

# **Introduction to Psychological Science**

Summer 2020/M-F

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## **Official COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This paragraph must be taken directly from the university catalog description of the course.

## **COURSE GOALS AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

The overarching goal of this class is to introduce you to the fascinating science of psychology. Psychology is a broad field, and psychological topics are studied from several different perspectives. However, the common goal of psychology is to understand how the mind and body interface with our external worlds in a way that promotes our survival. We will touch on many of the major questions, theories, and research findings of psychology. Of course, since we have only 5 weeks to cover the entire field of psychology, our consideration of most topics must be rather selective and brief. However, after having been introduced to these topics in this course, you should be familiar with the principles and be prepared for further study in more advanced psychology courses (if you desire it). I also hope that this course will stimulate your curiosity and your interest in the field of psychology, leading many of you to pursue further study and a few of you to careers in psychology. In order to make this a stimulating course, you need to contribute your time, effort, attention, and your genuine curiosity. I want your active involvement, your questions, and yes, even your criticisms to make this an informative and memorable course.

## **INSTRUCTOR'S ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Daily attendance is mandatory. Students are allowed to miss up to two classes without penalty. After two missed classes, for every class missed, 5 points will be deducted from students' total points in the class. Students must sign in every class.

## **TEXTS:**

Psychology Twelfth Edition ©2018 12<sup>th</sup> edition, David G. Myers; C. Nathan DeWall

Should you read the chapter before or after the associated lecture? People have their individual preferences about this. But I recommend that you read the textbook material before the lecture. That way, the material covered in lecture will serve as a review, and you'll be in a better position to ask questions about anything that is not clear.

## ASSESSMENTS/COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- *Exams.* Four exams, each covering a different portion of the course materials (i.e., non-cumulative). Tests will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. There will be an emphasis on questions that test your understanding of the material and your ability to apply it to new situations, in addition to your ability to remember definition of concepts. All material covered in the lecture and textbook has the potential be on the exams, but you will not be required to remember names and dates of research studies. However, as a rule of thumb, exams will tend to focus on points emphasized in lecture (but there may still be questions on exams not mentioned in lecture!). **To ensure test integrity, no make-up exams will be given!**

## FINAL EXAM DESCRIPTION:

Exam 4 will be the last test administered. It will be non-cumulative (just like Exams 1-3).

## COURSE OUTLINE:

### Class Schedule

Class	Date	Monday	Chapter
1	June 29	Course overview, Intro Psychology	1
2	June 30	Intro & Psychological methods	1
3	July 1	Biology and Behavior	2
4	July 2	Consciousness	3
5	July 3	<b>TA Session</b>	
6	July 6	Sensation and Perception	6
7	July 7	<b>Exam 1</b>	
8	July 8	Learning	7
9	July 9	Memory	8
10	July 10	<b>TA Session</b>	
11	July 13	Thinking and Language	9
12	July 14	Human Development 1	5
13	July 15	Human Development 2	5
14	July 16	<b>Exam 2</b>	
15	July 17	<b>TA Session</b>	
16	July 20	Emotion	12
17	July 21	Motivation	11
18	July 22	Psychological Disorders 1	15
19	July 23	Psychological Disorders 2	15
20	July 24	<b>TA Session</b>	
21	July 27	<b>Exam 3</b>	
22	July 28	Personality 1	14
23	July 29	Social Psychology 1	13
24	July 30	Social Psychology 1	13
25	July 31	<b>Exam 4</b>	

## FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE GRADING POLICY

- Your final grade in this course will be based on your performance across the four exams.
- Each exam that you take will be worth 100 points.
- After summing your four exam scores, I will deduct any points due to missed classes, then I will divide them by 4. Then your grade will be based on the scale provided below.

<u>4.0</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>95 – 100</u>
<u>3.7</u>	<u>A-</u>	<u>92 – 94</u>
<u>3.5</u>	<u>A-/B+</u>	<u>89 - 91</u>
<u>3.3</u>	<u>B+</u>	<u>86 – 88</u>
<u>3.0</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>83 – 85</u>
<u>2.7</u>	<u>B-</u>	<u>80 – 82</u>
<u>2.5</u>	<u>B-/C+</u>	<u>77 – 79</u>
<u>2.3</u>	<u>C+</u>	<u>74 – 76</u>
<u>2.0</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>71 – 73</u>
<u>1.7</u>	<u>C-</u>	<u>69 – 70</u>
<u>1.5</u>	<u>C-/D+</u>	<u>67 – 68</u>
<u>1.3</u>	<u>D+</u>	<u>64 – 66</u>
<u>1.0</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>60 – 63</u>
<u>0.0</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>0 – 59</u>
-	<u>IN</u>	<u>Incomplete</u>
-	<u>IP</u>	<u>In Progress</u>
-	<u>W</u>	<u>Withdrawn</u>

### CLASS POLICIES:

- See above for attendance policy. **To ensure test integrity, no make-up exams will be given**
- Each student is responsible for completing all course requirements and for keeping up with all activities of the course.

### POLICY ON DISABILITY

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medication information, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment at the beginning of the course to talk with me. It is important that the issues relating to disabilities be discussed with me as soon as possible.

### GRADE APPEAL

If you disagree with the evaluation of your work or believe an improper grade has been assigned, an appeal may be followed. Please discuss the matter with the instructor and refer to the Fitchburg State University Grade Appeal Policy in the university catalog.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

The faculty at Fitchburg State University require that work submitted in fulfillment of course requirements will be solely that of the individual candidate and all other sources will be cited appropriately. University Academic Integrity Policy, as outlined in the University Catalogue, will be strictly adhered to.

## **DISTANCE LEARNING & EXTENDED CAMPUS LIBRARY SERVICES**

The Gallucci-Cirio Library at Fitchburg State University provides a full range of library services including borrowing privileges; document delivery (books and articles mailed to your home); Interlibrary Loan; reference assistance via: phone, email, IM, Blackboard's Collaboration and Elluminate tools, Skype and in-person; library instruction; research help and more. Any questions relating to library services should be directed to the Linda LeBlanc, Access Services Librarian, at 978-665-3062 or [dllibrary@fitchburgstate.edu](mailto:dllibrary@fitchburgstate.edu). There is also a special section for Distance Learning and Extended Campus Services at <http://fitchburgstate.libguides.com/dlservices> outlining the wide range of services available to you and how to access them.