

PSY 100, Foundations of Contemporary Psychology, 4 Credits, Fall 2007

Instructor: Cynthia Sifonis
Course Section #: 40804
Class Time: 1:00 – 2:47 PM
Classroom: 204 O'Dowd

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Office Hours: T: 11:30 – 1:00, R: 10:30 – 12:00

Course Description	<p>In this course you will be introduced to the basic principles underlying human thought and behavior as well as recent formulations in psychology. The topics covered in this class will begin with the biological foundations of behavior and finishes with social influences on behavior.</p> <p>I find psychology fascinating and I will do my best to share my enthusiasm about the topic with you during the semester. I will tie the theories presented in the classroom to your everyday experiences. Not only will this help make the concepts easier to learn, it should give you some insights into the determinants of yours and other's behavior. Hopefully, it will also make psychology "come alive" for you.</p> <p>I will also show you how psychological processes are examined scientifically. Because psychology is a science there will be an emphasis on the experimental methods used to examine the psychological processes we will be discussing during the semester.</p> <p>This class satisfies the General Education requirements in the Social Science Knowledge area.</p> <p>Course Prerequisites/corequisites: None</p> <p>Required Text(s) and Supporting Course Material: D. Myer, <i>Psychology in Modules</i>, 8th Ed., 2007</p> <p>Course Procedures: On-line component (Moodle), Lectures, Homework Quizzes, Exams, Cumulative Final</p>
Outcomes & Objectives	<p>General Education Learning Outcomes: On completion of this course the student will demonstrate</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Knowledge of concepts, methods and theories designed to enhance understanding of human behavior2. Application of concepts and theories to problems among individuals <p>Cross-Cutting Capacities: Critical thinking</p> <p>Course Objectives (derived from American Psychological Association guidelines):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Characterize the nature of psychology as a discipline.2. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding representing appropriate breadth and depth in selected content areas of psychology: theory and research representing general domains, the history of psychology, relevant levels of analysis, overarching themes, and relevant ethical issues.
Expectations	<p>Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner conducive to an environment of academic integrity and respect for the educational process and the safety and well being of all members of the community. Adherence to the Student Code of Conduct will be expected; violations of this code will be reported to the Dean of Students. The Code of Academic and Student Conduct can be found at http://www2.oakland.edu/deanofstudents/handbook/conduct.cfm.</p> <p>I expect all of the work you submit for a grade to be your own work. Plagiarism of any kind, and cheating on exams will result in a failing grade for that assignment and (depending on the seriousness of the infraction) possible evaluation by the university academic misconduct committee.</p> <p>Add/Drops & Incompletes: The University add/drop and incomplete grade policies will be explicitly followed. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the University deadline dates for dropping the course.</p> <p>Make-up Examinations: Exams must be taken at the time indicated on the syllabus. Missed exams can only be made up if you provide documentation of a legitimate University-approved excuse (e.g., medical emergency) within <u>one week</u> of the missed exam. Only those with legitimate university-approved excuses will be allowed to take a make-up exam. If you need to take the make-up exam, contact Dr. Sifonis before/after class or during office hours and provide written evidence for a university-approved excuse. You will then be told the time of the make-up exam. Note! Students late for a test on a test day will only be allowed to take the test if they make it to class <u>before</u> the first person has turned in their exam.</p> <p>Special Considerations: Students with disabilities who may require special considerations should make an appointment with campus Disability Support Services. Students should also bring their needs to the attention of the instructor as soon as possible.</p>

Attendance Policy: Class attendance is not mandatory. However, it is highly recommended. A component of your grade in the class will be based on **classroom participation**. Some of the lectures present topics in greater depth than the text. Because you are responsible for both the lecture and textbook material, it is in your best interests to attend class regularly. Additionally, there will be various classroom demonstrations and multimedia presentations that are designed to help you understand the concepts in this field.

Grades in this course will be based on evaluations of the following materials:

- **Exams:** Four multiple choice exams equally spaced throughout the semester. The average of these 4 exams is worth 70% of your total grade in the class. The exams will contain approx. 70 multiple choice questions covering the assigned readings and the associated lecture material. A **cumulative final exam** (worth 10% of your total grade in the class) will be given during the final exam period. **The final exam is mandatory.**
- **Homework Quizzes:** Weekly homework quizzes are posted in Moodle. The average score of the homework quizzes is worth 15% of your total course grade. Additional information about Moodle homework quizzes will be provided in class.

Warning! It is not a good idea to wait until the last minute to complete your Moodle quizzes. Computers are notoriously touchy and the ones hosted by Oakland's server are no exception.

- **In-class participation:** During class lectures, the I-clicker device bundled with your textbook will be used to examine your understanding of the lecture material, conduct demonstrations of the lecture material, and assess your opinion about controversial topics. The degree to which you use the I-clicker to respond correctly to questions asked during lecture will determine your in-class participation grade. Your average in-class participation grade is worth 5% of your total grade in the class. Additional information about the manner in which the I-clicker will be used to assess your participation grade will be provided in class.
- **Experimental requirement:** All students are required to fulfill the experimental requirement (see attached). **NOTICE THE DEADLINE!!!** If you select either the research participation or the written assignment option, the last day to complete the requirement is **Wednesday November 21, 2007, 12:00 PM.** If you fail to complete the experimental requirements by the deadline, you will receive a failing (0.0) grade for the course.

Grade Calculation: Your grade in the course will be generated by the following formula:

$$(.70*(\text{avg. exam grade})) + (.15*(\text{avg. quiz grade})) + (.05*(\text{ participation})) + (.10*(\text{final})) = \text{course grade}$$

For example: If you received a 95% average on your exams, an 85% on your final, 90% participation, and a 97% average homework quiz score, your score in the course would be:

$$(.70 * 95) + (.15 * 97) + (.05 * 90) + (.10 * 85) = 66.5 + 14.6 + 4.5 + 8.5 = \mathbf{94.1\%}$$

According to the following chart you would earn a GPA of **3.7** for the course.

Grading Scale:

4.0 = 100.00% - 98.60	2.9 = 79.59 - 78.60	1.9 = 69.59 - 68.60
3.9 = 98.59 - 96.60	2.8 = 78.59 - 77.60	1.8 = 68.59 - 67.60
3.8 = 96.59 - 94.60	2.7 = 77.59 - 76.60	1.7 = 67.59 - 66.60
3.7 = 94.59 - 92.60	2.6 = 76.59 - 75.60	1.6 = 66.59 - 65.60
3.6 = 92.59 - 89.60	2.5 = 75.59 - 74.60	1.5 = 65.59 - 64.60
3.5 = 89.59 - 88.60	2.4 = 74.59 - 73.60	1.4 = 64.59 - 63.60
3.4 = 88.59 - 86.60	2.3 = 73.59 - 72.60	1.3 = 63.59 - 62.60
3.3 = 86.59 - 84.60	2.2 = 72.59 - 71.60	1.2 = 62.59 - 61.60
3.2 = 84.59 - 82.60	2.1 = 71.59 - 70.60	1.1 = 61.59 - 60.60
3.1 = 82.59 - 80.60	2.0 = 70.59 - 69.60	1.0 = 60.59 - 59.60
3.0 = 80.59 - 79.60		

Web Page: For this class I will provide you with Internet resources as an aid to both the lectures and the text. On the class web page you will be able to access your syllabus, updated class information (also presented using RSS feeds), links to relevant or interesting psychology topics, and outlines for the lectures. The html address for the class web page is: <http://personalwebs.oakland.edu/~sifonis/Classes/Ipape/Intro.html>

Moodle: The Moodle class web page has all of the content I provide on my personal web page and more. The Moodle page is the official web page of the class and is the only place where it is possible for you to take your weekly homework quizzes. Also included in the Moodle course website are discussion boards, chat rooms, and more.

Detailed Class Schedule and Topical Outline

Date	Topic	Readings
9/6	Orientation & History	
9/11 – 9/13	History and Research Methods	Modules 1, 2 (16-22), 3 (30-43)
9/13 – 9/20	Biological Basis of Behavior	Modules 4, 5 (64-84)
9/25 – 9/27	Nature & Nurture	Modules 6, 7
10/2	EXAM #1	MODULES 1 – 7
10/4 – 10/9	Human Development	Modules 8 - 11
10/9 – 10/11	Sensation & Perception	Modules 12, 13 (201-208), 16 (235-239), 17
10/16 – 10/18	Consciousness	Modules 18, 20
10/18 – 10/23	Learning	Modules 21 - 23
10/25	EXAM #2	MODULES 8-13, 16-18, 20-23
10/30 – 11/1	Memory	Modules 24 - 27, 28 (376-390)
11/6 – 11/8	Motivation & Emotion	Modules 34, 38, 39, 40 (538-546)
11/13 – 11/15	Personality	Modules 44 – 46
11/20	EXAM #3	MODULES 24-28, 34, 38-40, 44-46
11/22	Thanksgiving Break	
11/27 – 11/29	Psychological Disorders	Modules 47, 48 (654-658), 49 - 51
12/4 – 12/6	Social Influences on Behavior	Modules 55 - 57 (747-753, 761-762), 58 (765 – 771)
12/11	EXAM #4	MODULES 47 - 51, 55 - 58
12/11	CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAM	12:00 PM – 3:00 PM