

General Psychology  
PSY 105  
MWF 11:00-11:50  
134 Dobo  
Fall, 2013

Instructor: Dr. Kim Sawrey  
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Hrs: MW 1:00-2:50 & by appt.  
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Catalogue Description: PSY 105. General Psychology (3). Principles of psychology with emphasis on the scientific methods used in studying human behavior.

This is a rigorous, challenging, information-rich course, designed to provide you with an overview of the field of psychology. The subject matter of psychology is extremely broad, so broad in fact that it is impossible to cover all the sub-fields of the discipline in any single survey course. What I hope to do is guide you through a sampling of the major subject areas, providing you with knowledge that should help you to become “critical consumers” of psychological information. As suggested by the catalogue description, the emphasis will be on the general principles and methods of psychology.

Psychology is most frequently described as the scientific study of behavior. This simple definition should prepare you for the fact that, if you remain in this class, you will be taking at least one biological science course this semester.

### Course Goals

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- Describe and explain major terms, concepts, methods, and principles in psychology [HIB 1];
- Describe how psychologists use the scientific method [TTC 1];
- Evaluate the quality of social scientific information, including differentiating empirical evidence from speculation and the probable from the improbable [HIB 2];
- Demonstrate the ability to integrate scientific principles and evidence to resolve conflicting claims in the social and behavioral sciences [HIB 3];
- Articulate how the social and behavioral sciences can provide explanations of social issues and inform public policy [HIB 4];
- Describe how psychologists use data from experiments to develop abstract concepts that form the basic elements of a particular model of behavior [TTC 2];
- Describe the differences between various types of behavior modeling [TTC 3];
- Access information effectively and efficiently from a variety of sources [IL 2];
- Evaluate information critically and incorporate appropriate information into your knowledge base [IL 3];
- Individually and as a member of a group, use information effectively to write a paper [IL 4];
- Engage in an applied research experience as a participant/subject;
- Understand ethical issues involved in psychological research.

Required Textbook: Griggs, Richard A. (2012). *Psychology: A Concise Introduction*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., Worth Publishers, NY, NY.

Office Hours: My office hours for this term will be MW 1:00-2:50. These are drop-in hours; you need no appointment. I will also be available, in the classroom, for at least a few minutes after class on most days. If these times are not convenient for you, understand that I will also be available at many other times; please call or e-mail for an appointment.

### Course Policies:

#### D) Assignments

I will evaluate your performance in this course using a series of quizzes, two major “mid-term” examinations, a final examination, and a variety of in-class assignments.

*Examinations:* The two mid-terms will each contribute 100 points, and the final examination 200 points toward your final course grade. Examination items will come from lecture as well as from assigned readings. Each examination will consist of a variety of types of questions including objective and essay questions. There may also be diagrams to label and terms to define. The final examination will be cumulative.

*Quizzes, etc.:* Announced quizzes will cover the material from individual chapters and will occur on the dates listed below. They will generally consist of 20 multiple-choice questions. Various unannounced assignments will occur in class and will, together, contribute 100 points toward your final course grade. Your first assignment will require that you turn in a completed autobiographical data sheet on Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>.

*Grading system:*

Exams:	2 x 100 points = 200 points
Final Exam	1 x 200 points = 200 points
Quizzes:	10 x 20 points = 200 points
Other assignments:	= <u>100 points</u> 700 points

The following grading scale will be employed for your final course grade:

90-100% of total points available (630-700) = A
80-89% of total points available (560-629) = B
70-79% of total points available (490-559) = C
60-69% of total points available (420-489) = D
fewer than 59% of total points available (below 420) = F

## II) Studying

Studying for an examination will involve much more than reading the text chapters and your lecture notes a couple of times. As you probably know by now, most courses at UNCW are designed with the assumption that students will spend several hours each week studying for each course they are taking. You will increase your chances for success in this class if, on a regular basis (daily?), you study the text material, study your notes, and ask me to clarify any points that are not clear to you. Please do the following before class on Friday: 1. Find out where the *University Learning Center* is located. The friendly folks there may be a big help if you need to improve your study skills. 2. Read the description of the SQ3R study method at this address:

<http://www.studygs.net/texred2.htm> . 3. Visit <http://uncw.edu/ulc/> on the web.

## III) Attendance

Regular class attendance will be essential to your success in this course. From your 2013-2014 UNCW Undergraduate Catalogue: "Students are expected to be present at all regular class meetings and examinations for the courses in which they are registered." On examinations, I will certainly assume that everyone was in class every day and is prepared to answer questions about any topic discussed. Attendance will be required of all students who receive a "D" or "F" on the first examination. Those students are permitted two absences during the remainder of the semester. Each additional absence will lower their final course grade by 5% (i.e., half of one letter grade).

## IV) Make-up examinations

Do not miss an examination. Virtually the only legitimate reasons for missing an examination in this course involve the death of an immediate family member or a serious medical emergency requiring bed rest. Virtually all other "excuses" are not acceptable. Make-up examinations are thus strongly discouraged and will consist largely of essay questions. Make-up examinations will be given during the final examination period. Any student missing an examination must contact the instructor within 24 hours of the examination or they will receive a zero ("F") for the examination and not be granted a make-up. Students may take only *one* make-up exam or quiz.

V) UNCW Policies

- A. Please read and be familiar with the Academic Honor Code (in *UNCW Code of Student Life*). In particular, understand the definitions of cheating and plagiarism in effect at UNCW and the consequences of such activities. The *Code of Student Life* is available in hard copy at the Office of the Dean of Students and online at <http://www.uncw.edu/odos/documents/cosl-current.pdf>

“Any member of the university community who has reasonable grounds to believe that an infraction of the Honor Code has occurred has an obligation to report the alleged violation to the faculty member teaching the class...”

- B. Students with diagnosed disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services (962-7555). Please give me a copy of the letter you receive from Office of Disability Services detailing class accommodations you may need. If you require accommodations for test-taking please make sure I have the referral letter no less than one week before the test.
- C. UNCW practices a zero-tolerance policy for violence and harassment of any kind. For emergencies contact police at 911 or UNCW CARE at 962-CARE.

VI) Your In-Class Obligations

- A. Class time will be dedicated to understanding ideas. If you have a question about the material we are discussing in class, please ask it! Almost always your understanding of the material will improve after the discussion that follows a question. Be considerate of your fellow students. We are all obligated to respect and foster a comfortable learning environment.
- B. You will need to take thorough, accurate notes in class. We will discuss many ideas in considerable detail. Many of these details will be essential to adequate examination performance. Examination questions will be drawn from each lecture. If you miss a lecture you will want to borrow notes from another (good??!) student. Anyone wishing to record lecture material must receive my permission before recording begins.

VII) Your Out-of-Class Obligations

- A. Each student is required to establish a UNCW e-mail account and monitor it throughout the semester. This will allow you to contact me (and get a response) rapidly. In addition, I will deliver some class materials via e-mail (review sheets, exam tips, schedule changes, etc.). Each student is responsible for all course materials and announcements delivered by e-mail.
- B. All students who receive a “D” or “F” on the first examination must schedule an appointment to meet with me. At that time we will attempt to evaluate study skills and discover ways to improve performance on future examinations.
- C. All students must complete 6 **experimental credits** (research participation requirement). Students can participate in ongoing experiments in the department or read and summarize articles in 1-2 page papers. Early in the semester you will receive e-mail instructions regarding experimental participation. Additional information about this requirement is at the bottom of this syllabus.

## VIII) Topic Schedule

The examination dates that follow are firm; they will not change. If you know now that you cannot be in class on any one of these days, you should drop this course now. Any change in the scheduled lecture or text material will be announced in class.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lecture/Textbook Topics</u>	<u>Text Chapters</u>	<u>Ch. Quizzes</u>
Aug. 21 – Sept. 4	Introduction: goals of psychology, scientific methods, five ancient questions	1	Ch. 1, Aug. 30
Sept. 4 – Sept. 13	Measurement, experimental design Social Psychology	1 9	Ch. 9, Sept. 6
Sept. 16 – Sept. 25	Learning; classical conditioning – theory and application Learning; operant conditioning – theory and application	4	Ch. 4, Sept. 16
Sept. 27 – Oct. 2	Remembering and forgetting; basic processes, memory problems, constructive memory	5	Ch. 5 Sept. 27
Fri., Oct. 4	EXAMINATION I		
Oct. 7 – Oct. 18	Biopsychology; CNS anatomy and function, synaptic transmission, drug effects States of consciousness; sleep, dreams	2 2	Ch. 2 Oct. 9
Oct. 21 – Oct. 25	Thinking and Intelligence; measuring intelligence, culture and IQ	6	Ch. 6, Oct. 21
Oct. 28 – Oct.31	Developmental Psychology	7	Ch. 7, Oct 28
Nov. 4 – Nov. 6	Personality theories and assessment	8	Ch. 8, Nov. 4
Fri., Nov. 8	EXAMINATION II		
Nov. 11 – Nov. 21	Sensation and perception; anatomy and function in the visual system	3	Ch. 3, Nov. 13
Nov. 22 – Nov. 25	Psychological disorders; Treatment and therapy	10	Ch. 10, Nov. 25
Dec. 2	Autism	10	
Dec. 4	Review session		
Wed. Dec 11, 11:30 – 2:30	FINAL EXAMINATION		

### Research Participation Requirement

As part of your educational experience, ALL General Psychology (PSY105) students are required to participate in outside activities designed to provide you with greater insight into psychological research methods. **A total of 6 credit hours are required.** You may do 6 hours of experimental participation or write 6 summaries or any combination of the two to total 6.

For these activities you may choose from two alternatives:

- I) You may participate as a subject in psychological experiments conducted by faculty and senior students. You can view a list of all available psychology experiments on-line at <http://uncw.sona-systems.com/>. If you are eligible to participate in experiments, you will receive an e-mail to your UNCW account containing your login information which will allow you to sign-in to the system.
- If you did not receive this e-mail, ask your instructor whether you are eligible to participate and, if so, to provide you with a username and password.
  - If this login information does not work, please contact the Psychology Research Administrator ([psychresearchadministrator@uncw.edu](mailto:psychresearchadministrator@uncw.edu)).

The following are rules and procedures for experimental participation:

- You must change your password the first time you login to the research system. Keeping the default password (assigned to you by the system) makes your account more vulnerable to tampering by others. You are responsible for all activity that occurs with your account and choosing a unique, confidential password is an important safeguard.**
- You will receive ½ credit for every 30 minutes of participation. For example, studies lasting 30 minutes or less will be worth ½ credit, studies lasting between 31 and 60 minutes will be worth 1 credit, between 61 and 90 minutes will be worth 1.5 credits, etc.
- After you have completed participation in a study, credit will be awarded to you on-line by the experimenter. You can login to your account at any time to view your total credits. And, if you are enrolled in more than one class where credit is required, you may allocate your credits to your various classes however you wish using your personal account.
- You should understand that if you find an experiment to be objectionable, you may withdraw from that study at any time during a session without penalty.
- You may cancel on-line up to 24 hours prior to your scheduled appointment. After that, the system will not allow you to cancel and it is your responsibility to contact your experimenter directly.
- If you fail to attend at the scheduled time and you fail to cancel 24 hours before the experiment, you will be penalized one credit (i.e., 1 point will be subtracted from your extra-credit total).
- If you fail to appear twice without notice, you will be penalized a second credit and the system will no longer allow you to sign-in meaning that you have lost your privilege to participate in any more psychology experiments. If this happens, you will need to use option II below.
- You must show up for your appointment on time. Late arrivals count as an absence.
- If you arrive at the appointed place and time and the experimenter is not present after 15 minutes, e-mail the Research Administrator with your experiment information. After approval, you will receive credit for the experiment.

- II) You may read and summarize recent (2009-2013) articles from the scientific literature. The summaries should be 1-2 double-spaced pages and should address the following:

What the author is trying to accomplish in the work you read about  
What conclusions the author reached  
What types of research methods were used (e.g., experiment, survey, etc.)  
Any problems or weaknesses in the research that you notice or that were discussed in the article

You must submit a hard copy of the entire article with your paper. Only the following journals may be used for this option:

Journal of Abnormal Psychology  
Journal of Comparative Psychology  
Journal of Personality and Social Psychology  
Developmental Psychology  
Behavioral Neuroscience