

# Psychology 001: Introduction to Psychology

## Spring 2008

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**Instructor:** Dr. Tandra Ghose, PhD ([tghose@ucmerced.edu](mailto:tghose@ucmerced.edu))  
**Office Hours:** After lecture and by appointment  
**Office:** COB 224  
**Course Time:** Tuesday Thursday, 9:30 am - 10:50 am  
**Location:** Classroom 120  
**Course website:** UCMCrops  
**Textbook:** Psychology: Core Concepts, Discovering Psychology Edition, 5/e  
Zimbardo, Johnson & Weber

**Text website:** <http://mypsychlab.com/>    **Course code/ID:** ghose72949  
**Readings:** Other readings may be assigned in lecture

### Teaching Assistants:

Lizbeth Duran      [lduran@ucmerced.edu](mailto:lduran@ucmerced.edu)  
Pauline Light      [plight@ucmerced.edu](mailto:plight@ucmerced.edu)

**Office Hours:** TBA in sections

### Discussion Sections:

Sec.No	Day	Time	Leader	Location
Sec. 1	F	1-1:50 pm	Lizbeth Duran	COB 276
Sec. 2	F	9-9:50 am	Pauline Light	COB 276
Sec. 3	F	12-12:50 pm	Lizbeth Duran	COB 276
Sec. 4	F	8-8:50 am	Pauline Light	COB 279

### Course Goal:

- To **KNOW** thy neighbor as thyself!
- The modern pursuit of **PSYCHE** !

### Course Introduction:

This course covers a broad overview of the field psychology. Psychology is the scientific study of mental processes and behavior.

This course will be a brief introduction to

- the philosophical attempts of understanding our mind & soul, and scientific approaches to perception & cognition
- our learning, remembering abilities & intelligence
- our personality, emotions & motivating factors
- our interpersonal interactions
- applications of such knowledge to our daily life
- the unique language of psychology.

The main objective of this course is to impart the skills to critically evaluate information about psychology, human behavior, neurobiology, and its impact on our daily lives. The other objective is to be fascinated by behavior and mental processes!

**Class Attendance:** Attendance will not be taken in lecture. However, attendance is expected and highly encouraged. Attendance will be taken in sections. Quizzes will be conducted during lecture and discussion sections and cannot be made up. Some material that will be covered in class is not in the textbook. This material WILL BE covered on exams. If you miss a lecture, please consult with classmates and/or visit office hours to catch up.

### Course Plan - Psychology 001\*

Date	Day	Topic	Due
1/22	<b>Week-1</b> Tue	<b>Introduction</b> Text: Chapter-1	[No section]
1/24	Thu	<b>History</b> Text: Chapter-1	
1/29	<b>Week-2</b> Tue	<b>Methods and Statistics</b> Text: Chapter-1	[Section-1: Intro & Index Card]
1/31	Thu	<b>Methods and Statistics</b> Text: Statistics Appendix	
2/5	<b>Week-3</b> Tue	<b>Behavioral Genetics</b> Text: Chapter-2	[Section-2: Causation & Correlation]
2/7	Thu	<b>Biological Psychology</b> Text: Chapter-2	
2/12	<b>Week-4</b> Tue	<b>Biological Psychology</b> Text: Chapter-2	[Section-3: Discuss writing abstracts]
2/14	Thu	<b>Consciousness</b> Text: Chapter-3	
2/19	<b>Week-5</b> Tue	<b>Sensation &amp; Perception</b> Text: Chapter-5	[Section-4: Brain activity]
2/21	Thu	<b>Sensation &amp; Perception</b> Text: Chapter-5	<b>Paper Abstract due in class</b>

2/26	<b>Week-6</b> Tue	<b>Learning</b> Text: Chapter-6	[Section-5: MT Jeopardy]
2/28	Thu	<b>Memory</b> Text: Chapter-7	
3/4	<b>Week-7</b> Tue	<b>Exam-1</b>	[Section-6: Help with Term paper]
3/6	Thu	<b>TBA</b>	
3/11	<b>Week-8</b> Tue	<b>TBA</b>	
3/13	Thu	<b>Memory</b> Text: Chapter-7	
3/18	<b>Week-9</b> Tue	<b>Thinking &amp; Intelligence</b> Text: Chapter-8	[No section]
3/20	Thu	<b>Thinking &amp; Intelligence</b> Text: Chapter-8	<b>Paper Draft due in class</b>
3/25	<b>Week-10</b> Tue	***Spring Break***	
3/27	Thu	***Spring Break***	Prepare for Exam-2 on 4/8
4/1	<b>Week-11</b> Tue	<b>Motivation &amp; Emotion</b> Text: Chapter-9	[Section-8: Jeopardy/review]
4/3	Thu	<b>Stress &amp; Health</b> Text: Chapter-10	
4/8	<b>Week-12</b> Tue	<b>Exam-2</b>	[Section-9: Help with Term paper]
4/10	Thu	<b>Personality</b> Text: Chapter-11	
4/15	<b>Week-13</b> Tue	<b>Psychological disorders</b> Text: Chapter-12	[No section]
4/17	Thu	<b>Therapies</b> Text: Chapter-13	<b>Paper Due in class AND online</b>
4/22	<b>Week-14</b> Tue	<b>Social Psychology</b> Text: Chapter-14	[Section-10: Debate]
4/24	Thu	<b>Social Psychology</b> Text: Chapter-14	
4/29	<b>Week-15</b> Tue	<b>Developmental Psychology</b> Text: Chapter-4	[Section-11: 2.5 min presentation]
5/1	Thu	<b>Developmental Psychology</b> Text: Chapter-4	
5/6	<b>Week-16</b>	REVIEW	[No section]
5/8	Thu	REVIEW	

\* This schedule may be updated by the instructor during the course of the semester.

The things that you learn in this course will allow you to start to address interesting and important questions like:

- Which is the one that shapes our behavior – “nature” or “nurture”?
- What are the career options for a psychology major?
- Can peers shape appropriate/problematic behavior?
- Is it possible to get a poor grade in spite of attending all classes and studying for at least 6 hours everyday?
- Can incentives change performance of office-workers?
- Do cultural differences influence thinking and behavior?

All of these questions have practical implications for our daily lives and often our professional lives. The main goal of this course is to give you a foundation of knowledge in psychology and the skills to evaluate new information as it emerges. Should you believe an article or book in the popular press that suggests split personality is the most severe forms of schizophrenia? How do you know whether the study is scientifically valid? What are the implications of this study for you? You will begin to learn how to evaluate such results in this course.

### Grading Scheme:

<b>Midterm Exam</b>	<b>40% (20+20)</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Paper Abstract</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Paper</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Quizzes</b>	<b>10% (several quizzes)</b>
<b>Experiment Participation</b>	<b>5% (Oday, experiments)</b>
<b>Section Participation</b>	<b>5% (attendance, Q&amp;A )</b>

### Grading Scale:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Range</b>
<b>A+</b>	97% & above	<b>C+</b>	77% to 79.9%
<b>A</b>	92% to 96.9%	<b>C</b>	72% to 76.9%
<b>A-</b>	90% to 91.9%	<b>C-</b>	65% to 71.9%
<b>B+</b>	87% to 89.9%	<b>D+</b>	60% to 64.9%
<b>B</b>	82% to 86.9%	<b>D</b>	50% to 59.9%
<b>B-</b>	80% to 81.9%	<b>F</b>	below 50%

**Expectations/What you need to learn:** This course is about learning how to evaluate evidence about human behavior and mental processes AND learning sufficient background material to do that task well. Thus, exams and assignments will assess both your ability to evaluate evidence and to remember scientific facts that have been covered. Thus, you must remember particular experiments and their results and implications.

**Exams:** Exams will consist of a mixture of multiple choice, and fill-in-the-blank/short answer questions. Multiple quizzes during the semester will help to prepare you for the format and style of exam questions. Bring RED scantron forms on days of exams. DSP students should notify Dr.Ghose within the first 2 weeks of the semester to discuss accommodations. Unless you have proper documentation (doctor's note, funeral notice, auto-insurance claim papers, towing receipt, etc), **REQUESTS FOR MAKE-UP TESTS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED**

**Paper:** The paper assignment is a chance for you to study in depth a topic of interest in psychology. Your paper should be based on your reading and assimilation of at least 5 reference materials in the form of scientific journal articles, books, media reports, and web sites. Of these 5 required references, a minimum of two (2) must be articles published in a peer-reviewed journal within the past two years. This is to make sure that your topic is one of current scientific interests. Your paper must be 5 pages in length, double-spaced, with 12 point Times New Roman font, with 1-inch margins. The paper assignment will be completed in 2-3 stages.

**Stage 1: The Abstract** – The purpose of this stage is for you to propose a topic for your paper and provide some references on which you will base the paper. It will consist of (1) one paragraph (about 300 words) describing the thesis of your paper. (2) A list of references that will be used in the paper. No credit will be given for late submissions, but this step must be completed. If you have any questions about whether an article meets these standards, you should ask the instructor ahead of time. Due at the beginning of class, **Thursday, Feb 21**.

**Stage 2: Draft** (optional) – This is a draft version of the paper. Your paper will be read by the instructor/TA and feedback will be given. You may submit a draft on the due date as an attempt to maximize your score on the final paper. Late drafts will not be accepted. Due at the beginning of class, **Thursday, Mar 20**.

**Stage 3: Final Paper** – The final, edited (based on feedback from instructor/TA) paper. This paper will be graded in full by the instructor/TA. Manuscripts must be submitted in **both** paper (in class) and online (at [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) ). Complete instructions for electronic submission will be given in class. There will be a 25% penalty for papers turned in one day late. No papers will be accepted more than 1 day late. Due at the beginning of class, **Thursday, Apr 17**.

*More information about the paper will be presented later during the semester.*

**Quizzes:** There will be multiple quizzes either during lecture or during the discussion sections. The main purpose of each quiz is to be a self-diagnostic tool and hopefully it will give you incentive to keep up with the reading. The lowest quiz score (s) will be dropped. No make up quizzes will be given.

**Experiment participation:** Participating in experiments will give you the opportunity to actually see what real psychology experiments look like. You need to fill the forms of Qday for 2% of your grade and complete a 3 hours of participation as a subject in psychological experiments (3%).

**Section participation:** You cannot pass the course if you miss more than 3 sections. 5% of your grade will be based on your attendance and active participation in the sections. You are expected to ask questions in the sections and participate in discussions.

**Course Objectives:** By the end of the course you should :

- Learn how to study for a college level course,
- Be conversant (preferably fluent) with the main concepts, theories and issues in the field of psychology,
- Be able to describe the research methods used to collect information about our behavior, the strength and weaknesses of each method and how to interpret the data collected using these methods,
- Be able to use apply knowledge of psychology to everyday life,
- Be able to critically evaluate the claims concerning behavior in news reports, commercials and daily conversation,
- Be able to write summary of the research on a particular psychological aspect such as, drug addiction, new study aid, and draw conclusions as to the most valid interpretation of the data available.

**Cheating/Plagiarism:** Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. UC Merced's outlines your rights and responsibilities regarding academic honesty policy, the details can be found at: <http://studentlife.ucmerced.edu/2.asp?uc=1&lv12=121&lv13=121&lv14=123&contentid=171>

All scored exams will be photocopied before being returned to you to prevent attempts to change answers.

Please put **Psych-1** in the subject line of **EVERY** email  
**Thanks!!!!**