PSY 2012: General Psychology - Section H252
Spring 2019 Course Syllabus

Course Details:
Location: Weil Hall 0273
Time: Tuesday 1:55 – 2:45 and Thursday 1:55 – 3:50

Course Instructor: Dr. Brian Cahill
E-mail: brian.cahill@ufl.edu
Office: Psychology Building, Rm 257
Office Hours: Wednesday 1-4pm or by appointment

Required Materials:
Textbook: Lilienfeld, Lynn, Namy, and Woolf
Psychology: From Inquiry to Understanding
4th edition
ISBN: 9781323785669
Note: You can also choose to just get REVEL digital e-book access without print text. The ISBN of the digital e-book is 9780134761749.

Course Information

Social and Behavioral Sciences General Education Subject Area Objectives
Social and behavioral science courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and underlying theory or methodologies used in the social and behavioral sciences. Students will learn to identify, describe and explain social institutions, structures or processes. These courses emphasize the effective application of accepted problem-solving techniques. Students will apply formal and informal qualitative or quantitative analysis to examine the processes and means by which individuals make personal and group decisions, as well as the evaluation of opinions, outcomes or human behavior. Students are expected to assess and analyze ethical perspectives in individual and societal decisions.

Course Overview
This course is an overview of major topics in modern psychology, the scientific study of behavior, and mental processes. As a first course in the discipline of psychology, it introduces some of the fundamental concepts, principles, and theories with a consideration for the complexity of human behavior.
Course Goals

1) To teach you the science behind psychology and how it differs from the media’s interpretation.
2) To provide you with an introduction to the different areas within the field of psychology.
3) To teach you the concepts in the field and how to apply them.

Student Learning Objectives

1) Describe and apply the principles of the scientific process.
   ❖ How can you turn the basic question of, “Why do Gator fans do the chomp during football games?” into a scientific investigation?
2) Develop yourself as a critical consumer of information.
   ❖ When reading a news article or reviewing research findings, are you able to “look beyond what you see” (Lion King…)? Does the news reporter have biases that may influence the presentation of the information? Did the researchers consider “third variables” that may account for the findings? Have you considered your own biases and if you are “cherry-picking” for evidence?
3) Compare and evaluate the various theories that provide explanations for why a given phenomenon may occur.
   ❖ According to different theories of personality, what are some factors that may influence personality development in individuals? Can personality development be attributed to cognitive, psychosocial, and morality changes?

Course Policies

Email Communication

❖ All students are required to check their UF email and visit Canvas daily, as these are used to communicate important course information. Before contacting me through email, please check to see if the answer to your question has been posted to Canvas or is in any course material, such as the syllabus.
❖ Any emails will be responded to within 48 hours of receipt, not including weekends and holidays. Please be advised that questions sent less than two days before an assignment is due may not receive a response until after the deadline has passed.

Expectations and Attendance

❖ Students are expected to attend class regularly and arrive to class on time. If you are expecting that you will regularly be late to class, please communicate with me at the beginning of the semester so I am aware. If you miss class, you are responsible for learning what is covered in class and obtaining notes. Please be prepared to provide documentation when appropriate.
❖ Lecture slides will be posted online. Lecture slides do not replace note taking and only serve as an outline to help you take detailed notes. These slides will not cover all class material
that I verbally lecture about, so students should take good notes. I am happy to provide you with tips for effective note-taking and good study habits. Please get in touch with me!

- Finally, and most importantly, this is your education. Feel free to do with it what you see fit. From personal experience, I can share with you that I've always felt better about courses I showed up to. The temptation to skip class can be very real (I was an undergraduate student too), but I hope you enjoy this class and want to attend regardless of my attendance checks.

Students with Special Needs

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Make-up Exam Policy

- Make-up exams will only be administered for University approved absences, and proper documentation will be required (a student health receipt is not sufficient documentation). Without proper documentation, missed exams will receive a score of zero. Please access the following website for details on what constitutes a University approved absence: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx#absences.

- Please contact me the week before an exam if you will require a make-up. In the event of a medical or personal emergency that forces you to miss an exam, you will be given an opportunity to make up the missed exam. If you experience an emergency, you are expected to contact me as soon as possible to schedule a make-up and provide documentation. The make-up exam must take place within one week of the original exam date unless there are extenuating circumstances.

- In all instances of exams taken before or after their scheduled administration, instructors maintain the right to substitute exams different from those administered to the rest of the class. In all cases, decisions about whether and when to allow a student to make up an exam or assignment are left to the discretion of the instructor. For unexcused absences, there will be no make-ups or extensions.

Religious Observances

Please compare your calendar to the course schedule early in the semester. Any student who has a conflict in the exam schedule or feels that missing a class due to religious observance will disadvantage them should contact me as soon as possible so that we can make any necessary arrangements.
Grade Disputes
For all graded assignments, you will have 1 week from the day your grades are released to dispute your grade, after which your grade will become final and can no longer be disputed. Obviously, just because you dispute your grade DOES NOT mean your grade will be changed in your favor. Also, this should not be a default reaction to any low grade you receive, please only pursue this route when you are confident that you can make a case that an error occurred. If you wish to dispute a grade you must email me to inform me that you wish to dispute your grade. Then you must attend office hours and be ready to provide a sound argument based on empirical evidence. Any changes to grades will be made solely at the discretion of your professor.

Grading

Exams (200 points total)
There will be four non-cumulative exams (worth 50 points each) consisting of open ended questions. The exams will be based on the lecture and book material. On exam days, arrive on time and bring a number 2 pencil with you. If you arrive after the first person has turned in his/her exam, you will not be allowed to take the exam. You are responsible for bringing a pencil. Each exam must be completed as scheduled unless you provide documentation of a serious illness, death in the family, or other serious emergency that prevents you from being present on the day of the exam. Make-up exams will not be administered under any other circumstances.

Assignments (40 points total)
There will be 4 assignments over the semester. The details of the assignments will be posted on Canvas. These assignments must be completed independently; any collaboration between students is not permitted and is a violation of the UF Honor Code. The assignments must be typed in APA format and submitted electronically via Canvas. Assignments must be submitted on the due date indicated in the syllabus and should be turned in using the .doc or .docx file formats.

Class Presentation (50 points total)
One of the best ways to learn information is to teach others. As such, for this assignment you will work with a group and present a chapter to the class. I will help guide you by giving you slides to build from and will give you all tips on how to give an effective lecture. Your grade will consist of both group and individual components. I will give you more details about this as the semester progresses.
Experimental Participation Requirement (20 points)

There is a Psychology Department requirement that all students enrolled in PSY2012 participate in a research experience. **Do NOT wait until the last minute to complete this requirement. The longer you wait, the harder it will be get all of the required credits.** The deadlines for this requirement are in the Research Requirement PSY2012 document on Canvas. Completion of this requirement affects your course grade based on the amount of research credits you earn.

**Option 1:** You need to earn **(this will be filled in soon)** credits in total. When you complete the research experience by completing $X$ credits of research, you will receive 10 points that are added into your PSY2012 grade. If you do not complete the full number of credits by the deadline, you will receive $X$ points per credit completed.

**Option 2:** This includes paper assignments. **Students who are under 18 years old must sign up for this option.** The deadline to declare this option can be found on the research requirement document on Canvas.

**Late Work**

Unlike Lloyd Christmas who famously said, “So you're telling me there's a chance. YEAH!”, you have NO chance of earning points for late work so please make sure you turn your assignments in on time.

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**UF Honor Code**

I am not willing to give a passing grade to those who do not abide by the UF honor code. Any student who cheats or helps another student cheat will receive an **E (Fail)** in this class. When students enroll at the University of Florida, they commit themselves to the standard drafted and enacted by students.

**Preamble:** In adopting this honor code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the university community. Students who enroll at the university commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the honor code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the honor code is bound by honor to take corrective action. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon community acceptance and enforcement of the honor code.

**Honor Pledge:** We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."
It should be clear that academic dishonesty, such as cheating, is NOT tolerated at the University of Florida. Cheating is defined in the University Handbook, and it is the student’s responsibility to be familiar with its many forms (including plagiarism). If there is a suspected academic honesty violation, the Student Honor Code Procedures will be followed.

**Grading Procedure:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Presentation</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Experimental Participation</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Your final grade will include 4 exams, 4 assignments, class presentation, and a experimental participation requirement. The following scale will be used to determine final grades, I will not round up final grades under any circumstances:

A  =  93 – 100%
A- =  90 – 92%
B+ =  87 – 89%
B  =  83 - 86%
B- =  80 - 82%
C+ =  77 - 79%
C  =  73 – 76%
C- =  70 – 72%
D+ =  67 – 69%
D  =  63 - 66%
D- =  60 – 62%
E  =  0 – 59%

At any time, you may calculate your grade by adding up the number of points earned, dividing that sum by the number of points attempted, and multiplying the result by 100. Information about UF’s current grading policies may be found at: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx)
## Tentative Course Schedule

Readings and assignments are due on the day that they are listed. Any other required readings will be posted on Canvas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READING</th>
<th>DUE</th>
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<tr>
<td>1-7</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1-9, 1-14</td>
<td>Psychology and Scientific Thinking</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1-16, 1-21</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-23, 1-28</td>
<td>Biological Psychology</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>Assignment #1 Due 1-28 at 11:59pm</td>
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<td><strong>1-30</strong></td>
<td><strong>Exam 1</strong></td>
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<td>2-4, 2-6</td>
<td>Sensation and Perception</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
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<td>2-11, 2-13</td>
<td>Learning</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td>Assignment #2 Due 2-13 at 11:59pm</td>
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<td>2-18, 2-20</td>
<td>Memory</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
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<td><strong>2-25</strong></td>
<td><strong>Exam 2</strong></td>
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<td>2-27</td>
<td>Thinking, Reasoning, and Language</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<td>2-29 – 3-8</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td>3-10</td>
<td>Thinking, Reasoning, and Language</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<td>3-12, 3-17</td>
<td>Intelligence and IQ Testing</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
<td>Assignment 3 Due 3-12 at 11:59pm</td>
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<td>Human Development</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
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<td><strong>3-26</strong></td>
<td><strong>Exam 3</strong></td>
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<td>Dates</td>
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<td>Chapter 14</td>
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<td>Psychological Disorders</td>
<td>Chapter 15</td>
<td>Assignment 4 Due 4-14 at 11:59pm</td>
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<td>4-21</td>
<td>Exam 4</td>
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