



General Psychology PSY 101.50

Syllabus

Professor and Class Information:

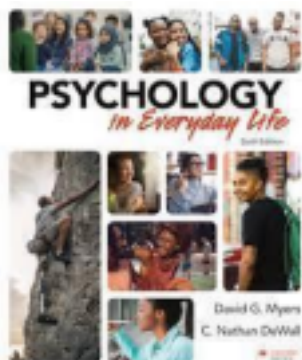
Instructor: Prof. Melissa Rodriguez-McClain

Email: mrodriguez@wesleyancollege.edu

Office: Virtual

Office Hours: By appointment

Class Location and Time: Online, weekly chat times



Textbook:

Myers and DeWall (2021). Psychology in Everyday Life (6th ed.)

Access to Achieve

Additional materials, as well as announcements and schedule changes, will be posted on Canvas. This course also uses Achieve, an interactive site associated with our textbook. Achieve is integrated with our course page on Canvas so that you can access it directly through the links provided in the weekly modules. The textbook rental that you receive through Wesleyan will include the code needed to sign up.

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 the 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.
- Describe ethical principles that guide psychologists in research and therapy.

Course structure:

This is an online course so we will not be meeting in person at any point during the course. Although online classes do have benefits, such as staying home in your PJs and working at your own pace, it is not going to be easier than a regular course. You must be more responsible and manage your time better than the average student in an in-person class. This class will take work that will often be self-directed

and self-motivated. You should expect to spend **MORE** time working on an online class than you do in an in-person class. That said, I will do my best to help you stay on track.

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.

Course Expectations

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 be prepared to participate fully in class discussions and collaborative activities. Always have on hand your 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.
- ✓ I will offer a real-time meeting in our virtual classroom each week via Zoom. These live chat sessions are a vital opportunity 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 six live chats over 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 before 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 readings, videos, 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. Canvas will be set to automatically deduct **5% off for every day an assignment is submitted late.** Don't wait until the last minute because computer problems, last-minute disasters, and sudden outages DO happen! The only exception to this rule will be extreme unforeseen emergencies (hospitalization, family

emergencies, etc.). It is your responsibility to contact me within 2 days of any such emergency to work out a new deadline for the assignment(s).

Campus-Wide Policies:

Information on campus-wide policies can be found using [this link](#). This includes information on the Academic Honor Code, Civility in The Classroom Procedures, Disabilities Statements, Dropping/Adding Policies, Privacy Policies, and COVID-19 policies. Please take a few minutes to review these policies as they will be upheld in our course.

In this class, violations of the Honor Code will, minimally, result in a zero on the assignment in question. Students who commit egregious or repeat violations will automatically fail the course with a zero. All academic violations of the Honor Code will also be reported to the Provost, who may impose additional penalties for repeat offenders, and Honor Council, 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 the use of notes and materials during test-taking. Thus, I don't feel comfortable setting up an environment where some students may perform better than others, simply because they feel cheating is okay. So my rules for online exams are only that you cannot work with anyone else, google answers, or use AI to help you with exams or assignments; however, you may use any of your own course materials, including handouts and the textbook. Given that you may be taking the exams at different times, using other students' notes is explicitly forbidden. You also may not have outside help with any exam (posting questions on Google or copying answers from any online source). Either of these forms of cheating may result in your course failure. 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.

AI Policy:

You can use AI programs like ChatGPT to help generate ideas and brainstorm. However, **you may not submit any AI-generated work as your own**. Any material you choose to include should be properly cited just like you would cite any human author. Plagiarism of AI-generated material and ideas will be treated like any other form of plagiarism (review campus-wide policies). AI is not peer-reviewed, so it does not count toward peer-reviewed references and it may be inaccurate, incomplete, or otherwise problematic. You will receive a 0 on any assignments with significant AI material used, and repeat offenses will receive more drastic penalties.

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 that 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.

Live Chats:

Please plan to turn on your camera during the live chat. I realize this may not always be possible, but it should be the expectation in Live Chats. It is not engaging for your classmates or your professor to have a discussion with a blank screen. Electronic devices (such as televisions, cell phones, tablets, and iPods) should not be used during live chat time, group work, or individual appointments. All devices should 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.

Late Work:

I have worked hard to provide you with a detailed list of due dates at the beginning of the semester, because of this, I expect you to plan ahead and turn in all assignments on time. There will be **an automatic 5% penalty for every day late** that work is submitted. If you are hospitalized or face another extreme emergency, please contact me about a short extension or the possibility of taking an incomplete in class. Since this is a short class (only 8 weeks) it is essential to stay current with all assignments.

Office Hours:

I will be available to meet with students virtually throughout the class. Please feel free to make an appointment whenever you have any questions about course material, study strategies, exam preparation, etc. I will plan to show up to our online chat early to answer any questions as needed, if it is a short question, feel free to pop in early to discuss things then rather than make an appointment. I want all my students to succeed, and I am happy to do what I can to help.

Assignments:

We will follow a routine weekly schedule so that everyone knows what to expect and how to spend their time. Each week we will have a discussion post, an online activity, a live session, and a reading quiz. This sounds like a lot of assignments, however, these are designed to be quick ways to engage in the material and are similar to what

Exams

There will be three equally weighted exams (75 points each), consisting of multiple-choice questions. The exam will be timed, with 1 minute allowed for each of the 50 items and 10 minutes for a buffer (one hour total). This might sound brief, but it is longer than the standard recommended time per question

and will be plenty of time if you study before the exam begins. Exams will be taken within a provided window of time. If extenuating circumstances impact your ability to take it within that window, you must contact me within 24 hours of missing the exam and provide documentation to make it up. All exams should be taken with a lockdown browser in place.

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

- Exam 1 will be open August 31st – September 1st
- Exam 2 will be open from September 22nd – September 23rd
- Exam 3 will be open from October 5th – October 6th

Be sure to give yourself enough time to complete each exam so you don't get locked out of the system. 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 or laptop should an issue arise. However, I will plan on frequently checking emails to the extent I can.

Written assignments

There are two written assignments in the course based on two articles that cover topics of interest in the course. 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. Files should be turned in as doc or docx files (Word documents) and will be processed through the Turnitin program. Additional details will be provided on these.

- Written assignment 1 (Creating false memories) – due on September 15th(Friday) at 11:59pm
- Written assignment 2 (Depressingly easy) – due on September 29th(Friday) at 11:59pm

Discussion Board

Discussion Board (70 pts total) Each week, there will be a question to respond to on the discussion board. For our class, these posts are a way to get to know each other better and check in with your thoughts on the material. Each week's participation on the discussion board can earn a potential 10 points, including your initial post and two responses as requested for that week. Initial posts are due on Mondays, to give everyone time to respond to each other's ideas before the week closes out on Friday night.

Online Activities

Achieve activities (70 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 to 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 allows you 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. Completing these assignments will help you earn a better grade on your exams and papers.

Each of the Achieve activities are worth 1-5 points; while this doesn't seem like much, I'd like you to think of these as akin to participation in a course session. Every week, you will have the opportunity to earn at least 10 points in the Achieve activities. Some weeks will have more potential points (15, for example). This is to give you options and an opportunity to make-up a missed point during that week. Any additional points you earned in Achieve activities each week will be added to your weekly grade as bonus points. **I will count your highest 7 weeks of Achieve activities for a total of 70 points.**

You should plan on taking around 20 minutes to complete most of these, however, some will take less time and some may take more. The LearningCurve quizzes will likely take longer, but this will vary based on how much you need to check your understanding of concepts before responding to items. 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.

Weekly Quizzes

Practice Quizzes (70 pts total). Each week you will complete a quiz through Achieve over the materials assigned that week. This assignment is designed to help you review the material and encourage you to read the assigned materials each week deeply.

Live chats

Practice Quizzes (60 pts total) Each week will have a live chat associated with it. Within each week's module on Canvas, you'll notice that I have a feature topic. Ensure that you've reviewed that material before the chat, as we'll be working primarily with that. Depending on the week, we might incorporate 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 and details on earning your points if you have to miss a chat.

Extra Credit Points

Extra credit points may be offered throughout the semester in various ways, most frequently through optional Achieve learning activities. These opportunities will be announced in live chat sessions or posted on Canvas. ***There will be no make-ups offered for extra credit points.*** These extra credit points are only available when you are in the given Live Chat or by checking Canvas on a regular basis. This is to encourage you to stay engaged in the class! I don't think it is entirely coincidental that the students who earned A's in previous semesters solely on the basis of their assignments alone had also received almost all of the extra credit points!

Grades:

Assignments	Amount Total
Exams	3 at 75 points each 225 points

Written Assignments	2 at 30 points each 60 points
Discussion Boards	7 at 10 points each 70 points
Online Activities	7 at 10 points each 70 points
Weekly Chapter Quizzes	7 at 10 points each 70 points
Live Chats	6 at 10 points each 60 points
Total	555 points

Note: You will be able to drop one Discussion Board, one Online Activity, one Weekly Quiz, and one Live Chat meeting. This is designed to help everyone replace a bad grade, a forgotten assignment, or a missed assignment due to life circumstances (emergencies, vacation, etc.)

Final grades will be based on the points earned during the semester. Below are the cutoffs for each letter grade:

555 total points possible:

499.5 or over = A

444 - 499 = B

388.5 - 443 = C

333 - 388 = D

Less than 333 = F

Class schedule

Our typical online week will run Friday through Friday 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 coursework 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 Friday-Friday schedule.

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. Depending on students' learning needs and unforeseeable circumstances, deviations may be necessary and will be announced in advance via announcement and/or email.

Week-by-week Schedule

Week 1

- Topics: Getting acquainted with each other, our course, and Psychology.
- Chapter: 1.1

- Graded assignments: Quiz, Online Activity, Discussion Board, and Live Chat

Week 2

- Topics: Research methods used in Psychology
- Chapters: 1 and 2.1
- Graded assignment: Quiz, Online Activity, Discussion Board, and Live Chat

Week 3

- Topics: How our brains work and perceive the world
- Chapters: 2 & 5.1
- Graded assignments: Quiz, Online Activity, Discussion Post, Live Chat, and **Exam 1**

Week 4

- Topics: Learning through experience and others
- Chapters: 6
- Graded assignments: Quiz, Online Activity, Discussion Board, and Live Chat

Week 5

- Topic: Memory and Development
- Chapter: 7 and Chapter 3 (You can skip 3.4 and 3.5)
- Graded assignments: Quiz, Online Activity, Discussion Board, Live Chat, and **Written Assignment 1**

Week 6

- Topic: Living in a Social World
- Chapter: 11
- Graded assignments: Quiz, Online Activity, Discussion Board, Live Chat, and **Exam 2**

Week 7

- Topic: The Importance of Understanding Personality
- Chapters: 12 and 13.1
- Graded assignments: Quiz, Online Activity, Discussion Board, and **Written Assignment 2** *No
Live chat in week 7

Week 8

- Topics: Psychological Disorders + Therapy
- Chapters: 13 & 14
- Graded assignments: Quiz, Online Activity, Discussion Board, Live Chat, and **Exam 3**