

Psychology 12000.003: *Elementary Psychology*

Purdue University—Spring, 2010

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Instructor Webpage: <http://www1.psych.purdue.edu/~willia55/>
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: 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.

TAs: Sara Branch sbranch@psych.purdue.edu 494-6892 PSYC 2188 Off. hrs: Mon: 9:30am-11:30am
Matt Kassner mkassner@psych.purdue.edu 494-6892 PSYC 2180 Off. hrs: Tue: 12pm-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.

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 |

PARTICIPATION IN EXPERIMENTS: As an important component to learning, all students in PSY 120 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. 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, or from the Department’s web page under the location: <http://www.psych.purdue.edu/index.php/psy-120.html> .

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 Department’s web page at the following: <http://www.psych.purdue.edu/index.php/psy-120/882-psy-120-alternate-projects.html> .

Students who would otherwise have earned a course grade of A, B, or C (including a C-) will instead receive an Incomplete (letter grade of I) for the course until the research participation or alternative project requirements are fulfilled. If you receive an Incomplete, you should try to complete the requirement promptly. According to current University regulations, “If a permanent grade has not been assigned by the instructor as of the twelfth week of the student’s second subsequent semester of enrollment, or if the student is not enrolled in the course at that time, a failing grade of F will be added to the record.”

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) **User ID:** The user id is the same as your Purdue career account. *Example: sphebus*
- b) **Password:** The password will be generated by the Sona Systems program early in the second week of the semester and sent to your Purdue e-mail account (*Example: sphebus@purdue.edu*). Please check your Purdue e-mail and let the Experiment Coordinator know if you do not receive a password from Sona Systems.

Even if you do not plan to participate in experiments now, you are advised to try logging in to the system. You should automatically receive your login information early in the second week of the semester. If you do not receive this by the end of the second week of the semester, please contact the Experiment Coordinator at sphebus@purdue.edu for assistance.

You may cancel your participation in an experiment by following the instructions on-line in the Sona Systems program at least one hour in advance of the experiment session. Failure to do so will result in an “unexcused no show.” In the case of a dire emergency, you may directly contact the researcher or the Experiment Coordinator for consideration in rescheduling the session.

CONSEQUENCES FOR MISSING AN EXPERIMENT

You will be given an “unexcused no show” for each of the following infractions:

- (1) Every failure to show for an experiment for which you signed up (unless excused).
- (2) If you are too late for the experimenter to use you.

If it is found that you have been given “unexcused no shows” for missing 3 or more experiment sessions, **you will be denied access to the subject pool**. You must then use the Alternate Projects option to fulfill this course requirement. Please see the attached URL for the Alternate Project guidelines: <http://www.psych.purdue.edu/index.php/psy-120/882-psy-120-alternate-projects.html>.

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 10:00 am on Monday of final exam week. Projects received after this time will be graded as time permits, but the student may receive an Incomplete until the grade is processed.

If you decide to retake the course in another semester to better your grade, the credit you have already earned for experiment participation can be brought forward. If you satisfied this course requirement in a previous semester, you need not participate in more research. However, **you must notify the Experiment Coordinator**, Sue Phebus (sphebus@purdue.edu) that you have previous research participation credits, referring to the semester during which you took the course.

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>Topic</i> | <i>Reading</i> |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Jan 11, Tue | Introduction—Go over syllabus; answer questions | Prologue; Ch 1 |
| Jan 13, Thurs* | Thinking Critically with Psychological Science | Ch 1 |
| Jan 18, Tue | ...methods | |
| Jan 20, Thurs | ...methods | |
| Jan 25, Tue | The Biology of the Mind | Ch 2 |
| Jan 27, Thur | The Brain | Ch 3.1.1-3.1.2 |
| Feb 1, Tue | EXAM 1 | |
| Feb 3, Thur** | Nature, Nurture, and Human Diversity | Ch 4 |
| Feb 8, Tue | Developing Through the Lifespan: Early Years | Ch 5 |
| Feb 10, Thur | Late Years | |
| Feb 15, Tue | Sensation | Ch 6.1-6.4 |
| Feb 17, Thur | Perception | Ch 6.5-end |
| Feb 22, Tue | ...Gestalt principles and illusions | |
| Feb 24, Thur | EXAM 2 | |
| Mar 1, Tue | Learning: Classical conditioning | Ch 7-7.2 |
| Mar 3, Thu | ...operant conditioning | Ch 7.3-end |
| Mar 8, Tue | Memory | Ch 8 |
| Mar 10, Thur | Thinking & Language | Ch 9 |
| Mar 15, Tue | SPRING BREAK | |
| Mar 17, Thur | SPRING BREAK | |
| Mar 22, Tue | EXAM 3 | |
| Mar 24, Thur | Intelligence | Ch 10 |
| Mar 29, Tue | Motivation | Ch 11 |
| Mar 31, Thur | ...continued | |
| Apr 5, Tue | Emotion | Ch 12 |
| Apr 7, Thur | ...continued | |
| Apr 12, Tue | EXAM 4 | |
| Apr 14, Thur | Personality | Ch 13 |
| Apr 19, Tue | Psychological Disorders | Ch 14 |
| Apr 21, Thur | Therapy | Ch 15 |
| Apr 26, Tue | Social Psychology | Ch 16 |
| Apr 28, Thur | ...continued | |
| TBA | EXAM 5 | |

*Friday, Jan 14 is the last day for late registration

**Monday, Feb 7 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 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 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).