

Psychology 1101, Introductory Psychology – Syllabus, Spring 2007

Call number 57-966

MWF 11:15 am – 12:05pm, South PJ Auditorium

Instructor: Dr. Janet Frick

Office: 241 Psychology

Phone: 542-6790

Email: jfrick@uga.edu

Office Hours: by appointment (Tues/Thurs are more open)

Teaching Assistant (Last name A-K)

Melissa Dengler

Phone: 542-2174 (leave message)

Email: lilmiss@uga.edu

Teaching Assistant (Last name L-Z)

Jenny Reiss

Phone: 542-2174 (leave message)

Email: jreiss@uga.edu

*The course syllabus is a general plan for the course;
deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.*

General Course Information

Course Description

Psychology 1101 is the introductory survey course in psychology. One goal of this course is to familiarize you with the broad discipline of psychology, exploring important areas within the field and providing necessary background for future study. Another, perhaps more important, goal is to foster your critical thinking, as we examine not only the field of psychology but our own behavior and experience. I hope to spark your interest in the different domains of psychology, as well as the scientific method of examining the world around you with a critical eye, asking questions, and examining the many factors that affect people's behavior. I also hope to equip you with the skills you'll need to evaluate critically the many "psychological claims" that you hear in the media. Psychology is a discipline that covers some controversial and sensitive topics on which class members may have a diversity of opinions. In a university setting, it is essential that we treat the topics with appropriate scientific rigor, and class members' differing viewpoints with respect.

Required Textbook

Psychology: Themes and Variations by Wayne Weiten, 6th ed., Brief Paperback (2005). Bundled With Radio Frequency Response Cards. Thomson - Wadsworth publishers. ISBN 0495-086363 (NOTE: this is the ISBN to use for having it bundled with the radio frequency response cards, which are necessary)

Radio Frequency Response Cards. Thomson - Wadsworth publishers. ISBN: 0495-121320

These are only needed by students who buy a used copy of the text – you will need to buy one of these separately.

While the response cards are not "required", I plan to incorporate them into the lectures regularly, and I believe they will make your classroom experience more enlightening and enjoyable.

Some additional readings may be made available on webct.

Grading

There are 400 points available in the course. Grading is based on the following percentage scale:

A	93.00 - 100.00	C+	78.00 - 79.999
A-	90.00 - 92.999	C	73.00 - 77.999
B+	88.00 - 89.999	C-	70.00 - 72.999
B	83.00 - 87.999	D+	68.00 - 69.999
B-	80.00 - 82.999	D	60.00 - 67.999
		F	0 - 59.999

Borderline grades are not rounded up. Instructor decisions on grades are FINAL, and grades will **not** be changed except in cases of clerical error. Please do not ask me at the end of the semester to change your grade.

Exams:

There will be five exams in the course. These exams will be multiple choice. Questions may address anything discussed in class (lecture, films, demonstrations, etc) and anything in the assigned readings. They will each be worth 100 points. None of the first four exams are cumulative, but the fifth exam will have some cumulative material. Your lowest exam grade out of the first four exams will be dropped automatically. The fifth exam is **required** and cannot be dropped. **No make up exams will be given**, and exams will only be given during the scheduled time, unless you are participating in a university sponsored event and are required to be away from campus at the time of the exam (in which you will be allowed to take the exam early), or in the case of *extreme* extenuating circumstances (such as hospitalization or death; documentation will be required, and Dr. Frick must give approval). Normally, if you miss an exam, that will be the one that is dropped, so PLAN on taking all the exams then know that you can drop one if something comes up. If you miss more than one exam, there will be a cumulative makeup exam given during the final exam period (i.e., you will take the fifth exam **plus** a makeup exam during the final exam period, which is three hours long). If you miss the final exam, you will receive a grade of 0 on it. If you must be gone during an exam period, email Dr. Frick beforehand.

Exam Schedule – Specifics on the content covered on exam will be announced in class and posted on webct. Note that this schedule is subject to change (probably not more than 1 class period in either direction, though):

Exam 1: Friday, Feb 2 (Chapters 1-4)

Exam 2: Friday, Feb 23 (Chapters 5-7)

Exam 3: Friday, Mar 23 (Chapters 8-10)

Exam 4: Friday, April 13 (Chapters 11, 12, 15)

Exam 5: Monday May 7 from 12:00 – 3:00 pm (Chapters 13-14, plus some cumulative)

Research Participation

The Psychology Department has a policy that students in PSYC 1101 are required to complete 6.5 credit hours of research participation. You may complete this requirement through (a) participation in research experiments, or (b) writing summaries on psychology articles. You must complete this requirement, or I am required to assign you an “incomplete” (I) as your course grade -- there are NO EXCEPTIONS. If you receive an “I” and the research requirement is not completed in the following three semesters, the "I" is automatically converted to a grade of "F". This research requirement will be explained in detail in a handout you will receive, and further information is available online. Register for participation at <http://www.experimentrix.com/uga>. I do not give extra credit for participating in extra studies.

If you have questions about the research requirement, first read the syllabus and online information carefully. **The full RP handout is available online.** Most questions are answered there. If your question is not addressed there, then you can email the RP (research pool) coordinator at rp@uga.edu. That person, not Dr. Frick, is the only one

who can fix any problems. The research requirement is a departmental one, and I cannot resolve any problems you may be having.

Other Course Policies for PSYC 1101

Students with disabilities should see me as soon as possible, and provide a letter from the UGA Disability Services Office describing what special accommodations you might require. I will be happy to work with you in any way you need.

There is not an attendance policy. However, students who attend class regularly do better on exams.

A grade of **“incomplete”** is not an option except in extremely rare circumstances, and must be approved by the instructor. It is not an option if you are failing the course (see the Undergraduate Bulletin).

A **student may withdraw** from the class prior to the midpoint of the semester (March 1), but you are only guaranteed a grade of **“W”** if you are passing the course (see the Undergraduate Bulletin).

Attendance and preparation for class are expected. You are responsible for all class content and announcements whether you are present or not. It is important that you complete reading assignments before coming to class because lectures, discussions, and activities assume you are already familiar with the material.

It is expected that students will read the textbook thoroughly. There is not time in lecture to cover everything discussed in the book; lectures will be used to highlight important topics and go into more depth on difficult concepts, as well as having discussions, watching video clips, etc. Lectures will also cover some material not covered directly in the book. The exams will have questions from all course material, which includes the entire assigned textbook, all lecture and lab presentations, articles read, films, guest speakers, etc. It will be **VERY** difficult to get a good grade in the class without attending class and reading the textbook.

Professional behavior is expected, including demonstrating courtesy and respect for the instructor and for other students during class. This includes turning off cell phones, not reading the newspaper during class, etc. All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty" (available online). Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. Cheating on exams will not be tolerated. The minimum penalty for being found guilty of violating the academic honesty policy will be a grade of **“0”** on the affected exam with no opportunity for makeup; further penalties could include a note on your transcript, failing the class, or expulsion from the university.

Decisions about grades are made carefully, and are final at the end of the semester. Please do not contact the instructor about a grade change unless there has been a clerical error which you can document. Requests to change final grades are a waste of your time as well as mine. I do not give **“extra credit”** or makeup assignments at the end of the semester. Also, please note that any disputes about grades from earlier in the course must be resolved **before** **“reading day”** (in this case, before May 1). Once we arrive in the final exam period, your grade from earlier in the semester is set.

I am available to meet with you by appointment. I teach this semester at 11:15, 1:25, and 2:30, and often have 3:30 meetings on MWF, so my availability on MWF is fairly limited. Tuesdays and Thursdays are more open for longer meetings. Generally, go to your TA's first. I am teaching over 400 students this semester, so you should meet with your TA's for study help or for routine issues that arise. If you're unable to resolve the issue with the TA, feel free to contact me. Note that many routine questions are answered in this syllabus, or in the RP syllabus. Please read them carefully before emailing questions to me or to the TA's. However, don't hesitate to ask us for help – we want you to enjoy this class!