

General Psychology PSY110 Winter Session 2011

Professor Robin Nemeroff

E-mail: NemeroffR@wpunj.edu

Office: 415 Hamburg Turnpike

Virtual Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-3PM...and by appointment

Psychology Department Secretary Telephone: (973)720-2148

Required Text:

Kosslyn, S. M., & Rosenberg, R. S. (2007). *Fundamentals of psychology in context (3rd Edition, MyPsychLab Series)*. Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

The ISBN # for the book is 0205538665. You can get it at the WPU bookstore, at www.mypearsonstore.com, or from any other website that has it available. If you would like to purchase the E-book, please go to the announcement in Blackboard that contains information on how to do that.

Only books with this ISBN # will have the access code you need to fully log into the publisher's website. You will need to go to the publisher's website for chapter exams, PowerPoint slides, practice tests, multimedia resources, psychology links and other information at www.coursecompass.com.

You will need a fast internet connection (not a dial-up connection) to take the exams. If you do not have a fast internet connection at home, please take the tests for this course on campus or at your local town library. Once you time out of an exam, your grade will be recorded and you will not be able to take the exam again.

Contacting Me:

Please contact me by E-mail with any questions and issues you may have about this course. I will be on-line during my virtual office hours - but that is the only time you can expect an immediate response from me. Please be patient -- even without my online courses, I get many, many E-mails each day! I check my E-mail regularly on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. But on other days, since I am not on campus, you may

have to wait to receive a reply. I check E-mail infrequently on Mondays, Fridays, and over the week-end, so it is unlikely that you will hear from me then.

If you have questions about the material please check the "Frequently Asked Questions" section in Blackboard - if you are puzzled by something, chances are good that some of your fellow students will be as well. I will post questions (without user information) and my responses in BlackBoard.

Important: Think carefully about your choice to complete an on-line class. Many students believe that an on-line course is less demanding than a face-to-face course. This is definitely not the case! Students are often surprised by the effort it takes to do well in this class. On-line classes require intrinsic motivation, self-discipline and dedication. You must do a lot of reading on your own and keep up with the assignments since no one will be reviewing the material with you in person. On-line classes also require active participation, unlike some face-to-face classes where you can sit in the back row and get by without getting involved.

Think through your decision to take this on-line course carefully. It is demanding. I anticipate, however, that if you put in the time and effort you will find it a rewarding experience.

Course Objectives:

The primary objective of this course is to provide an overview of the field of psychology. With this goal in mind, a range of disciplines and perspectives within the field of psychology will be explored. The course content will include information about:

1. The methodological approaches psychologists use to understand human emotions and behavior.
2. Ways in which to interpret and evaluate learning from the field of psychology, with the aim of applying this knowledge to real-life situations.
3. Current controversies and differing perspectives within the field of psychology.
4. The history of psychological science, the current state of psychology, and psychological issues that currently remain unexplored or unanswered.

Student Learning Outcomes:

After taking this course, I hope that students will be able to:

1. Effectively communicate information relating to the field of psychology in both written and oral form.
2. Assemble information about specific psychological issues and critically evaluate the implications of these findings.

3. Integrate knowledge and ideas from different psychological perspectives and appreciate the contribution of a variety of approaches to psychological learning.

Course Expectations:

- a. This is a *very intense reading* course. And because of the short length of the summer session, you are expected to read at least 2 full chapters each week.
- b. You are expected to post to the discussion board before every chapter test is due to be completed.
- c. You are expected to ask questions.
- d. Test dates are given in the course outline. There are no make-up tests given. You must take the test on or before the date specified. There are no exceptions.

OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE

Class Discussions

During this first week of classes, I would like you to take a few minutes to tell me about your goals for this class. Aside from doing well in the course ☺, what would you like to gain from this course? Are there any particular interests you have in mind? Is there anything that you hope to gain from this course that may be useful to you in your life outside of this classroom, in the future? Please go to the Discussion Board in Blackboard and write a few sentences about your goals for this class. Your thoughts will be public and other students will be able to read them. So please be sure to share things with that in mind.

Each week, I am going to ask you to post your thoughts on the Discussion Board on Blackboard. Every week, I will send you an E-mail on Thursday with discussion topics or exercises. I will expect everyone to post their response sometime before the test deadline for that Chapter. Twenty percent of your grade will be determined by your participation on the Discussion Board. For each chapter you will be expected to do **one** the following:

1) Answer the question(s) on the Discussion Board. Your postings should be well thought out and you should always provide a complete argument / support for your position.

or

2) Comment on someone else's posting or write about something you found interesting in this chapter. Again, the quality of your post is important. Saying you agree or disagree with person X is insufficient -- you need to specify your reasons for agreeing or disagreeing. You can also extend another's posting by providing additional information.

Late postings to the Discussion Board will not be graded...no exceptions.

While I will read your postings on a regular basis, I will not respond to every single comment. Students have a lot to offer and teach each other and I'm looking to see that you can have discussions without me guiding your every step. Be assured that I will read everything and will be involved in each discussion.

Textbook Course Content and Exams

In addition to the Blackboard discussions, you will need to keep up to date with the textbook materials. As soon as you get your textbook, please get started with Chapter 1 Psychology: Yesterday and Today.

In addition to reading Chapter 1, please complete the multiple choice pre-test and post-test for Chapter 1. You will find these tests under "Chapter Contents" for Chapter 1 at the publisher's website www.coursecompass.com. These are practice tests and will not count toward your grade. They are to give you an idea of what to expect on your exams.

There are practice tests for each chapter and, although I recommend that you complete them every week, I do not require that you do so.

Since some people will experience a delay in getting up and running, I will not require that you take the exam for Chapter 1 until December 31. However, you will also have to complete the exam for Chapter 2 by December 31. So the earlier you get started with Chapter 1, the better ☺ You will find the exam in this same section of the publisher's website, under the Chapter 1 heading of "Chapter Contents." (If you are stuck last-minute without a textbook, I have left a copy of the textbook on reserve in the library.)

Under "Chapter Contents" at the publisher's website (www.coursecompass.com), you will also find PowerPoint lecture slides, a multimedia library, and a study guide that corresponds to each chapter. You may find these to be useful as we progress through the semester. However, you are not required to use these resources if you do not find them to be beneficial.

As we move through the semester, you will be required to read chapters in your textbook and take the corresponding exams according to the schedule below. Please note that I have listed the test deadlines for each of the chapters. You will have until 11:55PM on the date listed to complete the exam and post your thoughts about the chapter on the WPU Blackboard Discussion Board. However, the test will be available for two days before the test deadline, so you will be able to complete the exam on any day and at any time, according to your schedule before the date listed. Please remember that there will be no make-up tests given. You must complete the exam by the date specified. There are no exceptions. Your exams will be automatically graded as soon as you complete them. All together, your exams will account for 80% of your final grade.

Chapter Exam Deadlines

Friday, December 31	Chapter 1: Psychology: Yesterday and Today
Friday, December 31	Chapter 2: The Biology of Mind and Behavior
Sunday, January 2	Chapter 3: Sensation and Perception
Tuesday, January 4	Chapter 4: Learning
Thursday, January 6	Chapter 5: Memory
Saturday, January 8	Chapter 8: Personality
Monday, January 10	Chapter 9: Psychology Over the Life Span
Wednesday, January 12	Chapter 11: Psychological Disorders
Friday, January 14	Chapter 12: Treatment
Sunday, January 16	Chapter 13: Social Psychology

Teaching Methods:

This course is purely an on-line course. In order to do well in this course you will need to be very responsible and self-motivated. If you do not keep up with the readings, discussions, and exams you will quickly fall far behind. On-line classes require you to be more self-disciplined than traditional lecture classes.

The course syllabus and Discussion Board can be found on the WPU Blackboard: <http://bb.wpunj.edu>. Additional course materials and the course exams can be found at the publisher's website www.coursecompass.com.

If this is your first time using Blackboard and you feel in need of a crash-course, please see the Information Technology people in the Atrium.

Class Policies:

Respect: Even in an on-line environment, mutual respect is necessary for productive learning. This involves making the environment as user-friendly as possible. Examples include: completing assignments on time in order to be prepared to discuss the chapter topics, being an involved participant, and respecting another person's opinion even if it differs from your own is also essential for a constructive dialogue. Please do not post

disparaging or panicked messages in the discussion board as this takes away from our collective learning experience.

Personal responsibility

You are expected to take personal responsibility for your learning in this class. This is done by: reading all required material, being prepared for discussions, completing assignments, and being a team player. If you do not understand something, you need to take the initiative to contact me. I am always happy to talk to students and am often able suggest additional resources to support your learning efforts if needed. You can find me during my virtual office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2PM - 3PM, via email or you may set up another time to meet with me in person or speak by phone. You do not need to have a major problem or question to set up a meeting.

Academic Integrity: All students are expected to abide by the University's policy on Academic Honesty which is outlined on the WPUNJ website:

http://ww2.wpunj.edu/catalog/undergrad_2001_03/CatalogFront/AcademicRegulations.pdf.

Cheating, plagiarism, collusion and lying are serious violations and students should understand fully what constitutes each. Students' work is routinely checked to ensure that this policy is enforced. If you are unsure about any definitions or have questions, please ask before you take a chance!

Grading:

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

- 80% of your grade will be based on the chapter exams. Exams will consist of 25 multiple choice questions and you will have 25 minutes to complete the exam once it has begun. Once you start the exam, you will not be able to log out and then log back in, so please be sure you have set aside enough time so that your exam will not be interrupted. Questions will be given one at a time and you will not be able to go back to review earlier questions, so please be sure to select your answer to each question on the exam carefully. The exam will be available the entire week before the exam deadline and up until 11:55PM on the date listed as the exam deadline on the syllabus. Please be sure to plan accordingly. There will be no make-up exams or exceptions.
- 20% of your grade will be based on your participation in the Discussion Board topics. Grades will be given based on the quality of your postings.

Support Services:

Academic support services (such as tutoring and writing skills training) are available to all WPU students. If you think these services might help to improve your learning and performance in this class, I encourage you to make use of them. Please feel free to see me to discuss these options and any other issues of concern to you during my office hours.