

PSY 100: Introduction to Psychology
Online Course (August 27-December 14, 2018)

Instructor

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In general, email is the best way to contact me. I will inform you of any changes to my schedule at least 24 hours in advance and will promptly respond to your emails (within 24 hours). I am happy to assist and help navigate you through the course, so please let me know what questions or concerns you may have.

Blackboard Help/WKU IT Help Desk

Blackboard can sometimes experience issues. If you encounter any problems contact the WKU IT Help Desk at 270-745-7000.

Understanding Blackboard

If this is your first time using Blackboard, or if this is your first online class, I highly encourage you to complete the Blackboard Student User Training.

To sign up, go to Blackboard and sign in, and click IT TRAINING. Browse for IT Blackboard Student User Training. The training is not a requirement for the class, but you may find it to be helpful and aid in your success for online courses.

You are also welcome to review the Blackboard Overview in the Welcome section of our course. If you are a distance learner, you may want to visit the [WKU Student Resource Center](http://www.wku.edu/online/src/): <http://www.wku.edu/online/src/>

Course Policies

Course Texts

Listed here is the required course text for PSY 100:

Rathus, S. A. (2017). *PSYCH*. (5th Ed.). Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.

ISBN-13: 978-1-305-66270-4

Additional readings and resources can be found in Blackboard.

Core Topics

- Science of Psychology
- Biological Basis of Behavior
- Perception
- Learning
- Memory
- Motivation and Emotion
- Development
- Mental Abilities and Measurement
- Personality
- Abnormal Psychology
- Social Psychology

Course Description and Learning Objectives

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 the social and behavioral sciences.

Technology Requirements

You are taking an online class where all required work needs to be submitted online through Blackboard using the Internet. Therefore, having a reliable internet source will help you be successful in the course. If you have never taken an online class before using Blackboard, I encourage you to review the tutorials available online. Microsoft Office, particularly Word and Power Point, is another software program you should have installed on your computer as the majority of assignments will require one of these formats.

Attendance Policy

Even though there is no formal attendance policy for online classes, you are expected to complete assignments on time according to the course schedule.

Email and Blackboard Announcements

Blackboard is our primary way of communicating throughout the semester, with email as a secondary route. Any messages sent through Blackboard will also arrive to your email. It is important to check your email and Blackboard on a regular basis as I will frequently send out announcements to the class.

Study Board requirement (NOTE: Failure to complete this requirement will result in a grade of Incomplete (X) for the course):

Psychology is a science. The principles that students learn from textbooks and in psychology courses were derived from scientific research. To enhance students' understanding of the research process in psychology, they are required to satisfy a research component as a part of Introduction to Psychology (PSY 100). Failure to meet the research requirements fully and on time will result in a grade of Incomplete for the course. (WKU policy is that an "X" automatically turns into an "F" unless removed within 12 weeks of the next full term). The student must complete the required number of credits in order to have the appropriate letter grade assigned. Students in this course are required to earn 2 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/Psychological Sciences faculty or students.
- 2) The student may take quizzes over psychology research articles.

An account on the Department's Experiment Management System (<https://wku.sona-systems.com/>) 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 students register for through the Study Board website will count toward research credit.

Each 15-minute period of research participation is worth one (1) credit. There are studies listed on the Study Board website worth one to four credits or more. Each satisfactory score on an article quiz is worth one credit. Article quizzes are offered approximately once per month, so students interested in this option must check the Study Board website regularly. Students who are under 18 may only earn Study Board credits through article quizzes, as they cannot legally consent to participate in research.

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

Evaluation

Your course grade is based on the assignments and exams found in the schedule of assignments section. You are encouraged to check your grades frequently, which are available on Blackboard (My Grades).

Grading Time and Feedback

You can expect an assigned grade, which includes feedback, within a week after submitting an assignment.

Late Work

As expected for any course, all work should be turned in on time and in full per the assignment instructions outlined on the course page. For any circumstances that arise beyond your control, please contact me so that we can work out a plan for you to submit late or missing work.

Work Submission

All assignments must be submitted to the designated area in Blackboard on the course page, using Microsoft Word (.doc/.docx) or Power Point (.ppt/pptx) files. Other file formats are not accepted.

ADA Notice: Disability and Accommodations

Distance Learning supports the provisions of General Standard 8, Accessibility and Usability in the QM Rubric. Distance Learning strongly supports reasonable accommodation for all participants.

This course is offered through Blackboard which is a conformance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 Priority AA, issues December 2012 by Deque Systems. For more information on Blackboard and its development, please visit the Blackboard Accessibility webpage (<http://www.blackboard.com/Platforms/Learn/Resources/Accessibility.aspx>).

This course includes the following:

- ALT tags that contain appropriate information about the graphic and/or activity.
- Appropriate color combinations that minimize color blindness effects.
- Appropriate font and font-size combinations to improve readability.
- Minimal use of bullets and/or charts that may be confusing to participants who use electronic readers.
- Transcripts and/or closed captioning for video and audio clips.

The above features demonstrate Distance Learning's understanding of the importance of providing a learning environment that supports qualified participants. Participants who require additional accommodations should contact their instructor.

Respectful and Professional Behavior

When communicating online, please be sure to follow the rules of *netiquette*. You do not have the benefit of visual cues (e.g., body language, facial expressions) or auditory cues (e.g., voice inflection) when communicating online, so it is possible to inadvertently offend a fellow student or instructor with written words.

Differences of opinion will and should occur in classroom discussions; however, students can disagree with one another's viewpoints while demonstrating kindness and respect.

Expectations for Your Instructor

- To be available to you as needed, whether in a real or online environment.
- To have work graded and posted with feedback within a week days after due dates.
- To answer your questions within 24 hours during normal business hours (Monday – Friday from 8:00am – 4:30pm, or by Monday afternoon when asked after Friday at 4:30pm.
- To facilitate your learning, along with assisting in the development and improvement of your skills in an online course environment.

Assignment Descriptions

- All due dates are Central Standard times.
- All quizzes, discussion boards, and assignments are due on Sunday night by 11:59pm, unless otherwise noted in the course.
- New modules open on Friday mornings to give you a head start on the next week of activities.

Quizzes/Exams

- 13 weekly quizzes (each worth 30 points)
- Two exams (a midterm and a final, with the midterm worth 100 points and the final worth 150 points).

Discussion Boards

- Six discussion forums (each worth 45 points)

Movie Project

- Topic selection (worth 10 points)
- Outline (worth 20 points)
- Final project submission (120 points)

Schedule of Assignments

Week 1: Chapter 1 (August 27-September 2)

To Do:

Welcome and Introduction

- Watch the Welcome Video
- Read the syllabus

What is Psychology?

- Read Chapter 1
- Take Quiz 1
- Post to the Week 1 Discussion Board

Week 2: Chapter 2 (August 31-September 9)

To Do:

- Read Chapter 2
- Take Quiz 2

Week 3: Chapter 3 (September 7-September 16)

To Do:

- Read Chapter 3
- Take Quiz 3
- Submit Project Topic

Week 4: Chapter 4 (September 14-September 23)

To Do:

- Read Chapter 4
- Take Quiz 4
- Post to Week 4 Discussion Board

Week 5: Chapter 5 (September 21-September 30)

To Do:

- Read Chapter 5
- Take Quiz 5
- Submit Project Outline

Week 6: Chapter 6 (September 28-October 7)

To Do:

- Read Chapter 6
- Take Quiz 6

Week 7: No Readings (October 5-October 14)

To Do:

- Midterm Exam (Covers Chapters 1 through 6)

Week 8: Chapter 7 (October 12-October 21)

To Do:

- Read Chapter 7
- Take Quiz 7

Week 9: Chapter 8 (October 19-October 28)

To Do:

- Read Chapter 8
- Take Quiz 8
- Post to Week 9 Discussion Board

Week 10: Chapter 9 (October 26-November 4)

To Do:

- Read Chapter 9
- Take Quiz 9

Week 11: Chapter 10 (November 2-November 11)

To Do:

- Read Chapter 10
- Take Quiz 10
- Post to Week 11 Discussion Board

Week 12: Chapter 11 (November 9-November 18)

To Do:

- Read Chapter 11
- Take Quiz 11
- Submit Psychology Movie Project

Week 13: Chapter 12 (November 16-November 25)

To Do:

- Read Chapter 12
- Take Quiz 12

Week 14: Chapter 13 (November 23-December 2)

To Do:

- Read Chapter 13
- Take Quiz 13
- Post to Week 14 Discussion Board

Week 15: Chapter 14 (November 30-December 9)

To Do:

- Read Chapter 14
- Take Quiz 14
- Post to Week 15 Discussion Board

Week 16: Final Exam (December 7-December 14)

To Do:

- Take Final Exam (Covers Chapters 7 through 14)

Your course grade is based on a point accumulation system:

Exams

- Quizzes (14 quizzes at 30 points) = 420 points
- Midterm exam (50 questions x 2 points) = 100 points
- Final exam (75 questions x 2 points) = 150 points

Discussion Boards

- Six discussion forums (each worth 45 points) = 270 points

Movie Project

- Topic selection (worth 10 points) = 10 points
- Outline (worth 20 points) = 20 points
- Final project submission (120 points) = 120 points

Total possible for course 1090 points:

A = 981 - 1090

B = 872 - 980

C = 763 - 871

D = 654 - 762

F = 653 or below