

## Level 4 Psychology Course Syllabus

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### Required Textbook:

Myers, D. (2004). *Psychology*. (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: Worth Publishers. ISBN: 0-7167-5842-3

### Prerequisites:

None

### Course Description

This course is an introduction to various areas of psychology, including scientific investigation, motivation, personality, intelligence, behavioral deviation, perception, learning and human development. It offers a basis for further study in related areas.

### Course Objectives:

1. To assist students with identifying any misconceptions and/or lack of background knowledge, thus allowing them to develop a solid foundation upon which to construct future learning
2. To instill an understanding of ethical behavior as it applies to the field with applications to ethical living in our modern world
3. To help students develop an appreciation and understanding of the field of psychology and its application to various fields of study
4. To help students understand the history of the development of the field and future directions
5. To assist students with learning to become critical thinkers
6. To develop students skills of avoiding one's perceptions, thus not impeding critical thinking and allowing deeper levels of learning
7. To help students comprehend multiple perspectives on human behavior and how each perspective compliments each other
8. To assist students with developing an increased awareness of self and others

### Teaching Format:

The class will be formatted as a discussion and active learning style class. You will be asked to read relevant chapters from your textbook and come prepared to participate in class discussion and group activities.

## Course Evaluation Criteria:

### Class Participation:

The smooth functioning on the class and your learning depend on promptness and the ability to take part in discussions. Class participation includes attending class, contributing to class discussions or activities and reading assigned sections

### Homework Assignments:

Throughout the semester you will be asked to write essays answering a question related to psychology (see topics and due dates on last page). The essays should be at least 1/2 page in length, typed, double spaced, using correct grammar and spelling, and should address the question fully, using detailed examples and explanations. Grading is as follows:

- √+ (100): Addressed the question fully, no grammar mistakes, not late
- √ (85): Either did not address question fully, grammar mistakes, or 1 class late
- √- (65): Either 2 classes late, did not address the question and grammar mistakes
- 0: 3 or more classes late

### Test and Quizzes:

There will be 7 tests in total, all weighted equally. There will be 7 in class quizzes, all weighted equally. The tests and quizzes will cover chapter readings and material covered in class. There will also be an online quiz for every chapter we cover where your book can be used. **The online quizzes will be due 1 week from when the chapter was started in class.**

### Student Presentation/Research Paper:

Each student will be responsible for one research paper or one in class presentation each quarter. Half of the class will present a topic one quarter and then the next quarter will be responsible for a research paper, vice versa for the other half of the class. See accompanying handout.

### **Final Grades:**

In summary, grades will be based on the following criterion:

Participation:	5%
Online Quizzes:	10%
Homework Assignments:	15%
Student Presentation/Research Paper:	20%
Quizzes:	20%
Tests	30%
Total:	100%

## Tentative Course Schedule

Readings should have been read before the class listed

Class	Topic	Chapter Readings	Due
1	Introduction to Class		
2	Introduction to Class		
3	Introduction to Psychology	1	
4	Introduction to Psychology		QUIZ
5	Memory	23	Assignment 1
6	Memory	24	
7	Memory	25	
8	Memory	26	
9	Memory	27	
10	Memory		TEST
11	Psychological Science	2	
12	Psychological Science		QUIZ
13	Neuroscience	3	Assignment 2
14	Neuroscience	4	
15	Neuroscience		QUIZ
16	Development	7	Assignment 3
17	Development	8	
18	Development	9	
19	Development	10	
20	Development		TEST
21	Sensation	11	Assignment 4
22	Sensation	12	
23	Sensation	13	
24	Sensation	14	
25	Sensation	15	
26	Sensation	16	
27	Sensation		TEST
28	Learning	20	Assignment 5
29	Learning	21	
30	Learning	22	
31	Learning		QUIZ
32	Presentation/Research Paper		Assignment 6
33	Presentation/Research Paper		
34	Presentation/Research Paper		
35	Presentation/Research Paper		
36	Presentation/Research Paper		
37	Presentation/Research Paper		
38	Presentation/Research Paper		
39	Presentation/Research Paper		
40	Presentation/Research Paper		
41	Presentation/Research Paper		
42	Presentation/Research Paper		
43	Presentation/Research Paper		
44	Intelligence	28	
45	Intelligence	29	
46	Intelligence	30	
47	Intelligence	31	
48	Intelligence	32	

49	Intelligence		TEST	Assignment 7
50	Motivation	33		
51	Motivation	34		
52	Motivation	35		
53	Motivation	36		
54	Motivation		TEST	Assignment 8
55	Stress and Health	39		
56	Stress and Health	40		
57	Stress and Health		QUIZ	
58	Personality	41		
59	Personality	42		
60	Personality	43		
61	Personality	44		
62	Personality		TEST	Assignment 9
63	Psychological Disorders	45		
64	Psychological Disorders	46		
65	Psychological Disorders	47		
66	Psychological Disorders	48		
67	Psychological Disorders	49		
68	Psychological Disorders		TEST	Assignment 10
69	Therapy	50		
70	Therapy	51		
71	Therapy	52		
72	Therapy		QUIZ	Assignment 11
73	Social Psychology	53		
74	Social Psychology	54		
75	Social Psychology	55		
76	Social Psychology		QUIZ	
77	Presentation/Research Paper			
78	Presentation/Research Paper			
79	Presentation/Research Paper			
80	Presentation/Research Paper			
81	Presentation/Research Paper			
82	Presentation/Research Paper			
83	Presentation/Research Paper			
84	Presentation/Research Paper			
85	Presentation/Research Paper			
86	Presentation/Research Paper			
87	Presentation/Research Paper			
88	Presentation/Research Paper			
89	Presentation/Research Paper			
90	Presentation/Research Paper			

## Homework Assignments

**Assignments are due on the day listed. Please see my policy on grading late assignments**

<b>Topic</b>	
1	How do you think psychology might change as a result of more people from non-western countries (any country not in Europe or America) contributing their ideas to the field? What possible problems and benefits do you foresee?
2	If you were to become a research psychologist, what topics would you be interested in studying? Come up with a research project that would test something you are interested in.
3	The brain is a very complex organ. If you were a god and were designing humans, how would you design the brain? Would you have separate sections for different functions, or one undivided brain that could do everything?
4	Write a letter to your parents. <u>The letter to your parents should contain the following information:</u> 1) Describe your general feelings about your present life and values and try to assess your parents' influence on you. 2) Describe three strengths of your parents. 3) Describe a weakness of your parents or some characteristics of your parents that you would like to have changed. 4) Choose on or two areas of development – intellectual, moral, personality, social – in which your parents had the most influence and explain how or why. 5) Thank your parents for something special. (You can choose whether to show your parents the letter or not)
5	If you had to give up one sense, which one would it be and why.
6	Think of an example in which your parents used operant conditioning to get you to do something or not to do something when you were a child. Did the conditioning work? Why or Why not? What kind of reinforcement schedule did they plan on using, which reinforcement schedule did they actually use?
7	Proponents of multiple intelligences assume that the word smarts and number smarts measured by the traditional intelligence tests are no the only way to measure intelligence. Different people have different gifts. Do you agree with this concept? What kinds of intelligences do you have?
8	Do you think you are more influenced by internal hunger cues or external hunger cues? Give a few examples that support this hypothesis

9	Freud is sometimes described as the father of psychology, but his critics do not agree. Do you think that Freud's ideas are relevant today, or are they outdated, or irrelevant for the modern world? Be sure to support your argument with specifics.
10	How could you use the principles of social psychology to persuade your parents to buy you a new car?
11	How would you draw the line between sending disturbed criminals to prison or to mental hospitals? Would the person's history (for example – being abused as a child) influence your decision? Also, how do you feel about giving people who have been diagnosed with a mental illness (bi-polar disorder, schizophrenia, depression, etc) the freedom to choose not to take medication? Should we force people to take medication for their own safety and others, or should we allow them the right to decide?