

Psychology 12000.003: *Elementary Psychology*

Purdue University—Maymester, 2011

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

Class times: *Lecture:* Mondays through Fridays, 7:30am – 9:40am; PRCE 277

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

Text: Textbook: ONLINE SUBSCRIPTION ONLY: Go to: <http://www.worthpublishers.com/customstore/PU/Williams/> and purchase the online subscription. This is the Myers, D. G. (2009). *Psychology* (9th Edition). NY: Worth. There are two options: the eText only (**Option 1**) and the eText with the hard copy (Option 2).

I recommend **Option 1** (eText version only) and that is all that is expected for this class. If you really want a hard copy of the textbook, feel free to pay the extra amount and choose Option 2.

Either option provides you with the electronic 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.

Using an eText reduces your costs and was recommended and approved overwhelmingly from my previous classes.

If you purchase the hard copy first, from Amazon or another outlet, you would first need to return your book (and get a refund) to Amazon, then proceed through the steps above.

Let me know if you have any questions.

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 textbook readings, lectures, and any videoclips shown during class. The text and lectures overlap, but not completely. 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 **cumulative performance** on the four exams (each worth 25% of the final grade). So, for example, if your scores are: 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.

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*).

What is needed to achieve each grade:

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

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

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, and my office phone: 494-0845. FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO:

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>Lecture Topic</i>	<i>Reading</i>
May 16, Mon	Introduction - Go over syllabus; answer questions Thinking Critically with Psychological Science	Prologue; Ch 1
May 17, Tue	Methods	Ch 1
May 18, Wed	Neuroscience and Behavior	Ch 2; Ch 3.1.1-3.1.2
May 19, Thur	Nature, Nurture, and Human Diversity (up to and including slide #30)	Ch 4 (read up to and including p. 153)
May 20, Fri	Development Through the Lifespan → TAKE EXAM 1 TODAY (take in PsychPortal)	Ch 5
May 23, Mon	Sensation & Perception Transcript from Scientific American Frontiers episode on "Tasters and Supertasters."	Ch 6
May 24, Tue	Gestalt Principles & Illusions	
May 25, Wed	Learning: Classical conditioning	Ch 7
May 26, Thur	Operant conditioning	
May 27, Fri	Memory → TAKE EXAM 2 TODAY (take in PsychPortal)	Ch 8
May 30, Mon	<i>Memorial Day – No class</i>	
May 31, Tue	Thinking and Language	Ch 9
June 1, Wed	Intelligence	Ch 10
June 2, Thur	Motivation	Ch 11
June 3, Fri	Emotion → TAKE EXAM 3 TODAY (take in PsychPortal)	Ch 12
June 6, Mon	Personality	Ch 13
June 7, Tue	Psychological Disorders	Ch 14
June 8, Wed	Therapy	Ch 15
June 9, Thur	Social Psychology	Ch 16
June 10, Fri	→ Final Exam (to be taken in class)	

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 9th 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 4 (except it will be held in class).

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.

Can I drop our worst exam score?

No.

Is there any way to get extra credit?

No.

Are there any special rules while we take exams?

Yes.

(1) For on-line exams, you will take your exams from your own computer (or one available on campus).

(2) For Exam 4, (a) no caps or hats (or if you are surgically attached to your cap, turn it around so the bill is behind you), (b) No cell phones or computers are allowed in the classroom, (c) bring your own pencil, and (d) 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).