

**Introduction to General Psychology
Psychology 1101-E02
University of West Georgia**

Instructor:

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Nature of an Online course:

I will utilize D2L. It is 100% your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the technological requirements to complete an online course. If you have questions about anything technology related, please contact Distance Education (<http://www.westga.edu/~distance/>) or call 678-839-6248. You will need Microsoft Office for this course, which is provided free by UWG at Student ITS.

Course Description:

This course represents a glimpse into the kinds of questions, modes of inquiry, and conversational topics generally batted about by folks who call themselves “psychologists”. These questions are: What does it mean to be human? What is experience? How do we measure it? How might we think about our relationship with our environments? How might we think about the relationship with psychology and neurology? What does it mean to suffer psychologically? What do we know about being with others who are suffering psychologically? In this introductory course, you will learn the major concepts, people, and perspectives of psychology, ranging from a "micro" (biological) focus on neuroscience and sensation/perception to a more "macro" focus on social phenomena, like learning and emotions. In short, we will approach a variety of psychological traditions and topics as they have been developed, appreciated, and criticized within contemporary culture, and will learn some of the practical applications of psychological knowledge.

Course objectives:

A primary objective of any "introductory" course is simply that: to introduce you to the subject matter of the discipline and to familiarize you with the vocabulary and concepts. Psychology is the study of human consciousness and human sociality—the thoughts, feelings, and socio-cultural interactions that we experience as we live in our world. You already have many years of first-hand experience in psychology based on your own observations and knowledge about yourself and your environment. In this course you will see how research has been applied to test intuitive assumptions about human life. You will find that many of your beliefs about human existence are scientifically supported; but you will also find many beliefs are refuted by the evidence.

Certainly, as a student in this course, you will receive a more comprehensive understanding of yourself and your world. I also hope that you will develop greater skills of critical thinking that

will make you a better consumer of psychological information. Unfortunately, there is a lot of "pop" psychology practiced in our culture and popularized by the media. At best, these pseudo-sciences are a harmless diversion; at worst, they are billion-dollar industries that exploit the ignorance and gullibility of the populace. By the end of the course you should be able to differentiate between legitimate psychology and the "pop" pretenders.

Finally, I hope that you will achieve some personal growth and transformation from the course by reaching a deeper understanding and acceptance of yourself and others. Hopefully, this class will enrich your personal relationships and contribute to your success in your future endeavors.

Other Objectives include:

1. Articulate and employ the major perspectives of psychology including biological/neuroscientific, behavioral, cognitive, psychoanalytic, critical, humanistic, and transpersonal/contemplative
2. Critically evaluate and shift among the 7 major perspectives when required

Course Readings

REQUIRED:

Myers, David & DeWall, Nathan (2018). *Psychology*. 12th Edition. New York: Worth/ MacMillan. ISBN: 978-1-319-06795-3
Loose-leaf version. *Available in bookstore*

(you may purchase an older edition of this book from Ebay or Amazon for much less money. If you do, please be aware that the chapters may not align perfectly with the 12th edition, but you can probably figure out which ones correspond and how by looking at the chapter titles. I will not be able to answer this for you; you will need to figure that out on your own).

Class Assignments:

Tests

There will be **4** tests (see course schedule for exact dates). The tests will be available from 9am-11pm on the days specified. You may take the test at any point during that time period. **LOOK AT THE DATES NOW AND MAKE SURE YOU ARE NOT TRAVELING OR WORKING OR BUSY DURING THE ENTIRE DAY THE TESTS ARE OPEN.** All tests are timed (90 min). The tests will not be cumulative. They are closed-notes and closed-books. Tests questions are randomized to prevent cheating. Any suspicion of cheating will result in expulsion from the class (see UWG ethics handbook). Each test is 50 multiple choice items (each question worth 2pts each).

Make-up Policy: If for whatever reason you do not take the test during the time allotted, you will lose 10pts per day that you require to make the test up. No make-up tests will be given unless you have a verifiable emergency. Failure to

make a test up within 48 hrs will result in an automatic zero for the test, no exceptions.

Awareness Journal Entries

You will submit 4 of these (50 pts each). An awareness journal entry is a 200-300 word (keep it between this amount) short essay due at 4 different points during the semester (see times/dates on course schedule) where you creatively attempt to build bridges between class material (what you are reading) and your own personal experience. Simply answer the following question:

What am I learning from the readings that connects with my own personal life experiences? How have concepts in the reading helped me better understand my own personal experiences? Explain the connections in detail. I am looking for thoughtful and engaged answers, not quick and fast and vague answers. The better you write and the deeper you self-reflect, the better your grade. Simple as that.

Grading:

Test 1 = 100pts
Test 2 = 100pts
Test 3 = 100pts
Test 4 = 100pts
Awareness Essay 1 = 50 pts
Awareness Essay 2 = 50 pts
Awareness Essay 3 = 50 pts
Awareness Essay 4 = 50 pts
600 pts possible

Grading Scale:

Course grade is determined entirely by the total points a student earns:

<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Grade</u>
90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
Below 60%	F

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All individual written work is expected to be your own, and plagiarism is highly unacceptable. Proper documentation and citation are required when attributing ideas/information. Please see the honor code in the student handbook or ask me if you have questions. If you are caught cheating in any way, you will receive zero points for that assignment and it will be reported to the Dean's Office for possible probation or suspension from the University.

Course Schedule

Section 1: Aug 12 – Sept 11

During this time closely read Chapters 1, 2, 4, and 5.

Sept 14 by 9pm – **Awareness Journal Entry 1** is due

Sept 16 (from 9am until 11pm)—**Test 1** (covering Chs 1, 2, 4, and 5) is open to take

Section 2: Sept 14-Oct 7

During this time closely read Chapters 6 and 7

Oct 12 by 9pm – **Awareness Journal Entry 2** is due

Oct 14 (from 9am until 11pm)—**Test 2** (covering Chs 6 and 7) is open to take

Section 3: Oct 12- Oct 30

During this time closely read Chapters 8, 9, 12

Nov 2 by 9pm – **Awareness Journal Entry 3** is due

Nov 4 (from 9am until 11pm)—**Test 3** (covering Chs 8, 9, and 12) is open to take

Section 4: Nov 2 – Nov 20

During this time closely read Chapters 14, 15, and 16

Nov 30 by 9pm – **Awareness Journal Entry 4** is due

Dec 2 (from 9am until 11pm)—**Test 4** (covering Chs 14, 15, and 16) is open to take