Introduction to Psychology (Psy 100 750-12049)

Spring, 2018 Web Course

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Text: Hockenbury & Hockenbury, *Discovering Psychology*, ISBN: 978-1-4292-1650-0, Worth Publishers,

5th Edition. *required*; accompanying student study guide *recommended*. (6th Edition permitted)

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**Important…when contacting me via email, be sure to include "Psy 100 Web" on the subject line, along with a brief description of the topic, as, "Psy 100 Web-Discussion Question 1/8/2018". I will normally check my email daily and respond to questions/requests within 24 hours except on weekends. If you do not properly identify your mail, it may be directed to Junk Mail or Trash--and neither of us wants that to happen!!!

Course Description:

This course fulfills a portion of WKU's Explorations category of Social and Behavioral Sciences and addresses the objectives of that area. Students will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences.
2. Apply knowledge, theories, and research methods, including ethical conduct, to analyze problems pertinent to at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences.
3. Understand and demonstrate how at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences conceptualizes diversity and the ways it shapes human experience.
4. Integrate knowledge of at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences into issues of personal or public importance.
5. Communicate effectively using the language and terminology applying to at least one area of social and behavioral sciences.

Course objectives:

Objective: Upon completion of this course the student…	Activities for that objective	Assessment of that objective
will be able to identify and classify the major principles of psychology and demonstrate a knowledge of the scientific basis for these ideas.	Study of textbook material Utilization of instructor-provided videos and web links Demonstration of understanding of the processes of a scientific experiment	Student self-checks On-line quizzes on textbook readings Evaluation of performance on required activities
will demonstrate the ability to use computer techniques necessary to utilize web sources effectively to enhance learning and communicate ideas.	Utilize web links and online library resources Recall information obtained Select appropriate information which applies to topic of discussion Discussion-board responses	Assessment of responses to written assignments Completion of online quizzes and tests Presentation of information in brief 2-3 paragraph responses to instructor Assessment of discussion-board responses

will participate in the class in a manner which makes ordinary student experiences extraordinary—while learning the material, growing as a group participant, and (hopefully) enjoying the process.	Student will restate and clarify ideas in discussions in a constructive, positive manner. Student will use email appropriately to maintain contact with instructor, leading to understanding of assignments and clarifying ideas.	Contributions to discussion boards will be graded (guidelines elsewhere in syllabus) Assessments will reflect the students' success in utilizing this resource.

Course Requirements:

1. **Regular participation** in all class activities is expected. Assignments--whether reading quizzes, responses to discussion topics, review questions, or tests-- *are posted on a limited-time schedule*. Once the time has expired, you will not be able to access the material, and the points possible on the activity will be lost.

2. **Reading assignments** are critical. In the absence of classroom lectures and discussions, it is especially important to have a good general understanding of the material presented. *It would be helpful to keep a loose leaf or spiral notebook consisting of your personal outline of the chapters*, since this will serve to focus your attention to the main ideas.

3. It will be necessary for you to have computer and Internet access; you will be required to use **Blackboard** and your account with them should be up and running by January 13. Blackboard recommends using the Firefox Web Browser, which can be downloaded free at: **http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/ie.html ,** but I personally find Internet Explorer and Chrome work better for me. Even so, you may sometimes find that you are not able to do some routine assignment-- rather than giving up on the process, try closing out that browser and log into another, which may allow you to continue. You will also need to have access to PowerPoint to view presentations in some modules.   You *should not* rely on your smart phone to complete and submit your work. There are many parts of Blackboard that do not show up, except with special effort on your part, and you will miss assignments, explanations, and other important parts of the course. Use a PC for accessing assignments and submitting them to me.

4. Losing internet connection or failure of your primary computer **will not** be an acceptable excuse for not finishing coursework on time, unless you have documentation from the Blackboard Helpdesk that your problem was out of your control. You should have a backup plan for this eventuality--lab computer on campus, another computer in the family, etc. When problems occur, your best resource is the WKU HelpDesk, at (270) 745-7000. When you speak to them, be sure to get a case # and copy of their report to email me in case the problem caused you to need to submit the work after the due date.

5. If this is your first class online, you may want to visit https://asaweb2.wku.edu/atech/trainingsite/index.php?fuseaction=calendar.turorials for tutorial videos for help with using Blackboard. There is also a link on the left side of the Blackboard course page.

6. **Computer security** is essential, and WKU will allow you to install a security system on your computer, free of charge. Call the HelpDesk for accessing this program, if you do not already have it.

7. **University Policies:** You must follow all policies and regulations regarding academic dishonesty, plagiarism, etc. as stated in the WKU undergraduate student handbook. Cheating and/or plagiarism will result in an automatic "F" for the task, and depending on the severity of the problem, could result in an "F" for the course. A second offense will result in an "F" for the course. For a link to WKU IP policy, go to http://www.wku.edu/policies/research/policy 2 8101.pdf

8. ****KEY POINT!!!** Your **syllabus** is your "safety net" for staying on track throughout the semester and avoiding problems that could arise without being fully informed of requirements. As such, <u>**you should print a hard copy to keep in your notebook materials and become very familiar with it**</u>.

<u>**Research Component:**</u> (Departmental Requirement)

   Psychology is a science. The principles that students learn from textbooks and in psychology courses were derived from scientific research. To enhance the students' understanding of the research process in psychology, they are <u>required</u> to satisfy a research component as a part of Introduction to Psychology. Failure to meet the research requirements fully and on time will result in a grade of *Incomplete* for the course. The student must complete the required number of credits in order to have the appropriate letter grade assigned.

Students are required to earn twelve **(12)** research credits. Students may earn credit by any of the following means,in any combination:

   1) The student may volunteer to serve as a research participant in an approved study being conducted by Western Kentucky University Psychology or Psychological Sciences faculty or students.

   2) The student may complete a written research summary of a published article from an approved psychology journal.

   3) The student may propose or ask for an equivalent alternative, which must be approved in advance by the Study Board Administrator (StudyBoard@WKU.edu). An account on the Department's Experiment Management System (http://www.wku.edu/psychological-sciences/studyboard/) will be established for each student at the beginning of the semester. The system will automatically email each student with the login information. **This website handles all research scheduling and credit administration. Only credits for which you register online will count toward research credit.**

Credits are earned accordingly. Each 15 minutes of research participation is worth one (1) credit. There are studies listed on the website with credits that vary from one to eight or more. Study Board credit may also be earned through an alternative assignment in which a student takes article quizzes. For information about this alternative assignment, see:
http://www.wku.edu/psychological-sciences/studyboard/students/article_quizzes.php
Your instructor will inform you how class credit will be assigned from the research credits earned.
See section titled **"Grading".**

Complete information about research participation, research credits, and the Study Board can be found at http://www.wku.edu/psychological-sciences/studyboard/

Assignments:

1. **Weekly modules** will be available beginning each Monday night (12:00 Midnight, Central time and ending the following week at the same time (Monday night, 12:00 Midnight, CT).

2. This class will use Blackboard for all **assessments** except the final test. There will be 10 brief (10-20 multiple choice items) teacher-prepared quizzes on reading assignments to help guide your reading and understanding of textbook material. *The final test must be taken at the WKU Testing Center at any of the WKU campuses, or at a pre-approved university near the home of students living distant from the WKU campuses.* Testing center will send instructions early in the semester—be sure you print and file with your other notebook materials for this class so you will have it at the proper time for registering for the final.

3. **Responses** to specific articles, topics from the textbook, etc. Occasional short (1-3 paragraph) responses to let me see that you understand the topics. These will be designed to help you "feel" and empathize with situations we encounter during our lifespan.

4. **Unit Tests** will cover the modules selected and will contain a number of multiple choice questions (usually 30-50) from a large pool of test questions; the computer will randomly assign the items, so that no two students will have exactly the same test, although many items may appear on several different tests. These questions will earn 75% of the test grade; the other 25% will be based on answers to 5-7 open response questions prepared and graded by your instructor.

5. **Discussion Board** responses. See "Discussion Board Policies and Procedures" in General Information Tab.

6. **Research Component.** (See specifications above) **This is a Psychology Department Requirement** for all students enrolled in PSY 100 classes.

7. **Student Information Sheet (SIP).** Required response; found in the General Information tab. *Each student must mail, via USPS, the completed sheets to the instructor at the address above.*

8. **Cheating or plagiarism** will result in an automatic "0" for an activity. Plagiarism is a serious offense. The student **must** give researched author(s) credit for any source material used. To lift content directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a "borrowed" passage without citation after having changed the wording, even if the source is cited in a general way, is also plagiarism. Plagiarism detection software will be used at instructor's discretion.

9. **Makeup work** will be allowed rarely, and on a case-by-case basis at instructor's discretion.

10. Many problems can be avoided by being familiar with this syllabus. You will be expected to have a hard copy of it *in your notebook* available to you at all times.

Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments, and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services (OFSDS), Downing University Center, Room A200. The OFSDS telephone number is (270) 745-5004 TTY is (270) 745-3030. Please do not request accommodation from the individual course instructor.

The START Center (at WKU-G) If you need academic assistance, or help with a writing project, and are in the WKU-G service area, you need to make an appointment with the START Center there. (START= Student Tutoring And Resource Team) The center is open four days a week, and some evenings; you may obtain a brochure by calling WKU at 270.861.6900, and you may call the center for further information. Similar programs will be available at Main Campus and other satellite campuses.

The Learning Center (TLC)

Should you require academic assistance with your WKU courses, The Learning Center (located in the Downing University Center, A330) provides free supplemental education programs for all currently enrolled WKU students. TLC @ DUC offers certified, one-on-one tutoring in over 200 subjects and eight academic skill areas by appointment or walk in. Online tutoring is offered to distance learn TLC is also a quiet study area (with side rooms designated for peer-to-peer tutoring) and offers a thirty-two machine Dell computer lab to complete academic coursework. Additionally, TLC has three satellite locations. Each satellite location is a quiet study center and is equipped with a small computer lab. These satellite locations are located in Douglas Keen Hall, McCormack Hall, and Pearce Ford Tower. Please call TLC @ DUC at (270) 745-6254 for more information or to schedule a tutoring appointment. www.wku.edu/tlc Hours of Operation:

TLC @ DUC

Sunday	4:00pm – 9:00pm
Monday – Thursday	8:00am – 9:00pm
Friday	8:00am – 4:00pm

TLC @ Keen, @ McCormack, @ PFT
Sunday – Thursday 6:00pm – 11:00pm
(PFT residents and their guests only)

Grading:

    a. A total of 500 points will be earned by taking five **Unit Exams** and one **Final Test**.
        i.   Each exam will be worth 100 points.
        ii.   If student has taken all 5 unit exams, the lowest of the scores will be dropped.
        iii.   If a student fails to take a Unit test, or does not submit it within time limits, the test score is 0, and will be used as the "dropped" score.
        iv.   The final test is required, and will be proctored. (See "General Information")
        v.   Therefore, best 4 Unit Exams=400 points, 1 Final Exam=100, for total of 500 points.

    b. A total of 100 points may be earned by **participation in-class activities** such as:
        i.   Brief **responses to topics proposed by your instructor**, or **reading assignments** from internet sources, submitted via Blackboard. These will be for various point values, generally from 5 to 15 points
        ii.   **Completion of required assignments**, such as the Student Information Page, etc
        iii.   **Participation in online discussion groups.** See "Discussion Groups" in General Information for a possible 30 points during the semester.
        iv.   **Extra Credit** may be earned by contributing **reports on current research or issues,** and/or **articles from newspapers and/or magazines** which you find related to the topic under discussion. These must include a *brief summary of the article* including the date and source of the article, along with a copy of the article. 5 points will be credited to students who provide the *first* reporting of any specific article. These articles will be submitted directly to the instructor *via email* upon student's inclination to do so. No more than 5 articles may be submitted throughout the semester, for a total of 25 points possible. Maximum of *one article per week*; *final submission by 4/30/18.*

    c. A total of 100 points may be earned from **online quizzes** covering reading assignments.
        i.   quizzes will have limited time on Blackboard; be aware of time constraints.

> ii. quizzes will consist of 10-15 multiple choice, matching, or short-answer questions on material assigned.

d. A total of 100 points may be earned for successful completion of work on the **research component.** 50 points will be awarded for students' completion of the required credits, and up to 50 points will be awarded for the quality of the reporting of the research activities. Details will be provided.

Grading Scale: A   720-800 points
                 B   640-719 points
                 C   560-639 points
                 D   480-559 points
                 F   479 points and below

Points Earned:

Tests

Unit Tests (4 @ 100 points)	**400**
Final Exam	**100**
Reading Quizzes (10 x 10 points)	**100**
Participation in class activities	**100**
Research Component	**100**
Total Possible Points	**800**

(Additional 25 points extra credit possible, see "Grading", item b: iv)

Note: *Very important!!* During the early part of the semester, the 'average' posted by Blackboard in the Grading Center will give you a good idea of how you are progressing with your work; however, once the 5th Unit Test grade (your lowest score of the 5 tests) is dropped, we will shift to the TOTAL POINTS EARNED! The 'average' will no longer apply, because Blackboard treats the "0" grade as an actual test score. *Your grade depends entirely upon how many total points are earned during the semester—NOT an average!*

PSY 100 750-12049   **COURSE OUTLINE**   **SPRING, 2018**

Jan 22-Jan 29   Module 1

Jan 29-Feb 5   Module 2

Feb 5-Feb 12   Unit Test I, Modules 1-2
                       Module 3

Feb 12-Feb 19   Module 4

Feb 19-Feb 26   Unit Test II, Modules 3-4
                       Module 5

Feb 26-Mar 5   Module 6

Mar 5-Mar 12   Unit Test III, Modules 5-6

Mar 12-Mar 19   Spring Break---*No Assignment!*

Mar 19-Mar 26   Module 7

Mar 26-Apr 2   Module 8

Apr 2-Apr 9   Unit Test IV, Modules 7-8
                       Module 9

Apr 9-Apr 16   Module 10

Apr 16-Apr 23   Unit Test V, Modules 9-10

Apr 23-Apr 30   Module 11

Apr 30-May 7   Module 12

May 7-May 11   **Final Test:**   This is a monitored test requiring your presence at a testing center. You must make arrangements with the DELO testing center at WKU. If you live in a distant area, you will also make arrangements with a local educational facility, which will generally charge a fee for the proctoring; please do this at least two weeks in advance of the test. Visit http://www.wku.edu/testing/info.php

(*Note:* This is a 'working plan', and changes may be necessary at instructor's discretion.)

Last updated
Febuary 9, 2018