

PSY 301, Introduction to Psychology, Spring 2011

Juan M. Dominguez, Ph.D.

Office hours: Tues. & Thurs. 12:30- 2:00 PM, or by appt.

SEA 5.252

E-mail: dominguez@psy.utexas.edu

Teaching assistant:

- Daniel Tobiansky, e-mail: djtobiansky@gmail.com, office hours will be announced during the first week of class.

Text/ Readings:

- Introduction to Psychology

By James W. Kalat

- **Additional readings (e.g. assigned articles, online assignments, etc).** These will be assigned throughout the semester.

NOTE: You will have access to grades, assignments, assigned articles, and additional information via the Blackboard website. Please make certain that your Blackboard account is active and you are familiar with using it.

Class meetings: *Tues & Thu, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM, room NOA 1.124*

Topics (Presented in approximate order of discussion. We may or may not cover all topics).

1. Introduction to Psychology and Scientific Methods in Psychology (Chapters 1 and 2)
2. Biological Psychology/ Behavioral Neuroscience (Chapter 3)
3. Sensation and Perception (Chapter 4)
4. **Exam 1**
5. Development (Chapter 5)
6. Learning & Memory (Chapters 6 and 7)
7. Cognition & Language (Chapter 8)
8. **Exam 2**
9. Intelligence (Chapter 9)
10. Consciousness (Chapter 10)
11. Motivation (Chapter 11)
12. Emotion & Stress (Chapter 12)
13. **Exam 3**
14. Social Psychology (Chapter 13)
15. Personality (Chapter 14)
16. Abnormality (Chapters 15)
17. Specific Disorders (Chapter 16)
18. **Exam 4**

EXAM DATES: *Dates are 2/10 for Exam I, 3/10 for Exam II, 4/12 for Exam III, and 5/5 for Exam IV. If these dates change, I will make an in-class announcement.*

COURSE OBJECTIVE: Psychology is the science of behavior. This course will serve as an introduction to the field, especially as it pertains to the specialty areas within psychology. When you complete this course, you should have a greater understanding of the study of behavior as a science and how it applies to every day life.

FORMAT: A lecture format will be employed to explore these topics. Attendance to all classes is expected.

REQUIREMENTS:

Your performance on four exams and several unannounced quizzes and take-home assignments will determine your grade. There will be no make up exams, quizzes, or assignments, unless there is a documented emergency.

1. Exams (comprise 80% of final grade):

Four multiple choice/short answer exams will be administered during the semester and an optional-cumulative final. Exam grades will comprise 80% of your final grade. All exams will be administered in class. No make-up exams will be administered, unless there is a documented emergency.

If you choose to take the final exam, you are welcome to come into the classroom, read the exam, and take the exam; but once you hand it in, it will replace your lowest grade (even if the new grade for your final is lower). There will be NO MAKE-UP EXAMS, unless there is a documented emergency. You are required to bring a picture ID to show when submitting an exam.

2. Quizzes and assignments (comprise 20% of final grade):

Unannounced quizzes and assignments will be administered. The grades you earn in these will count towards 20% of your final grade. Quizzes will be brief (generally 5 to 10 min), but may be given anytime during class. No make-up quizzes or assignments will be administered.

Feel free to visit during office hrs or make an appt. if you need additional help.

Grading policy:

-No make-up exams and no extra credit assignments

-Exam I 20 points

-Exam II 20 points

-Exam III 20 points

-Exam IV 20 points

-Quizzes & Assignments 20 points

-**Total** 100 points

Total points earned will determine your final grade, using the following distribution:

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

Note: Though not foreseeable, any changes or deviations from this syllabus (e.g. order in which topics are covered) will be announced in class.

Academic integrity: Students are expected to uphold the Student Standard of Conduct published in the University of Texas website (http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php), section 11-801. Generally, do not plagiarize, do not collaborate with colleagues when doing work that should be your own, do not cheat on exams, and do not submit work as your own that was obtained or purchased from someone else.

Disability services:

If you experience difficulty in this course for any reason, please don't hesitate to consult with me. In addition to the resources of the department, a wide range of services are available to support you in your efforts to meet the course requirements. The University of Texas at Austin provides, upon request, appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY.

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please notify me in a timely manner so that we can make arrangements to address your needs.

Other requirements:

All students enrolled in PSY 301 must fulfill a research requirement consisting of either participation in psychological research studies as a subject or writing a paper on psychological research, in addition to class work. Failure to satisfy this requirement will result in an incomplete (I grade). Information pertaining this requirement will be discussed in class. Please understand that this is a requirement and must be fulfilled by a due date.