

PSYC 130 (Section 6)

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN PSYCHOLOGY

Winter 2004

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Office Hours: **Thursdays 1-2 pm or by appointment**

Generally, the best way to contact me outside of lecture or office hours is by e-mail. I am not on campus other days, but will attempt to check my email daily. Office hours could occur by telephone if you are not available on Thursdays.

TEXTBOOK:

- Text: Wade, C., Tavris, C., Saucier, D., & Elias, L. (2003). *Psychology* (1st Canadian ed.). Toronto: Prentice Hall

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course acquaints students with major contemporary issues in psychology and considers their historical antecedents. Topics include the application of psychological knowledge on life span development, personality, abnormal behavior, social cognition, social influence, and social relations to a variety of contemporary social issues. Topics vary with instructor and changing problems.

Prerequisites: English 12 **or** assessment.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course, the student shall:

1. Apply the terminology of the topics covered in the course
2. Demonstrate the skills involved in interrelating concepts
3. Apply the psychological theories and concepts of the topics covered in the course
4. Understand how psychological knowledge is acquired
5. Design psychological studies
6. Recognize and critique the difficulties inherent in psychological research

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

The reading material for this course will include a text, and possibly additional readings from websites identified in class. Students are responsible for reading this material prior to the class so that they are prepared to participate in class discussions and group tasks. It is essential for students to attend all lectures because ***key concepts covered in the lectures that are not covered in the course readings will be on the exams.***

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assignments: (40% of course grade)

There are four homework assignments in the class. Further information about each will be presented in class, but two will involve independent work, and two will involve group work. For *one* of the group assignments, groups will present the information to the class in the last class of the term. For late assignments, 10% will be deducted for each day that the assignment is late. There will also be in class activities that will count toward your grade.

Exams: (60% of course grade)

There are three exams in this course, please refer to the attached outline for dates and to determine which chapters are covered by each exam. All exams are based on information from the lectures, lab activities, and assigned readings. These exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Each exam is worth 20% of the course grade. If time permits in the class before the exam, I will include a brief exam preparation session.

GRADING:

A+	95 – 100%	Superior levels of achievement
A	90 – 94%	
A-	85 – 89%	
B+	80 – 84%	High levels of achievement
B	75 – 79%	
B-	70 – 74%	
C+	65 – 69%	Average levels of achievement
C	60 – 64%	
D	50 – 59%	Minimum levels of achievement
F	< 50%	Minimum level not achieved

IMPORTANT RULES AND GUIDELINES:

1. Work needs to be submitted on time. If work is handed in late, 10% will be deducted each day that the work is late.
2. The in-class assignments can only be completed if you attend the class. If you misses a class because of a medical reason or another legitimate excuse, there will be the opportunity to make-up one class assignment at the end of the semester. This make-up activity will consist of a take home essay or exercise. If you intend to make-up a class assignments, you must come and see me within one week of when the assignment was given.
3. When submitting work, please record all of the necessary information (**full name**, id number, course number, section number, instructor's name, topic, and date).
4. Staple all of your assignments at the top left corner of the page. Do not use paper clips, folders, and do not hand in loose sheets.
5. If you miss an exam, you must contact me as soon as possible and definitely within 1 week of the exam date to be eligible to make up the exam. **Make-ups for missed exams will only be granted with a medical note.**

6. Exam marks are final. Students are not permitted to rewrite exams. Students who feel too ill to write exams should excuse themselves before writing the exam.
7. Any student found plagiarizing another person's work will, at a minimum, be given an automatic 0% for the work. Any student found cheating on an exam will be given an automatic 0% for the entire exam. In lab studies, any student found fabricating data will be given an automatic 0% for the assignment. Plagiarism is a serious offense and students who plagiarize are subject to failing the entire course.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week	Topic	Assigned Readings
1) Jan 8	Chapters 1 & 2 – What is Psychology? and How Psychologists Do Research	Chapters 1 & 2
2) Jan 15	Development over the Lifespan	Chapter 14
3) Jan 22	Development over the Lifespan	Chapter 14 (cont'd)
4) Jan 29	Emotion <i>Individual Assignment #1 Due</i>	Chapter 11
5) Feb 5	EXAM 1 (Chapters 1/2, 14, & 11) Motivation	Chapter 12
6) Feb 12	READING BREAK (Feb 12 & 13)	
7) Feb 19	Theories of Personality <i>Group Assignment Due</i>	Chapter 13
8) Feb 26	Behaviour in Social & Cultural Context	Chapter 8
9) Mar 4	EXAM 2 (Chapters 12, 13, & 8) Psychological Disorders	Chapter 16
10) Mar 11	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 16 (cont'd)
11) Mar 18	Approaches to Treatment and Therapy <i>Individual Assignment #2 Due</i>	Chapter 17
12) Mar 25	Approaches to Treatment and Therapy	Chapter 17 (cont'd)
13) April 1	Health, Stress & Coping	Chapter 15
14) April 8	<i>Group Presentations to Class</i>	
Final Exam Period	EXAM 3 (Chapters 16, 17, & 15)	

*Note: this schedule is flexible and if there are any changes they will be discussed in class