

Introductory Psychology PY 101-QL Spring 2014

Instructor: Bridgett Kennedy, Ph.D.
Email: Please email me directly through the Blackboard module.
Blackboard: www.uab.edu/blackboard
Office Hours: Mon & Wed 9am-10am and 1pm-2pm ... Tues & Thurs: 9am-11am
or by appointment.
Tech. support: AskIT@uab.edu; 205-996-5555
Course TA: Meredith Henry mahenry@uab.edu

*******IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT*******

You must take a brief 10 question quiz during the first two weeks of this course. The purpose of the quiz is to: 1) help you get a feel for the online test taking environment that will be used throughout the semester and 2) assure me that you have read and understand the syllabus. The quiz score DOES NOT count towards your course grade!!!

1. **TEXT:** Discovering Psychology: The Science of Mind. Cacioppo & Freberg 1st Edition (Required)
2. **PURPOSE:** This course will provide you with a broad, general introduction to Psychology—its basic subject matter, its approaches to gathering and evaluating evidence about the causes and correlates of behavior, and also the means by which psychological knowledge is (or can be) applied to improve the quality of individual and communal life.

Passing this course is a prerequisite to more advanced courses in the Psychology Department which, in general, develop in greater depth the topics you will have read about and/or discussed in this course. Before the present term ends, I will discuss briefly these advanced offerings which might hold some interest for you in the future.

3. **SCHEDULE:** A course calendar can be found on pages 7-8 of this syllabus. The class lectures will make more sense to you if you have read the appropriate text material prior to viewing the corresponding lecture. In other words, **READ THE TEXT BOOK.** Lectures may sometimes be supplementary to the information in the text---in other words, **VIEW THE LECTURES.**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- (1) **Exams.** There will be **4 tests** (3 regular exams plus the final exam) given over the course of the semester. Test questions are multiple-choice, and include material from the text and lecture. Exams are worth 100 points each. The final exam **IS NOT** cumulative. The exams will be open book and open notes (not open friends or family). You should take the test as if you were in a classroom and allowed to use your books and notes. Even in a classroom, you still would not discuss the questions with someone else before or during the test. Even though the test is open-book and notes, **you will not be able to answer the questions correctly if you have not reviewed the assigned material** (both the lectures and the chapters). You will not have any problem with these as long as you have read the assigned material.

IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO TAKE ALL EXAMS, INCLUDING THE FINAL EXAM.

Exams will be given only on the scheduled days and times listed on the syllabus schedule. You may take the exams at any time during the specified days. There is a **1 hour and 15 minute time limit** for each exam. **Students are to plan ahead to ensure they have 75 minutes of uninterrupted time so that they may take the exams.**

You only have one attempt so **do not begin taking the exam online until you are ready and free from distractions. You are not allowed to stop and start the exam** so, if you encounter technology problems, contact AskIT immediately (AskIT@uab.edu; 205-996-5555). If you continue to have technology problems while taking your exam, you will not be able to complete it unless I receive a verification email from AskIT. I realize computer problems can occur, so please make sure you do everything you can to assure you will not have computer problems. Additionally, I recommend that you always have a contingency plan in place. For instance, in case you lose your Internet connection... know which restaurants in your area have WiFi available.

Note: I DO NOT GIVE MAKE UP EXAMS without official documented records (i.e., a hospital discharge record, police report, or military orders). **IT IS ALWAYS IN YOUR BEST INTEREST TO TAKE THE SCHEDULED EXAMS.** A "0" can absolutely destroy an otherwise good course average.

- (2) **Discussion Board Contributions.** Given that this is a web-based course, your only method of interacting with your fellow classmates and your instructor will be via the Internet. In order to enrich your learning in the course beyond the course readings, you will be required to participate in 4 discussion board topics. Each of you will be assigned to groups for your Discussion assignments. You will remain in the same group for the entire semester. I will build the groups before the first Discussion Board opens.

(3) Although you will answer each question individually, you will be able to see the answers given by the other members of your group and you are able to respond to each other's answers (elaborate, agree/disagree, etc.). **Discussion board contributions are worth 25 points each x 4 for a total of 100 possible points; see explanation below:**

- a. Original Discussion Post (**4... each worth 15 possible points**): At scheduled times, you will be required to post to the relevant discussion board question. Please note that there are **NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS** to these discussion board posts; they are designed to give you the opportunity to reflect more deeply, and to develop your own opinions and positions regarding key contemporary issues in the field of Psychology.
 - i. **Note that your discussion board posts will be evaluated on the following criteria: *critical analysis of the issue AND reflection of your opinion based on your experiences and the readings*. Basic requirements include a minimum length of at least 200 words in length PER discussion. Contributions below this length will receive 0 points automatically--- NO EXCEPTIONS.**
 - ii. **Discussion questions are to be posted by the scheduled dates and times. There is ABSOLUTELY NO WAY to make up for a missed discussion assignment.**
- b. Responses: (**4...each worth 10 possible points**): In addition to posting your initial (or original posts) to the discussion questions, **you are also required to respond to at least one other student's (group member's) posting**, either agreeing with the comments or expressing an alternate opinion in **1-2 paragraphs**.
 - i. **NO EXCEPTIONS. Your response to another student's posting is to be posted by the scheduled dates and times.**
 - ii. Try to respond to postings which haven't already been responded to, or which have fewer responses. Please do not respond to a classmate by only saying, "I agree with your post, great job!" You need to elaborate as to "why" you agree or disagree and try to support your response/feedback with references as well. The discussions are designed to help you clarify your thinking and compare your opinions to those of others. Any opinion, backed by solid research, lends itself to a stronger position.

When posting your answer and your responses to other students' answers, be sure to use correct grammar, punctuation, and syntax. All posts should be checked for spelling and grammatical errors before posting them. Remember that you are communicating with others and correct English usage is critical because you are

expecting others to understand what you are saying. It would be helpful to type out your answer/response, do a spell/grammar check, and then proofread once more before posting. Improper grammar, punctuation, and/or syntax may reduce your grade.

Also be aware that **derogatory comments, bad language, and rudeness WILL NOT be tolerated**. Disagreement is fine and open discussion is encouraged, as long as it is done with respect and tact. **Postings that are derogatory in nature will be immediately removed and your grade will be significantly reduced.**

REQUIRED Research Credits

(4) All Introductory Psychology students learn basic information about research in lecture and in addition **must complete a research requirement**. This requirement consists of *two hours of research participation or 4 credits* (with each half hour of participation earning one credit).

Most students fulfill their research requirement by participating in psychological studies (Option I). However, another option (Option II) is available. Option II involves reading research articles and writing brief summary reports. **Students are free to combine options in any way they desire to meet their requirement**. Since this is an online class, I am well aware that many of you will fulfill your research requirements by Option II. However, you should keep in mind that Option I can be used to earn valuable extra credit.

Option I (Experiment Participation). For each 30 minutes of participation in psychological experiments, you will receive 1 research credit. To participate in research experiments, log on to the SONA system at <http://uab.sona-systems.com/>. Please be aware that the bulk of the research experiments, that will be available during the semester, will be conducted by students taking “Research Methods”. Therefore, the studies won’t be up and running until mid-semester. However, there is a screener available to 101 students (at the beginning of the semester). This screener is worth 1 research credit and can be completed directly through the SONA system (online).

Option II (Summary Reports). **Plagiarism will not be tolerated. I WILL FAIL YOU for using material from the original article(s) without giving the author(s) proper credit.**

For each research article summary, you will receive 1 research credit. The assignment modules and corresponding articles can be accessed through the “Course Content” link. Please do not upload Word Documents (it makes it a real hassle for me to grade). Instead, you may copy and paste your work from a Word document into the provided space or simply type your summaries directly into the provided space. Summaries are to be at least one page in length (approximately 200-250 words). You will not receive credit for summaries that fall under the word minimum.

All research requirement assignments must be complete by April 14. If a student does not complete the requirement, the Department requires that a grade of "Incomplete" be given to that student.

EXTRA CREDIT

8 extra credit points is the MAXIMUM any single student will be given credit for.

Students will receive 2 extra credit points for each 1-page (200-250 word) journal entry. **Extra credit Journals ARE NOT THE SAME AS RESEARCH SUMMARIES. You will not receive research credits by doing the extra credit journals. All journal entries must be submitted no later than April 14. No Credit Will be Given for Late Journal Entries.**

Please do not clog up my email Inbox, at the end of the semester, begging for additional opportunities to earn extra credit! If you view the lectures, read ahead, study well, and complete your Required Research Credits ON TIME---- you will receive the grade you have earned. If you are not satisfied with your grade, then take personal responsibility and recognize that you are at fault and not the instructor.

Course Grade:

Your final grade and course assignments will be graded on the following scale and the grades will be calculated according to the points below:

Grading Breakdown:

Regular Exams	(300 points)
Final Exam	(100 points)
Discussion Posts 4@ 15 points	(60 points)
Discussion Resp. 2@ 10 points	(40 points)
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>500 points</u>

Your Score = (Total Points / 500) * 100

Note: The Extra Credit points ARE NOT tagged onto your final course grade. Extra Credit is averaged into your grades. Look at it as adding points to your lowest exam score.

Grading Scale

A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 60-69
F = 59 & below

Grade Disputes:

If you object with a grade you receive, you must submit your complaint in writing, along with supporting evidence or arguments, to me within one week of the date that I first posted the grade on Blackboard.

Dropping and Withdrawing:

The Office of the Registrar has set the last day to drop this course without paying full tuition and fees as January 13, 2014. The last day to withdraw from this course with a grade of "W" is March 31, 2014.

Disability Related Accommodations:

If you are registered with Disability Support Services (DSS), I should have or will be receiving your information from the DSS department. However, if you have not received a password (for your DSS version of the exams) a week before Exam 1, please email or make an appointment with me as soon as possible. If you have a disability but have not contacted DSS, please call 934-4205 or visit the DSS office.

Academic Integrity Policy:

"The Department of Psychology considers academic dishonesty to be a very serious matter. Cheating devalues the honest efforts of other students, consumes enormous amounts of faculty and staff time, and is never justifiable. The undergraduate catalog presents the university's policy on Academic Misconduct, which the Department scrupulously follows. Note that academic dishonesty can take various forms, including cheating on an exam, assisting someone else in cheating, and plagiarizing or presenting someone else's written material as your own. The Department routinely uses sophisticated mathematical and computer-based techniques to detect cheating and plagiarism in its classes. Students may be asked to present evidence of independent scholarship or re-take an exam if cheating or plagiarism is suspected. In general, the Department of Psychology will seek the most severe penalty for acts of academic misconduct that are detected. First offenses typically result in an "F" in the course. Second offenses typically result in expulsion from the university. For further details, consult the catalog."

COURSE SCHEDULE:

<i>Date(s)</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Jan 6 - 17	Introduction Quiz	Syllabus	Quiz must be completed before 11:59 pm on Jan 17
Jan 6	Course Introduction	Syllabus	
Jan 8	The Science of Mind	Ch.1	
Jan 13	Drop Deadline	*****	Last Day to Drop without Paying full Tuition and fees
Jan 13	The Measure of Mind	Ch.2	
Jan 17	Introduction Quiz Closes		Quiz must be completed before 11:59 pm on January 17th
Jan 20	The Evolving Mind	Ch.3	
Jan 22	The Biological Mind	Ch.4	
Jan 22-24	Exam 1	Ch.1-4	Exam must be completed between 12:01 am on Jan 22nd and 11:59 pm on Jan 24th
Jan 27	The Perceiving Mind	Ch.5	
Jan 29	"....."	Ch.5	
Jan 29-31	Discussion 1 Response 1		Discussions and Responses must be completed by 11:59 pm Jan 31
Feb 3	The Aware Mind	Ch.6	
Feb 5	The Feeling Mind	Ch.7	
Feb 10	The Adaptive Mind	Ch.8	
Feb 12-14	Exam 2	Ch.5-8	Exam must be completed between 12:01 am on Feb 12 and 11:59 pm on Feb 14
Feb 17	The Knowing Mind	Ch.9	
Feb 19	The Thinking Mind	Ch.10	

Feb 24	""	Ch.10	
Feb 26-28	Discussion 2 Response 2		<i>Discussions and Responses must be completed by 11:59 pm Feb 28</i>
March 3	The Developing Mind	Ch.11	
March 5	The Individual Mind	Ch. 12	
March 5-7	Exam 3	Ch.9-12	Exam must be completed between 12:01 am on March 5 and 11:59 pm on March 7
March 10	The Connected Mind	Ch.13	
March 12	""	Ch. 13	
March 12-14	Discussion 3 Response 3		<i>Discussions and Responses must be completed by 11:59 pm March 14</i>
March 17	The Troubled Mind	Ch.14	
March 19	""	Ch.14	
March 24-28	*****	*****	Spring Break *****Be Safe*****
March 31	Healing the Troubled Mind	Ch.15	
March 31	*****	*****	Last Day to Withdraw with a "W"
April 2	""	Ch.15	
April 7	The Healthy Mind	Ch.16	
April 9-11	Discussion 4 Response 4		<i>Discussions and Responses must be completed by 11:59 pm April 11</i>
April 9	The Healthy Mind	Ch.16	
April 14	Required Research Credits		Required Research Credits Should be Complete by 11:59 PM April 14
April 14	Extra Credit		Extra Credit must be submitted in the form of a Blackboard Journal Entry by 11:59 April 14
April 23-25	Final Exam	Ch.13-16	Exam must be completed between 12:01 am on April 23 and 11:59 pm on April 25