

# Psychology 12000-003: Elementary Psychology

## Purdue University—Fall, 2010

**Instructor:** Professor Kipling D. Williams, PSYC 2166; 494-0845  
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 Webpage: <http://www2.psych.purdue.edu/~kip/>  
 Course Webpage: <http://www1.psych.purdue.edu/~willia55/120/index.htm>

**Class times:** *Lecture:* Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:30am – 11:45am; CL50 224

**Office hours:** Wednesdays 1:00pm-2:00pm: or by appointment. Please let me know if you plan to visit.

**Text:** ONLINE SUBSCRIPTION ONLY: Go to: <http://courses.bfwpub.com/myers9e.php> and purchase the online subscription. This is the Myers, D. G. (2009). *Psychology* (9<sup>th</sup> Edition). NY: Worth. *Your subscription is an on-line version of the text and access to PsychPortal, both of which expire a year after purchase. PsychPortal provides you with many aids for studying, including practice exams, flashcards, and online demonstrations. This option reduces your costs and was recommended from my previous classes.*

**TAs:**

Michael Baysinger	<a href="mailto:mabaysin@psych.purdue.edu">mabaysin@psych.purdue.edu</a>	494-6905	PSYC 2192	Off. hrs: Wed: 1-2:30pm
Mary Ann Honors	<a href="mailto:mhonors@purdue.edu">mhonors@purdue.edu</a>	494-7669	PSYC B150	Off. hrs: Wed: 10-11am
Megan McCarty	<a href="mailto:mccarty1@purdue.edu">mccarty1@purdue.edu</a>	494-6892	PSYC 2182	Off. hrs:
Stephanie Plemmons	<a href="mailto:splemmon@purdue.edu">splemmon@purdue.edu</a>	494-6905	PSYC 2194	Off. hrs: Thu: 1-2pm

**Course Objectives:** The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the field of psychology. There are three major sub-goals: (1) To explain how psychologists think about and study behavior. (2) To introduce you to the body of knowledge and underlying principles that currently exist in the field. (3) To encourage reflection about the implications of psychological research for everyday life.

**Class Format:** This class involves two lectures each week. The 75-minute lectures will *augment* the topics listed on this syllabus. The text covers these same topics, but lectures and text overlap only about 50%. Consequently you will need to attend lectures *and* read the text to learn all of the examinable material.

**Grading.** Course grades will be based on your **best four of the five** non-cumulative midterm exams (each worth 25% of the final grade). So, for example, if your scores are: 26, 35, 36, 34, and 37, you would drop the 26 and have a grand total of 142/200, which would roughly equal 71% of a perfect score (for which the grade would be a C-). ***But wait, the news is better.*** Your grade would actually be higher than that because I would not use a perfect score in the denominator; *I use the highest accumulated score achieved by a single student for the first four exams.* So, if the highest accumulated score were a 190, you would get:  $142/190 \approx 75\%$ , which is a C. Exams are comprised of 50 multiple-choice questions (four options for each question). Make-ups will be granted **ONLY** for a validated medical/emergency excuse, and the request for a make-up **MUST** be made (by phone or email) **prior** to the exam time. If you are granted a make-up, it will be given at a time and place convenient for your TA. The grades will follow the following breakdown. **There are NO extra credit opportunities** (*participation in experiments and/or alternative written assignments are NOT extra credit; they are a required part of the course*).

100 – 93% of top score achieved	=	A
92 – 90% of top score achieved	=	A-
89 – 87% of top score achieved	=	B+
86 - 83% of top score achieved	=	B
82 - 80% of top score achieved	=	B-
79 – 77% of top score achieved	=	C+
76 – 73% of top score achieved	=	C
72 – 70% of top score achieved	=	C-
69 - 67% of top score achieved	=	D+
66 – 63% of top score achieved	=	D
62 – 60% of top score achieved	=	D-
< 60% of top score achieved	=	F

**Research Participation in Experiments.** As an important component to learning, all students in PSY 12000 are required to earn 11 experiment credit units for their participation in research sponsored by the Department of Psychological Sciences, or to complete equivalent written assignments. **THIS IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE COURSE AND IS NOT EXTRA CREDIT.** All necessary information regarding this course requirement will be explained in class. If you join the class late or are absent during the in-class explanation, you can obtain this information from **Sue Phebus**, Experiment Coordinator, PRCE 385G, [sphebus@purdue.edu](mailto:sphebus@purdue.edu), or from the Psychology Department's web page under the Research heading.

Students who do not wish to take part in research, or who cannot take part due to conflicts, may perform alternative, written assignments. Guidelines for these alternative assignments can be viewed on the Psychology Department's web page under the Research heading. **Students who earned course grades of C- or better will not receive credit for the course until the research participation or alternative project requirements are fulfilled.**

If you choose to participate in research projects, you must sign up for individual research sessions using the Sona Systems sign-up program. The web address is <http://purdue-psych.sona-systems.com/>.

a) You will receive an email announcing that the SONA system is up and running. At this point, enter your **User ID**: The user id is the same as your Purdue career account. Example: `stumpc`

b) Password: The password will be generated by the SONA Systems program and sent to your Purdue e-mail account. Please check your Purdue e-mail and let the Experiment Coordinator know if you do not receive a password from Sona Systems during the second week of classes.

Even if you do not plan to participate in experiments now, you are advised to try logging in to the system now. If you have trouble doing so, please contact the Experiment Coordinator, **Sue Phebus**, at [sphebus@purdue.edu](mailto:sphebus@purdue.edu) for assistance.

You may cancel your participation in an experiment by following the instructions on-line in the SONA Systems program (or by directly notifying the experimenter conducting the session for which you have signed up **at least one hour in advance of the experiment session**). The accumulation of **3** failure-to-show penalties will result in the suspension of your participation in the research experiments.

Various experiments are scheduled throughout the semester and are run until the last day of classes, but not during finals week. You should plan to complete your research participation before that date. Also, all alternate projects must be turned in by the last day of classes, before finals week begins. Projects received after the last day of classes will receive an incomplete; these projects will not be graded until the beginning of the next semester.

If you have preexisting credits from taking PSY 12000 in a prior semester, they may be transferred to your current record. Please contact the Experiment Coordinator, **Sue Phebus**, at [sphebus@purdue.edu](mailto:sphebus@purdue.edu) to notify her of your existing credits and in what semester they were earned.

**Purdue Student Code of Honor:** Know it and follow it. For your own sake, do your own work. Plagiarism is a serious offense, and is easily detectable with the advent of search engines. It does not matter if you plagiarized intentionally or unintentionally—either way it is plagiarism. Here is a useful website to understand the definition and issues surrounding plagiarism:

[http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r\\_plagiar.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_plagiar.html)

**Emergencies.** In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances. Here are ways to get information about changes in this course: MyPurdue webpage, my class web page, email address: [kip@psych.purdue.edu](mailto:kip@psych.purdue.edu), and my office phone: 494-0845. **FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO:**

[http://www.purdue.edu/emergency\\_preparedness/](http://www.purdue.edu/emergency_preparedness/)

### Schedule of Topics and Readings for Lecture

*This schedule is only an approximation. The instructor may extend, shorten, or even re-arrange the lectures. All students are responsible for any changes mentioned in class, including changes in test dates. PLEASE ROUTINELY CHECK THE COURSE WEBPAGE FOR UPDATES, CHANGES, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:*

<http://www1.psych.purdue.edu/~willia55/120/index.htm>

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading</i>
Aug 24, Tue	Introduction—Go over syllabus; answer questions	Prologue; Ch 1
Aug 26, Thurs*	Thinking Critically with Psychological Science	Ch 1
Aug 31, Tue	...methods	
Sep 2, Thurs	...methods	
Sep 7, Tue	The Biology of the Mind	Ch 2
Sep 9, Thur	The Brain	Ch 3.1.1-3.1.2
Sep 14, Tue	<b>EXAM 1</b>	
Sep 16, Thur**	Nature, Nurture, and Human Diversity	Ch 4
Sep 21, Tue	Developing Through the Lifespan: Early Years	Ch 5
Sep 23, Thur	Late Years	
Sep 28, Tue	Sensation	Ch 6.1-6.4
Sep 30, Thur	Perception	Ch 6.5-end
Oct 5, Tue	...continued	
Oct 7, Thur	<b>EXAM 2</b>	
Oct 12, Tue	<b>OCTOBER BREAK</b>	
Oct 14, Thu	Learning: Classical conditioning	Ch 7-7.2
Oct 19, Tue	...operant conditioning	Ch 7.3-end
Oct 21, Thur	Memory ...continued	Ch 8
Oct 26, Tue	Thinking & Language	Ch 9
Oct 28, Thur	<b>EXAM 3</b>	
Nov 2, Tue	Intelligence	Ch 10
Nov 4, Thur	Motivation	Ch 11
Nov 9, Tue	...continued	
Nov 11, Thur	Emotion	Ch 12
Nov 16, Tue	...continued	
Nov 18, Thur	<b>EXAM 4</b>	
Nov 23, Tue	Personality	Ch 13
Nov 25, Thur	<b>THANKSGIVING VACATION</b>	Ch 14
Nov 30, Tue	Psychological Disorders	
Dec 2, Thur	Therapy	Ch 15
Dec 7, Tue	Social Psychology	Ch 16
Dec 9, Thur	...continued	
Dec (13-18: tba)	<b>EXAM 5</b>	

\*Friday, August 27 is the last day for late registration

\*\*Monday, September 20 is the last day to cancel or change a course assignment without a grade.

## FAQs

### ***Do we have to attend lectures?***

Purdue says you should, but I do not take roll. When you attend lectures regularly, you are more likely to know about changes in exam dates, lecture topics, and special guests. And, you are more likely to perform better on the exams. Whether you attend lectures or not, you are responsible for any information announced in lectures.

As a reminder, be courteous to all in attendance. This means: don't read your newspaper during class, talk excessively to your neighbor, text others on your cell phones, surf on the Internet, or snore too loudly.

### ***I bought a used book; do I get the online version of the text and access to PsychPortal free?***

No. You are expected to purchase the online subscription to Myers 9<sup>th</sup> edition and PsychPortal. It is on this material (in addition to lectures) that you will be tested.

### ***Can I use an introductory psychology textbook that is used in another Psy12000 class (e.g., by Nairne)?***

No.

### ***Can I audiotape your lectures?***

Sure, no problem. I'll try to get my lectures recording for podcasting, as well.

### ***Are the exams cumulative?***

No, they cover the material from the previous exam to the present.

### ***How about the Final Exam; is it cumulative?***

Nope, it is nothing more than Exam 5 (except it will be held on a different day, possibly a different location, and you'll have two hours to complete it, which you shouldn't need).

### ***If you didn't get finished lecturing, are we still responsible for the material that you didn't cover?***

Yes, you are responsible for the material in each assigned chapter, whether or not I have time to cover that chapter's material. Also, you are responsible for any material on my PowerPoint slides, which are posted on my class website:

<http://www1.psych.purdue.edu/~willia55/120/index.htm>

### ***If I miss an exam, can I take a make-up?***

Only if (a) you contact me by phone or email *before* the exam, and (b) you have a *valid* medical/emergency excuse that you bring me prior to your rescheduled make-up. If you are granted a make-up exam, it must be at the convenience of the TA.

### ***Can I drop our worst exam score?***

Yes, your grade will be based on your top four exam scores.

### ***Is there any way to get extra credit?***

No.

### ***Is experimental participation a form of extra credit?***

No. It (or its substitute, written journal article reviews) is *required*.

### ***Are there any special rules while we take exams?***

Yes. (1) No cheating or talking to fellow students; (2) No caps or hats (or if you are surgically attached to your cap, turn it around so the bill is behind you), (3) No cell phones or computers are allowed in the classroom, (4) bring your own pencil. Try your best to cover your exam so as not to tempt others, and try to spread out as much as possible leaving an empty seat between you and any other student (if possible).