

Psych 1A – Introduction to Psychology

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Office Hours: Monday, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Class Hours: Mondays, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
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Course Syllabus

Catalogue Description

The course covers the scientific study of human behavior; emotions, thinking, heredity, environment, learning, intelligence, and human diversity.

Course Summary

Psychology is an exciting field that opens the door to a rich and deep understanding of people and relationships. Learning various psychological perspectives allows us to understand ourselves and others better. This class will be an opportunity for you to learn various psychological theories, explore different approaches to understanding human behavior and apply that information to your own life experience.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course you should be able to:

- Be familiar with the major theories, concepts and perspectives in psychology.
- Apply psychological theories, concepts and principles to individual experience as well as to broader social issues and social systems.
- Use psychological knowledge to reflect on personal experience.
- Use psychological knowledge to recognize and understand the complexity of cultural diversity.
- Understand and apply basic research methods in psychology and other social sciences.
- Demonstrate skills that promote behavioral change in individuals, groups and larger systems.

Expectations

Throughout this course, we will operate as members of a community of learners. It is critical that we treat each other with respect and support on this journey of discovery. As such, the following expectations apply:

- Arrive for class on time. Late arrivals are disruptive and disrespectful to the instructor and your classmates.
- Assignments must be turned in on time. Should you have a situation that necessitates your need for an extension, you must speak to me in advance of the due date to make special arrangements. I will not accept any late assignments without advance discussion.
- Participate actively. In a community we are all responsible for each other. Come to class prepared. Share your thoughts and ideas and the class will be richer for all involved.
- Be a conscious community member. Do not use vulgarity, racial slurs, discriminatory remarks or other communication that shows disrespect to your community.
- There is no use of electronic devices without explicit permission from the instructor. Cell phones must be turned off or set to vibrate. If you would like to take notes on your laptop, please discuss this with me in advance. Refrain from distracting activities (e.g. sleeping, whispering, talking when someone else is talking, working on other coursework, texting, online shopping, responding to email, etc.)
- Do your own work. Cheating or plagiarizing on papers or exams is against school policy and appropriate action will be taken if it is determined that you have done so.
- Ask questions. I have an open door policy. If you have a problem, come speak to me. My goal is to support your learning experience.
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Important

PLEASE READ THIS INFORMATION CAREFULLY

The initial information on this page contains all the essential information about this class (such as grading policy). In case you have a question, please check the information on this page first - chances are you will find

most of your answers here.

Due Dates

All assignments are due on the due date. I will not accept late assignments without prior arrangement.

Academic Integrity

Please note that the computer keeps an excruciatingly detailed record of everything that you do in this class. Your every move will be recorded. Additionally, all essay assignments are subject to searches for plagiarism using various engines. Any unacknowledged sources are considered plagiarism and will lead to an automatic F.

APA Style

APA style is the accepted writing style for the subject of Psychology. APA differs greatly from MLA. APA style is required for this class. Not following APA style, especially reference style, will impact your grade negatively. See below for more detailed information on APA style.

Textbook

Morris, Charles.G. & Maisto, Albert. A. (2016) *Understanding psychology*. (11th ed.) New York. Pearson.

This is the most updated version of the book. While I recommend you use the most recent version, the 10th edition may be a viable option. However, please pay attention to the order of the chapters in the modules as they are not always in chronological order.

Another option is to purchase (or rent) an eBook or Kindle edition that gives you access to the book online. If you choose to purchase the eBook, you will not have a hard copy of the book to use. The eBook can be purchased on line at places like Amazon.

This course utilizes CANVAS. You must have regular access to a computer to take this course. Make sure your computer software is relatively current. If you are having problems, try accessing the computers available to students on campus.

You are encouraged to annotate your text. Annotating your textbook is an important way to assist you in your learning. Annotation allows you to note important concepts, make connections and relate new concepts to existing ideas and concepts you have already learned. Here is the link to the article [\(Links to an external site.\)Understanding How to Annotate](#).

Students with Special Needs

Students with special needs can receive services through the **Disability Resources Center**. If you are in need of accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible to make arrangements.

Health issues (physical and mental) can interfere with your academic success. Student Health Services is here to support you. Details are at shs.santarosa.edu.

Assignments

- **2 Quizzes and 2 Tests:** Multiple choice exams and short essay covering assigned chapters in the text book as well as course material.
- **Thesis Statement and Literature Review:** (60 points) You will submit a written thesis statement and a preliminary review of the literature you will use for your presentation.
- **Class Discussion:** (5 points each entry) Weekly, you will be asked to submit a response to the posting on the class blog.
- **Extra Credit:** There are several opportunities for extra credit in the second half of the course. These are the only opportunities for extra credit, and they are not required. You may choose to do them or not. It is entirely up to you. You will find the extra credit assignment listed in the weekly module.

Grading Policy

The class is designed to guide you through a learning process that will enable you to pass the exams and submit the required papers. If you fully participate in the learning process as it is outlined and diligently work your way through the assigned text and the tasks specified in this syllabus, then you should know enough to pass the various course requirements. There will be no surprises! I want you to succeed and I am here to support your learning process. Chances are you will not only enjoy this class, but also learn a lot about yourself and others.

Your grade is determined through the accumulation of points earned by completing exams, quizzes, assignments and the journal. Additional points will be given for participation.

- 2 Quizzes (@ 25 points each) - 50
- Midterm (@ 60 points) and Final (@ 50 points) - 110 points
- Thesis Statement and Annotated Bibliography - 60 points
- Class Discussion @ 5 points each entry - 75 points
- Attendance @ 3 points per class - 45

Total Points possible (excluding extra credit) - 340 points

- A (90%) = 306 – 340 points
- B (80%)= 272 - 305 points
- C (70%)= 238 - 271 points
- D (60%)= 204 - 237 points
- F (59% and below)= 203 points or less

Extra Credit: There are several extra credit assignments that are listed in the second half of the course. They will be clearly marked "Special Assignment" and are OPTIONAL. 5 points Extra Credit will be given for each Extra Credit assignment that is turned in by the due date and meets the guidelines described in the assignment.