 & 16

Graded assignments: Launchpad, Live Chat, Discussion Board, Exam 3