

# Psychology 1100 Honors

## General Psychology (Honors). Syllabus, Fall 2009

### College of DuPage

Instructor: Ken Gray  
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### Office Hours

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
8:30-10:00	8:30-11:00	8:30-10:00	8:30-11:00
		1:00-3:00	

Because I am often meeting with people, it is safest to make an appointment with me during my office hours (although you are welcome to drop by). I can also meet outside of my regular office hours by appointment.

### Text

The textbook is a book that I have written. It is not available in the COD Bookstore. Students will be ordering it directly from University Readers ([www.universityreaders.com](http://www.universityreaders.com)). Although you can order it before the start of the semester, instructions will be provided on the first day of the semester. When you order it online, you will be able to download a portion of the book, so you can begin reading right away.

We will also be using the i-Clicker student response system for attendance and class activities. I will be providing i-Clickers for the class. Every day when you arrive in class, you should pick up your assigned i-Clicker from me.

### Course Description (from COD course catalog)

A survey of the study of behavior and mental processes with emphasis on the scientific nature of contemporary psychological investigation. Topics discussed include research methods, the biology of behavior, sensation and perception, stress and adjustment, learning, memory, cognition, motivation, emotion, life-span development, personality, abnormal behavior and its therapies, social behavior, and individual differences. (3 lecture hours)

## Course Objectives

By taking, and actively participating in, this course you will:

- learn about the major subfields and topic areas in psychology.
- understand how psychological principles apply to real life situations.
- learn to think critically about psychology and about research in general.
- appreciate the study of psychology as a science.
- be prepared to take more advanced undergraduate courses in psychology.
- learn about some possible careers that can be launched with training in psychology.
- learn a little about yourselves and people you know.

## Blackboard/Web Page

This course will use the Blackboard course management system. With it, you will be able to access the syllabus and assignments, turn in assignments, download PowerPoint lectures of textbook material, check grades, and participate in online discussions, among other activities. Instructions for logging in to Blackboard will be provided in class. In addition, I have a web page at [www.cod.edu/grayke](http://www.cod.edu/grayke). The web page contains links to my different courses, as well as advising information for psychology majors.

## Requirements

Exams	20% of final grade
Final Exam	10% of final grade
Research Project	20% of final grade
Reading-on-time points	10% of final grade
Assignments	10% of final grade
Attendance and Participation	30% of final grade

### Exams

There will be two in-class exams during the semester. They are not cumulative, and each is worth 10% of your final grade. The exams will contain multiple choice and essay questions, and will cover material from the text and lecture.

### Final Exam

There will be a 50-question in-class multiple-choice exam covering vocabulary from the entire semester. The list of terms will be handed out at the beginning of the semester. This is a standard College of DuPage exam that is required to be given in all Psychology 1100 classes. The Final Exam is worth 10% of your final grade.

### **Project-- Original Research Project**

You and a partner will select a research topic, do a brief literature review, generate at least one new hypothesis, and conduct a brief study. The final project is to be written up in APA format. The research project will be due on the last class day of the semester. Homework assignments and class activities will help prepare you to complete the project. Due dates for these intermediate assignments are listed on the course schedule (they will be described in class). The Research Project is worth 20% of your final grade.

### **Reading-on-time Points**

You are required to read textbook material by the dates listed on the schedule. After the day that the final section of each Unit is due, you are required to submit a Reading Response for the Modules and Windows in that Unit (specific dates are listed on the course schedule). The Reading Response must demonstrate that you have read and thought about the material, and it must be submitted through Blackboard. We will be discussing the material related to your reading responses in class at around the same time. Reading-on-time points are worth 10% of your final grade.

### **Assignments**

Several homework projects may be assigned throughout the term. Included among the assignments is **Independent Choice Hours**. You will be required to complete 8 hours of assignments that you choose. Together, the assignments are worth 10% of your final grade.

### **Attendance and Participation**

It is not possible to achieve the course objectives if you do not attend and participate in class. As a result, you are expected to attend class every day and participate actively in discussions and classroom exercises. If you miss 11 class meetings (approximately 25% of classes), it will be impossible to earn a passing grade in this class. If you miss 6 classes before mid-semester (Oct 19), you will be automatically withdrawn from the class. If your total absences for the semester reach 8 at any point, you will fail the class, unless you are granted permission to withdraw (see Withdrawal Policy below).

Once during the semester, you will **lead the class in a lecture or discussion** as a member of a small group. Attendance and participation are worth 30% of your final grade.

## **Grading Scale**

90% and up	A
80% - 89%	B
70% - 79%	C
60% - 69%	D
59% and below	F

## Withdrawal Policy

I will withdraw students who are failing to make progress in the course at Mid-Semester. After Mid-Semester (Oct 19), permission to withdraw from the course will be granted on a case-by-case basis.

## Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty, such as cheating and plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Students who are caught may be penalized up to the level of receiving a failing grade in the course. In addition, all cases will be referred to the Office of Student Affairs for possible further action. For more information, read the College's statements on Student Rights and Responsibilities and Course-Related Academic Integrity (COD Catalog 2007-2009, pp. 51-52).

## Course-Related Communication

All students are expected to use their College of DuPage email accounts and Blackboard for course-related electronic communication. I occasionally send out messages to the whole class through these systems, and if you do not use them, you will miss these messages. In addition, if you choose to not use the COD system, your email messages to me are more likely to be removed by the college's junk mail filter. Please see me if you would like any assistance getting started with your COD email or Blackboard.

You will be able to hand in most assignments through Blackboard. If you choose to use email to submit work, it is at your own risk. Emailed work that does not reach my inbox will be counted as missing.

## Research Disclosure

From time to time, I conduct research on teaching methods to improve your educational experiences. Please be assured that all data will be kept completely confidential, and participation will not affect your grade. If you have any questions or concerns about this policy, please feel free to contact me.