PSY 105: Introductory Psychology
Spring 2007  Tuesdays  5:00-7:45pm in CI 1008

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Please visit my webpage for more information on this class:  TA: Meredith Moore
http://people.uncw.edu/leccil/psy105/index.htm.htm

Office Hrs: Mon 11-12:15pm, Tues 11-12:15pm and 3:30-4:45pm, or by appointment.

Why do you behave the way you do? Can you ever change? How do others influence your behavior? What leads us to fall in love? Can we “know” something without realizing we know it?
This is a small sampling of the questions to be addressed in this course. The goal of this course is to provide you with a model for conducting scientific research as we study the human mind. Come to class with a question from the text and get an extra credit point.

Readings: Readings from the text are intended as a supplement to the lectures. If you miss a class, you can check with me after you have caught up with the notes from someone in the class. I will be happy to look over your notes.


Grading: Final grades will be based upon 4 equally weighted exams, with each exam covering material from three classes. Exams 1-3 will be multiple choice & are tentatively scheduled for 02/06, 03/13, & 04/03. Final exam is Tues May 8 at 7pm. The final exam is NOT cumulative. Grades will include +/- (e.g., B- 80-81, B 82-87; B+ 88-89). Attendance is an important part of this course, and students who are present will be awarded extra credit when I ask questions via a clicker system that records your answers. Exam questions will draw heavily from the lectures, though you are responsible for the readings as well. Unless you have a death in the family or a serious illness (both require documentation), there is no excuse for missing an exam. You will receive an F for any unexcused absences from an exam. Make-up exams are essay format & will be scheduled on the same day as the final exam. Any student missing more than one exam will have to provide further documentation. It is expected that all students will follow UNCW policies for academic honesty and report those who violate these policies. The following course outline details the specific topics to be discussed and the order in which they will be considered. Each topic DOES NOT represent a single lecture.

- All students must also complete 3 experimental credits (research participation) or they can do 3 papers, or any combination of the two adding up to a total of 3.

Course Outline with reading assignments for Kalat, Introductory Psychology (7th edition)

SECTION I: The science of psychology and gender role research: Jane vs. John Doe.

1  Overview of course, grading, Q & A.

2  Do churches cause crime? How we answer questions in studying the science of psychology. Reading: Kalat: Ch. 2. Also please see: Theme Index (after p. 32 in preface) for complete list of “Evaluation of Evidence/Questioning Assertions/Critical Thinking”

3  Sugar & spice and media pressure: A social psychological perspective on gender. Film: Killing us softly - Advertising's image of women. Reading: Kalat Ch. 10. Module 10.4 “Temperament, Family, Gender, and Cultural Influences” (pp. 396-398)

4  Grog vs. Grogette: An evolutionary (sociobiological) perspective on gender roles. Reading: Kalat Ch. 10. Module 10.4 “Temperament, Family, Gender, and Cultural Influences” (pp. 396-398). Also pp. 501-502, 556-557

5  Does everyone really want a penis? A psychodynamic perspective on gender. Reading: Kalat Ch. 13. Module 13.1 “Personality Theories” (p. 491-498)
6 Same data, different theories.
Reading: Kalat Ch.1. Module 1.1 “The Goals of Psychologists” major psychological perspectives, pp. 8-11; humanism pp. 502-504

7 What is a psychologist? Ph.D., MD, Psy.D., Ed.D. what’s the difference?
Reading: Kalat Ch. 1. Module 1.1 “The Goals of Psychologists” pp. 8-16

SECTION II: Social Psychology: How we behave in the presence of others.

8 Would you have made a good Nazi? Conformity and obedience.

9 More trouble with groups: Social loafing, the bystander effect, group polarization and prejudice.
Reading: Kalat Ch. 14 (still!). Social loafing, bystander apathy, group polarization:
“Social Perception and Cognition”

10 I’ll work for nothing, and love it! Cognitive dissonance and other social processes.
Reading: Kalat Ch. 14. Module 14.2 “Attitudes and Persuasion” Cognitive dissonance
pp. 548-550. See link on the social psychology of Wall Street:
http://people.uncw.edu/leccil/morepubs/Using%20Social%20Psychology%20on%20Wall%20Street.doc

11 Using psychology to get a date!
Reading: Kalat: Ch. 11. Module 11.3 “Sexual Motivation”(pp. 426-437)

SECTION III: Human growth and the senses.

12 Drinking our own urine and other little known facts about the developing human.
Reading: Kalat Ch. 10. Module 10.1 “Getting Started: From Genetics Through Infancy” (pp. 358-362), Module 10.2 “Childhood Thinking and Reasoning” (pp. 364-381), Module 10.3 “Social and Emotional Development” (pp. 383-390), and Module 10.4 “Temperament, Family, Gender and Cultural Influences” (pp. 391- 399)

13 What if we didn't have parents? The consequences of early attachment.
Reading: Kalat Ch. 10. Module 10.3 “Social and Emotional Development” (pp. 384-385)

14 Learning to think: Cognitive development.
Reading: Kalat Ch. 10. Module 10.2 “Childhood Thinking and Reasoning” (pp. 364-377)

15 Did you notice that? How the senses work (thresholds, JNDs & sensory accommodation).
Reading: Kalat: Chapter 4 Sensation and Perception. For vision: Module 4.1 “Vision” (pp. 95-111)

16 How can I can see if I have a blind spot? Understanding what we see.
Reading: Kalat: Module 4.1 “Vision” (pp. 95-111)
• See Online Try It Yourself Exercises here:
  http://allpsych.com/opticalillusions/

17 The ears and the nose.
Reading: Kalat Ch. 4. Module 4.2 “The Nonvisual Senses” (pp 112 –124)
SECTION IV: How we tick and how we learn.

18  The “synaptic gap” is where the trendy neurons shop. Biological mechanisms.  
Reading: Kalat Ch. 3. Module 3.1 “Neurons and Behavior” (p. 69-77), Module 3.2 “The Nervous System and Behavior” (pp 78-91)

19  Teaching a dog (and you) how to do tricks: Conditioning and modeling.  
Reading: Kalat Ch. 6. Module 6.2 “Classical Conditioning” (pp. 195-204), Module 6.3 “Operant Conditioning” (pp. 206-218), Module 6.4 “Other Kinds of Learning” (see pp. 223-226)

SECTION V: Personality: Who am I?

20  The truth is in the stars and on your hands. Astrology, phrenology & palm reading.  
Reading: Kalat: Ch. 13. Module 13.1 “Personality Theories” (pp. 491-504), Module 13.2 “Personality Traits” (pp. 506-513)

21  Are you an introvert? Are you neurotic? What does it mean? 
Reading: Kalat Ch. 13. Module 13.3 “Personality Assessment” (515-526)

SECTION VI: Understanding intelligence and the ethics in testing.

22  Mistakes we all make: Heuristics & biases. 

23  Are you intelligent? A mock test to define intelligence & creativity.  
Reading: Kalat Ch. 9. Module 9.1 “Intelligence and Intelligence Tests” (pp. 323-331).

24  Is a horse smarter than you? The story of Clever Hans. 
Reading: Kalat: For animal intelligence see pp. 21-22. For animals and language see pp. 303-304

SECTION VII: Abnormal psychology: It had to be you!

25  Is there really such a thing as “mental illness?” The DSM and a Szaszian view.  
Reading: Kalat Ch. 15. Module 15.1 “Abnormal Behavior: An Overview” (pp. 584-585)

26  A day in the life of a patient with depression. Symptoms, treatments, & prognosis. 
Reading: Kalat Ch. 16. Module 16.3 “Mood Disorders” pp. 634-643. Also see Module 15.2 “Psychotherapy: An Overview” (pp. 590-603), and Module 15.3 “Social and Legal Aspects of Treatment” (pp. 604-609).

27  Understanding suicide. Gender differences, myths, and problems with research. 
Reading: Kalat Ch. 16. Module 16.3 (pp. 642-643). For gender differences in depression see pp. 635-636.

28  Anxiety disorders (phobias, OCD, PTSD) 
Reading: Kalat Ch. 16. Module 16.1 “Anxiety and Avoidance Disorders” (pp. 615-625)
29  A day in the life a person with schizophrenia. Symptoms, treatments, & prognosis.
Reading: Kalat Ch. 16. Module 16.4 “Schizophrenia” (pp. 645-653)

30  Can men get pregnant? Can you be more than one person? Dissociative and somatoform disorders.
Reading: Kalat Ch. 15. Module 15.1 “Abnormal Behavior: An Overview” (pp. 582-583)

31  Law and psychology: Legal insanity, expert testimony, and the McNaughton Rule.
Reading: Kalat Ch. 15. Module 15.3 “Social and Legal Aspects of Treatment” (pp. 604-609)

SECTION VIII: Memory and consciousness.

32  Every Good Boy Deserves Fudge and All Cows Eat Grass. Understanding memory.
Reading: Kalat: Ch. 7. Module 7.1 “Types of Memory” (pp. 233-243), Module 7.2 “Long-Term Memory Storage” (pp. 245-251), Module 7.3 “Retrieval of Memories” (pp. 252-262), Module 7.4 “Amnesia” (pp. 263-267)

33  Sleeping, drugs, and hypnotism! A study of states of consciousness.
Reading: Kalat Ch. 5. Module 5.1 “Sleep and Dreams” (pp. 153-168), Module 5.2 “Hypnosis” (pp. 169-176), Module 5.3 “Drugs and Their Effects” (pp. 178-185)

34  Review for final (catch-up).

Final exam is not cumulative.
All experimental credits (or papers) must be completed by the date of the final exam. Those not having accrued 3 credits, but having a passing grade in the course will be given an incomplete. Those not having accrued 3 credits, and having a failing grade will receive an “F.” Those unable or unwilling to take part in an experiment may do a paper in its place. Please see me or my website for information on the paper.

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