

Psychology 1100

General Psychology. 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 text 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). 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. If you pick up another student's i-Clicker when they are absent and click in for them, I will consider it an instance of academic dishonesty and will deal with it accordingly (see below).

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. The web page contains links to my different courses, as well as advising information for psychology majors.

Requirements

Unit Exams	40% of final grade
Final Exam	10% of final grade
Cumulative Quizzes	10% of final grade
Reading-on-time points	10% of final grade
Assignments	15% of final grade
Attendance and Participation	15% of final grade

Unit Exams

There will be three in-class exams during the semester. They are not cumulative, and each is worth 13.33% of your final grade. The exams will contain multiple-choice and essay questions and will cover material from the text, class activities, and lectures.

Final Exam

There will be a 50-question multiple-choice exam covering terms and concepts 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.

Exam Dates:

	MWF 11:00 section	TuTh 11:00 section	TuTh 12:30 section
Exam 1 (Units 1 and 2)	Oct 5	Oct 1	Oct 1
Exam 2 (Units 3 and 4)	Nov 4	Nov 3	Nov 3
Exam 3 (Units 5 and 6)	Dec 7	Dec 8	Dec 8
Final Exam	Dec 16 11:00 – 12:50	Dec 17 11:00 – 12:50	Dec 15 12:00 – 1:50

Cumulative Quizzes

To help prepare you for the final exam, there will be two quizzes during the semester covering material from earlier in the semester. The dates for these quizzes will be announced in class. Each quiz is worth 5% of your final grade.

Reading-on-time Points

You are required to read textbook material by the dates listed on the schedule. There are 2 different ways that you can demonstrate that you have read the required material, thus earning these points.

- **Reading check quizzes.** The simplest way is to earn a high enough score on Reading Check Quizzes. These will be several short quizzes that will be given throughout the semester (plan for approximately one every week and a half). The quizzes will be given at the beginning of class when a reading assignment is due. The quizzes are intended to ensure that you read prior to class, and to assess your understanding of the text material. Grading will be all-or-none. If your quiz score is at least 70% of the highest score in the class, you receive full credit. If your score is below 70% or if you are absent the day of the quiz, you do not receive any credit for that quiz. Quizzes will be scored immediately in class, and I will use the results to help decide the day's activities.
- **Written summary of reading material.** If you do not earn a high enough score on the reading check quiz (or are absent the day it is given), you may submit a summary of the assigned reading material. The summary must demonstrate that you read the material, and it is **due no later than one class day after the quiz**. Summaries must be submitted through Blackboard.

Reading-on-time points are worth 10% of your final grade.

Assignments

There will be several homework projects assigned throughout the semester. Three of them will be:

- **Personal Connection assignment.** You will turn in 6 personal experiences or observations that illustrate psychological concepts from the course. The Personal Connection assignment is due on the day of the last regular class meeting.
- **Independent choice assignment.** You are required to spend 8 hours throughout the semester on activities related to psychology that you choose. Details will be provided in class. The record of how you spent your time will be due on the day of the last regular class meeting.
- **Library Research assignment.** You will be writing a very short paper that compares psychological claims that you find on a website to scholarly research on the same topic. This assignment will be around the time of the second exam.

I will be giving more information about these three assignments during the semester. Keep in mind, there may be additional assignments given to you in class. The assignments are worth 15% of your final grade.

Attendance and Participation

It is not possible to achieve the course objectives if you do not attend class. As a result, you are expected to attend class every day and participate actively in discussions and classroom exercises. If you miss 25% of class meetings (11 class meetings for MWF sections, 8 class meetings for TTh sections), you will not be able to pass this course. If you are on pace to miss 25% of class meetings (6 missed class meetings for MWF sections, 4 missed class meetings for TTh sections) before mid-semester (Oct 19), you will be automatically withdrawn from the class. If your total absences for the semester reach the 25% cutoff (11 for MWF, 8 for TTh) at any point, you will fail the class, unless you are granted permission to withdraw (see Withdrawal Policy below).

Grading Scale

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

Exam Makeup Policy

You must notify me beforehand if you will miss an exam in order to be allowed to make it up. All makeups must be completed within one week of the original exam date. Please be aware that I might use alternative versions of exams as makeups.

Withdrawal Policy

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

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.**

Academic Assistance

If you are at risk of being unsuccessful in the class, you may be referred to a special support service being offered by the College. Any students who are having difficulty with the course should consider taking advantage of the services offered through the Academic Support Center. The Center offers tutoring services and reading assistance (help with reading comprehension, study skills, and organizing information). Most of the services that the Center offers are free.

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).

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 do not hesitate to contact me.