

SYLLABUS

PSYC 1101

Section E04/E05

Intro to General Psychology

Spring 2018

Distance Learning; 3 Credits

Instructor: Dr. David S. B. Mitchell; Email: davidm@westga.edu

Teaching Assistant: Mr. William Spencer; Email: wspence1@my.westga.edu

Office: Melson Hall, Room 219 (second floor)

Course Lecture Postings: Mondays and Wednesdays

Course Learning Management System: CourseDen

HYPERLINK: <https://westga.view.usg.edu/>

Communications

Individual communications: Mr. Spencer and I will use our UWG Gmail email addresses that are listed above to communicate with you individually. Neither of us will use the CourseDen email address to send emails or to receive emails. We will typically respond to emails **within 48 hours**.

Normal correspondence (e.g., about course content, assignments, etc.): For all typical questions and concerns, put “PSYC 1101” in the subject heading and email Dr. Mitchell at davidm@westga.edu.

Urgent correspondence (e.g., about being late to or missing class due to family emergencies, transportation troubles, etc.): For communications about , please put “PSYC 1101 Urgent” in the subject heading and email both Dr. Mitchell at davidm@westga.edu and Mr. Spencer at wspence1@my.westga.edu. If you end up having a **reasonable excuse for not attending class or missing an assignment** such as a family emergency, medical or psychiatric emergency, travel emergency, etc., please let us know ASAP by sending an email. If you will not have access to email, you can have someone else email me in your place. We will excuse the absence if documentation (e.g., a picture of a doctor’s note, a scanned copy of an invoice for car repairs, etc.) can be provided. In the case of “sensitive” emergencies (e.g., a medical procedure or visit, etc.) that you do not want to disclose the nature of, you can blot out or cover the part of the documentation that states the nature of the problem. We are mainly asking for documentation to determine the date and duration of the emergency/problem and that there is some way to verify that it took place. It is not to embarrass or make anyone feel uncomfortable.

Mass/whole class communications: If multiple students have similar questions about something or if there is something that I want to convey to everyone at once, I may send a mass email to all students through the CourseDen messaging system or post/make an Announcement. What that means is that I will use the following ways to communicate important information to everyone at once: 1) the CourseDen Announcements section on the course homepage; 2) the PowerPoint Announcements section at the beginning of a set of

slides; 3) the email messaging system in CourseDen.

Other communications: For all other questions, concerns, etc., you can just put “*PSYC 1101 Section E01*” in the subject heading. If you need to inform us that you will be late to class

Office Hours (By Appointment Only)

To schedule an appointment for either face-to-face or online office hours, email me at davidm@westga.edu at least **24 hours in advance** and put “*PSYC 1101*” in the subject heading.

Face-to-Face Office Hours:

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30pm until 4:30pm in Melson Hall Room 219

Online Office Hours:

Wednesdays from 10:00am until 12:00pm and from 1:00pm until 3:00pm;

Fridays from 10:00am until 12:00pm

During online office hours you will be available to communicate relatively quickly (i.e., synchronously, as opposed to having to potentially wait for a response) with me by using one of the following methods: 1) Gmail email, 2) Google Hangouts, or 3) phone. If the office hours stated here do not work for your schedule, email me and we will see what else we can set up.

Course Description and Objectives

Psychology is the study of behavior and mental processes. As a social science, psychology deals with how we humans (and other animals – particularly mammals) think, learn, relate to one another, adapt to the environment, and behave in a number of ways that are good, bad, fascinating, and everywhere in-between. During this class, we will cover some of the major concepts and theories in psychology as well as some of the lesser known ones with the hopes of providing you with an overview of what psychology is and what it can do for us.

Text and Materials

Required Text: We will be using a free text from the Noba Project website which I will post in CourseDen in the Content section. Not all Noba Project material will relate to of our lecture material.

Complementary Material (CM): To expand our learning experience, we will also utilize material from articles, videos, and other resources that adds to our class lectures and reading of the Schacter text. Unless I state otherwise, I will provide you with either links to or copies of that material by posting them on CourseDen in our Content section, or sharing it with you in class lectures. These lectures will typically be in PowerPoint form.

Important Information

For important policy information, i.e., the UWG Honor Code, Email, and Credit Hour policies, as well as information on Academic Support and Online Courses, please review the information found in the **Common Language for Course Syllabi** documentation at [HYPERLINK https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/common-language-course-syllabi.php](https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/common-language-course-syllabi.php)

Additionally, I **reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus**. If I do make changes to it, I will notify you all.

Assessments/Assignments

Course Assessment/Assignments: The following assessments and assignments for our course are listed along with the amount of weight that they carry (i.e., the percentage/amount of points that they are worth) as well as information about how to complete them. Unless otherwise stated, all assignments are **due on CourseDen by 11:59pm** on their due date listed in the Course Calendar below. **Late written assignments** will be accepted, but will **lose 1-10 points per day** past the due date depending on the assignment.

- **Syllabus Quiz (50 points total):** We will have a **syllabus quiz** that will be completed on CourseDen. Completing the quiz properly requires that you read through this syllabus and respond to some questions about it.
- **“So What?” Paper (150 points total):** The purpose of this **at least 2 single-spaced page** assignment is to get you to think and write about what you may be able to get out of this class. Your education must have practical significance and meaning for you. For this paper, please do the following: 1) think of at least **one thing** that you might want to **study** during college, do for your **career**, or pursue as a passion/interest in your **free time**; 2) think of the **definition of psychology** (i.e., the study of mental processes and behavior through examining developmental psychology, neuropsychology, social psychology, clinical psychology, and other **subfields** to understand, predict, and control psychological **components** like memory, depression, motivation, addiction, well-being, etc. (tip: you can use the notes that you were just given on psychology as well as the course schedule below to get an idea); 3) tie together in writing the **one thing** with a **subfield or component** of psychology in a way that demonstrates how you can get something out of this class.
 - Some guiding questions that you may want to consider in your paper include “How might knowing more about X improve my life or the lives of those who I care about?”, “How might information about Y be useful to parents, teachers, or students like me?”, “How might knowing about Z improve how I understand myself or other people?”, etc., where X, Y, and Z are stand-ins for the **one thing** and **subfield or component** mentioned above.
 - Your typed response must include the following: 1) **what** you want to learn (i.e., your response to #2 above) - you can choose more than one thing if you would like, but must choose at least one thing that you hope to get out of this course); 2) **why** you want to learn it (what problem or challenge you hope to affect/improve or what people you hope to help by learning about the what); and 3) **how** you want to use this information (in what way specifically, small or big, you could potentially see yourself, someone else, or a group of other people being affected/improved by this information). Be sure to **PROOFREAD** your work and make sure that it is clear, grammatically correct, etc. Grammarly, spell check in Microsoft Word, etc. are great for that, as is the Writing Center on campus.
 - Email me if you get stuck or have questions.

- **Discussion Question Sets (10% of grade; 10 at 40 points each; 400 points total):** The Discussion Question Sets (DQS's) are type-written assignments that we will complete throughout the course in a Communal Learning Group (CLG), which will consist of **3-4 students total** and is a space for you to interact in a way that is more personal than doing so with the entire class. These assignments are opportunities for you to share with and respond to some of your classmates about questions that I will post in our course lectures.
 - **DQS:** Each of our 10 DQS's will consist of two parts, which are as follows:
 - 1) one **DQp**: each **DQp** is a post in which you either type out a summary/overview of either . Each of these (i.e., DQp #1, DQp #2, etc.) must focus on a different question from class; and
 - 2) one **DQr**: each **DQr** is a **response** of yours to one of your classmates who is in your **Communal Learning Group (CLG)**. The **DQr's** are always due **three days after** the DQp's are due in a given week to allow some time for you to read and respond to your classmates in your CLG.
 - **Due Dates:** Due dates for each DQp and DQr are listed in the Course Calendar below. DQp's are worth **5 points each** while DQr's are also worth **5 points each** for a total of **10 points** for each DQS. Each DQp and each DQr is to be **at least 4 full sentences long** and contain proper grammar. Each of these will be written on CourseDen in a Communal Learning Group, or CLG.
 - **Submitting DQS's:** You can access the CourseDen tool to post DQS's in one of two places: 1) under the **Discussions section of the Assessments menu**, or 2) under the **Communication** section in our course on CourseDen. The intention behind these activities is to promote student-student engagement, student-content engagement, as well as deeper understanding of the course material. DQp's and DQr's are posted by doing the following:
 - 1) clicking on "**Start a New Thread**" in your **CLG**;
 - 2) **typing out the name** of the DQp or DQr that you are responding to (e.g., "DQp #1, DQr #3, etc.);
 - 3) **typing or copying and pasting** your post/response in the entry window; then
 - 4) **submitting** your response.
 - *Note: You will only have access to the CLG to which you have been assigned, so only members of your group can see what you post and vice versa.
 - **Note: If you end up in a position where no one in your CLG has posted and it is the due date for a given DQr, feel free to simply post your own in response to one of the questions that I will be posting in our course lectures. Your post will be counted as a DQr.
- **Midterm (Exam 1; 200 points total):** This exam will deal with material that we have covered up until that point. It will consist of **at most 15 short-answer questions** that deal with topics throughout the course. At least some of the questions will have multiple parts. You are to take the exam in the **Quizzes section of the Assessments menu** in our course on CourseDen. The exam will be **open-book** and **open-note**, so you can use whatever materials you have been given or have created for this course. Feel free to utilize other internet sources, but make sure to properly cite any sources that you use (e.g., the

textbook, etc.). Remember that **plagiarism is not acceptable**, and we will use tools including TurnItIn to check for it.

- **Final (Exam 2, Paper 2A, or Paper 2B; 200 points total):** You have three options for the final. Pick one of the following to do.
 - **Option 1 - Exam 2:** If you pick our cumulative second exam for your final, you will be asked to respond to **at most 15 short-answer questions** that deal with topics primarily from the second half of the course. The questions will be similar in terms of content and style to questions from Exam 1. At least some of the questions will have multiple parts. You are to take the exam in the **Quizzes section of the Assessments menu** in our course on CourseDen. The exam will be **open-book** and **open-note**, so you can use whatever materials you have been given or have created for this course. Feel free to utilize other internet sources, but make sure to properly cite any sources that you use (e.g., the textbook, etc.). Remember that **plagiarism is not acceptable**, and we will use tools including TurnItIn to check for it.
 - **Option 2 - Paper 2A:** Pick a campus or community event in your area to attend and write **at least a two-page paper** in .doc or .rtf format on the event. If possible, choose an event that is relatively in-line in scope, topic, or outcome with what you wrote about for your Intention Reflection. The paper is to include the following: 1) a brief summary of the event; 2) a description of the topic(s) discussed; 3) a discussion of how the topic(s) relate(s) to at least one topic that we've covered in class thus far; and 4) any major impressions or "take-away's" from the experience (i.e., what struck you the most, how this is relevant to your "So What?" paper, or how it is relevant to the course as a whole).
 - If your schedule does not allow you to attend a given event in-person, you have several alternatives: 1) contact the workshop coordinator(s) or speaker(s) and obtain what information you can about the event, and/or 2) conduct an internet search on the topic and obtain what information you can about the topic in general. After doing so, your reflection will proceed in the same manner as if you had attended the event, with the only difference being that the summary of the event would be instead replaced with a summary of how you obtained the information and what you found.
 - **Option 3 - Paper 2B:** Revisit your "So What?" paper and write **at least a two-page paper** in .doc or .rtf format on it. Make sure to include the following: 1) what you had hoped to learn in the course; 2) whether or not you learned it, 3) at least one other thing that you learned in the course that you thought may be interesting and/or useful but did not include in your "So What?" paper; and 4) how you think you can use the information contained in 1-3 to support yourself and/or other people. Remember that **plagiarism is not acceptable**, and we will use tools including TurnItIn to check for it.

Academic Writing and Citation Tools

- University Writing Center (HYPERLINK: <https://www.westga.edu/writing>): You can make an appointment by: 1) stopping by their office at TLC 1201, 2) calling their office

at [678-839-6513](tel:678-839-6513), or 3) emailing their office at writing@westga.edu. If you want writing support for your Case Study or anything else, make an appointment soon as spaces will fill up quickly. Also, please note that the center closes for summer 2017 on Thursday, July 13th.

- APA Format (HYPERLINK <http://www.apastyle.org/learn/tutorials/basics-tutorial.aspx>): Visit the APA website for a free tutorial and other resources about the basics of writing a paper in APA format/style.
- Purdue OWL (HYPERLINK: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/>): Visit this easy-to-use website for the basics in APA format/style.
- Son of Citation Machine (HYPERLINK: <http://www.citationmachine.net/>): This is a free citation and reference builder for APA, MLA, Turabian, and Chicago writing and publishing styles.
- Zotero [zoh-TAIR-oh] (HYPERLINK: <https://www.zotero.org/>): This is a free, easy-to-use tool to help you collect, organize, cite, and share your research sources. It lives right where you do your work—in the web browser itself.
- BibMe (HYPERLINK: <http://www.bibme.org/>): This is a free, fully-automatic bibliography maker that auto-fills. It is easy to use to build a works cited page.

Grading Scale					
		A	1000-900 points	B	899-800 points
C	799-700 points	D	699-600 points	F	599 points and below

Assignment Contribution Towards Grade	
Assignments	Points Toward Grade
Syllabus Quiz (Week 1)	50
“So What?” Paper 1 (Week 2)	150
Discussion Question Sets (Weeks 3 through 15)	400
Midterm (Exam 1) (Week 8)	200
Final (Exam 2 or Paper 2 (Week 17)	200
Total Course Points	1000

Proposed Course Schedule

Wee k #	Date	Due Dates for Assignments	Topics Covered
1	1/8/18 1/10/18 1/11/18	Syllabus Quiz	Orientation and Syllabus Overview Culture, Context, and Psychology N/A
2	1/15/18 1/15/18		Martin Luther King Holiday 2018 You, Me, Nature, Nurture, and Psychology

	1/17/18 1/18/18	Paper 1: "So What?" Paper	Research Methods, Statistics, and Psychology
3	1/22/18 1/24/18 1/25/18	DQp #1 DQr #1	Consciousness, The Mind, and Psychology The Brain and Psychology N/A
4	1/29/18 1/31/18 2/1/18	DQp #2 DQr #2	Learning, Education, and Psychology Emotions, Memory, and Psychology N/A
5	2/5/18 2/7/18 2/8/18	DQp #3 DQr #3	Bonds/Attachment and Psychology Groups, Relationships, and Psychology N/A
6	2/12/18 2/14/18 2/15/18	DQp #4 DQr #4	Gender, Sex, Sexual Orientation and Psychology Race and Psychology N/A
7	2/19/18 2/21/18 2/22/17	DQp #5 DQr #5	Criminal Behavior, Violence, and Psychology Personality and Psychology N/A
8	2/26/18 2/28/18 3/1/18	Exam 1 (Midterm) Begins Exam 1 (Midterm) Ends	Morality and Psychology I Morality and Psychology II N/A
9	3/5/18 3/7/18 3/8/18	DQp #7 DQr #7	Health and Psychology I Health and Psychology II N/A
10	3/12/18 3/14/18 3/15/18	DQp #8 DQr #8	Environment and Psychology Animals and Psychology N/A
11	3/19/18 3/21/18		N/A: Spring Break 2018 N/A: Spring Break 2018
12	3/26/18 3/28/18 3/29/18	DQp #9 DQr #9	Abnormal Behavior, Therapy, and Psychology I Abnormal Behavior, Therapy, and Psychology II N/A
13	4/2/18 4/3/18 4/4/18 4/5/18	DQp #10 DQr #10	Autism, Alzheimer's, and Psychology Scholars' Day 2018 Language and Psychology N/A
14	4/9/18 4/11/18 4/12/18	 SPARC	Art, Music, and Psychology "Quirks" and Psychology SPARC 2018
15	4/16/18 4/18/18		Paranormal Phenomena and Psychology Technology, Transhumanism, and Psychology
16	4/23/18 4/25/18		Spirituality, Religion, and Psychology Contemplative Practices and Psychology
17	4/30/18 5/2/18 5/4/18	Paper 2/Exam 2 (Final) Begins Paper 2/Exam 2 (Final) Ends	Closing Thoughts N/A N/A
*	5/14/18	Final Grades Due	Final Grades Due