

# Introduction to Psychology (Psy 100 753-40058)

Spring, 2015 Web Course

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**Text:**

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

Publishers, *required*; accompanying student study guide *recommended*.

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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 1/19/15". 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 germane 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.	<p>Student will restate and clarify ideas in discussions in a constructive, positive manner.</p> <p>Student will use email appropriately to maintain contact with instructor, leading to understanding of assignments and clarifying ideas.</p> <p>Student will be able to write a thoughtful critical analysis of a scientific study and refer to sources without plagiarizing..</p>	<p>Contributions to discussion boards will be graded (guidelines elsewhere in syllabus)</p> <p>Assessments will reflect the students' success in utilizing this resource.</p> <p>Student's critique will be submitted for evaluation by instructor and also be checked by SafeAssign.</p>

### **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 12. 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. You will also need to have access to PowerPoint to view presentations in some modules.
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.tutorials> 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 Norton 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 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](http://www.wku.edu/policies/research/policy%208101.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, you should print a hard copy to keep in your notebook materials and become very familiar with it.

### **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 you to better reading and understanding of textbook material.
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. **Critical Review of a Research Study.** A review of scientific research which shows the students' ability to approach published information with a critical eye, taking into account principles of research which we will study during the course. Specific information regarding the assignment will be given at the proper time: the purpose for this assignment is for you to be able to locate and access documented information about something **you** are interested in, but do not have a complete understanding of, and to critique the processes used and the conclusions reached in the study.
7. **Student Information Sheet (SIP).** Required response; found in the General Information tab.
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 your writing project, and are in the WKU-G service area, I can help you 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 270.659.6900, and you may call me for further information.

### ***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 learners. 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](http://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**

Sunday – Thursday 6:00pm – 11:00pm

##### **TLC @ McCormack**

Sunday – Thursday 6:00pm – 11:00pm

##### **TLC @ 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 each.
  - ii. Completion of **required assignments**, such as the Student Information Page, etc.
  - iii. **Participation in online discussion groups.** See "Discussion Group Participation" for a possible 30 points during the semester.
- c. **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*.

- d. 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.
- e. A total of 100 points may be earned for a 4-6 page **research critique**. Details will be provided.

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

**Points Earned:**

**Tests**

<b>Unit Tests (4 @ 100 points)</b>	<b>400</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Reading Quizzes (10 x 10 points)</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Participation in class activities</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Research Critique</b>	<b><u>100</u></b>

<b><u>Total Possible Points</u></b>	<b><u>800</u></b>
<i>(Additional 25 points extra credit possible, see "Grading", item c)</i>	

**PSY 100 753-40058**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Spring, 2015**

Jan 26-Feb 2	Module 1
Feb 2-Feb 9	Module 2
Feb 9-Feb 16	Unit Test I, Modules 1-2 Module 3
Feb 16-Feb 23	Module 4
Feb 23-Mar 2	Unit Test II, Modules 3-4 Module 5
Mar 2-Mar 9	Module 6 <b>(Research Critique Assigned/Topic Choice)</b>
Mar 9-Mar 13	<b>Spring Break—<i>No Assignment</i></b>

Mar 16-Mar 23	Unit Test III, Modules 5-6 Module 7
Mar 23-Mar 30	Module 8
Mar 30-Apr 6	Unit Test IV, Modules 7-8
Apr 6-Apr 13	<b>Critiques Due</b> Module 9
Apr 13-Apr 20	Module 10
Apr 20-Apr 27	Unit Test V, Modules 9-10
Apr 27-May 4	Module 11
May 4-May 11	Module 12
May 11-May 15	<b>Final Test:</b> 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 <a href="http://www.wku.edu/testing/info.php">http://www.wku.edu/testing/info.php</a>

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

*Last updated January 6, 2015*