

Chaminade University  
Psychology 101 Section 04, General Psychology  
Fall, 2000

Instructor: Terry Spanglet Duncan, M.A.  
Time: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 2:00-2:50pm  
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TEXT: Psychology (6<sup>th</sup> Edition), David G. Myers

Course Description:

This course will review the major psychological theories and concepts related to the study of human behavior and mental processes. The course provides a general introduction to the psychological aspects of biological bases for behavior, development of the individual across the life span, sensory and perceptual systems, learning theory, memory and cognition, motivation, emotion, personality, abnormal behavior, therapeutic methods and social psychology.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge on the historical development of the field of psychology.
2. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the major theories that represent the scientific perspective of the biological basis for human behavior.
3. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the major personality theories that represent the scientific perspective of the study of individual human behavior.
4. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the ~~major social psychology theories~~ that represent the scientific basis for the study of human social behavior.
5. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the use of scientific methodology for answering important questions about human behavior.
6. Students will demonstrate the ability to apply psychological knowledge toward analyzing and understanding everyday life situations.
7. Students will develop critical thinking skills from a bio/psycho/social perspective in evaluating human behavior.
8. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the influences of diverse culture on the development and expression of human behavior.

Course Requirements:

1. Quizzes. Scores from 9 of 10 quizzes are required. The lowest score from the 10 quizzes will be dropped for each student when calculating the final grade.
2. Two research papers. An issue topic paper 3 pages typed and a research paper 5-10 pages. If you would like feedback on your research paper hand it in by the

deadline for draft papers and the instructor will provide feedback. Scores for late submission of papers will be reduced by half a grade.

3. Periodic in-class assignments will be given throughout the semester. These may be related to the video presentation, in-class discussion topics or readings from the text.

### **Quizzes:**

There will be ten quizzes scheduled throughout the semester with the 9 highest scores counting toward each student's grade. The student's lowest score among the first 9 quizzes administered will be dropped from the final quiz total.

**The last quiz covering Chapter 18, administered during the final week of class, cannot be one of the dropped quizzes in computing your final grade.** Most questions will be related to the list at the end of each chapter called "Terms and Concepts to Remember." You can also expect some test questions on information conveyed through videos, class lectures or class activities. Most quizzes will consist of multiple-choice items, though some quizzes may consist of short answer questions. If you feel that the answer you chose for a test question is better than the answered keyed as correct, submit your case in writing to the instructor. Some test items may also be deleted if found to be ambiguous or poorly stated.

**If a student is excused from taking a quiz on the scheduled date (e.g., participating a team member in an athletic event), the quiz may be made up NLT than by the mid-term quiz or final exam day, whichever applies. Students must notify the instructor prior to the quiz of any excused absences. If a student is ill on the day of the quiz, the student must call or email the instructor.**

### **Research Papers**

Two written assignments are involved:

- a. Issue Paper. Further in this syllabus is a list of four issues. Pick one of the topics and follow the instructions.
- b. I would like you to read one empirical study on a topic in psychology that interests you. Your study should come from a professional journal in psychology. I'd advise using an experimental study, but a correlational study may be used. You may not use a case study, review article, or theoretical paper.

*Following are some examples of journal, but there are many others:*

*Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*  
*Journal of Personality Assessment*  
*Journal of Personality Disorders*  
*Journal of Social Issues*  
*The Personnel and Guidance Journal*

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In your paper you will need a brief introduction to the area you are studying; a description of the methodology used in the study. Make sure you comment on (when relevant): independent and dependent variables, operational definitions, subjects, control issues, method of observation; the results and conclusions of the study; your evaluation of the soundness of the study, its theoretical implications, and suggestions for future research.

In grading your paper, I will focus on the points noted above, with special emphasis on the effort you put into evaluating the study, discussing its implications, and making suggestions for future research. Above all, stay away from generalities. If you believe that your study is methodologically poor, then specifically cite the evidence that supports your contention. For example, don't just note that your study was flawed because it used only college students for subjects, but specifically explain why this particular sample may have biased the results. If you believe that your study adds substantially to the field, be sure to explicitly defend your position. I will also pay considerable attention to how you organize your paper. This includes the clarity of your writing and grammar. Also, pay attention to proofreading, especially typographical errors and spelling.

**Extra Credit Work:**

Students can earn additional points that will be credited toward their quiz totals by completing in-class assignments. These in-class assignments will be administered randomly throughout the semester to encourage class attendance and reward those who attend class regularly.

**Grading:**

Grades will be assigned on the basis of points accumulated during the semester. The maximum number of points is 200.

1. 9 Quizzes (13 points each)	117
2. Issue paper	25
3. Research paper	45
4. Miscellaneous Items	<u>13</u>
Total	200

A (90-100%)	= 180-200
B (80-89%)	= 160-179
C (70-79%)	= 140-159
D (60-69%)	= 120-139
F (under 59%)	= 119 and below

Issue Topics

Intelligence and Race

In the United States, blacks score a little lower on the average on intelligence tests than do whites. Japanese score a little higher on the average than Caucasian Americans. Some psychologists claim that these differences are real differences in intelligence; others claim the differences are due to cultural differences. As background, read Myers pages 411-417 plus any other sources you wish. Then write a three-page (typed) essay stating your opinions and your reasons for your opinions.

Religious Values in Psychotherapy

Allen Bergin and Albert Ellis engaged in a debate about the proper inclusion or noninclusion of religious values in psychotherapy. I would suggest you read their articles published in the *Journal of Counseling and Clinical Psychology*, Volume 48(1980), pp. 95-105, 635-9, 642-5 (See Myers, pp. 591-592). Then write a three-page (typed) essay outlining your beliefs in light of their arguments. Take a clear position and justify it.

The Choice of Suicide

Some argue that a person has the right to decide to take his or her own life as a moral decision. Others argue that suicide is selfish and is thus morally prohibited. Are there any circumstances in which it is morally correct to commit suicide? Consider this from psychological, religious, and interpersonal perspectives (i.e., effect on friends and family). Write a three-page (typed) essay stating your opinion and then describing your arguments.

Euthanasia

Euthanasia, mercy killing, has become hotly debated since medical technology has been developed to keep alive the body long after brain activity has ceased. Further, as the population has begun to age, diseases of the elderly (such as Alzheimer's Disease) have placed the burden for health care on families of the elderly. Often, families of the elderly argue that they should be able to elect death for the elderly or even severely mentally disturbed child under the belief that (a) the disabled person will not enjoy a high quality of life if he lived and (b) the financial and emotional burdens on the caretakers are excessive. Take a position for or against euthanasia and argue your position in a three-page (typed) essay.

Course Outline and Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Reading/Assignments</u>
9/6	Introduction	Introduction, Syllabus
9/8	Thinking Critically With Psychological Science	Chapter 1
9/11	Thinking Critically With Psychological Science	Chapter 1
9/13	Neuroscience and Behavior	Chapter 2
9/15	Neuroscience and Behavior	Chapter 2
9/18	<b>Quiz: Chapters 1 &amp; 2</b> The Nature and Nurture of Behavior	Chapter 3

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9/20	The Nature and Nurture of Behavior	Chapter 3
9/22	The Nature and Nurture of Behavior	Chapter 3
9/25	The Developing Person	Chapter 4
9/27	The Developing Person	Chapter 4
9/29	<b>Quiz: Chapters 3 and 4</b> Sensation	Chapter 5
10/2	Sensation	Chapter 5
10/4	Perception	Chapter 6
10/6	Holiday: Discoverer's Day	
10/9	Perception	Chapter 6
10/11	<b>Quiz: Chapters 5 &amp; 6</b> Learning	Chapter 8
10/13	Learning	Chapter 8
10/16	Memory	Chapter 9
10/18	Memory	Chapter 9
10/20	Memory	Chapter 9
10/23	<b>Quiz: Chapters 8 &amp; 9</b> Thinking and Language	Chapter 10
10/25	Thinking and Language <b>Issue Paper</b>	Chapter 10
10/27	Thinking and Language	Chapter 10
10/30	Intelligence	Chapter 11
11/1	Intelligence	Chapter 11
11/3	<b>Quiz: Chapters 10 &amp; 11</b> Motivation	Chapter 12
11/6	Motivation	Chapter 12

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11/8	HOLIDAY: Veteran's Day	
11/10	Emotion	Chapter 13
11/13	Emotion	Chapter 13
11/15	<b>Quiz: Chapters 12 &amp; 13</b> Personality	Chapter 14
11/17	Personality	Chapter 14
11/20	Personality	Chapter 14
11/22	HOLIDAY: THANKSGIVING	
11/24	<b>Quiz: Chapter 14</b> Psychological Disorders	Chapter 15
11/27	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 15
11/29	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 15
12/1	<b>Quiz: Chapter 15</b> Therapy	Chapter 16
12/4	Therapy	Chapter 16
12/6	Stress and Health	Chapter 17
12/8	<b>Quiz 16 &amp; 17</b> Social Psychology <b><u>Research Paper Due</u></b>	Chapter 18
12/11	Social Psychology	Chapter 18
12/13	Social Psychology	Chapter 18
12/15	Final Quiz: Chapter 18	