

University of North Texas at Dallas
Fall 2011
SYLLABUS

PSYC 1630: General Psychology/ 3 Hrs	
Department of	Sociology & Psychology
Division of	Liberal Arts & Life Sciences
Instructor Name:	<i>Michael D. Barnett, Ph.D.</i>
Office Location:	<i>Adjunct office (3rd floor)</i>
Office Phone:	<i>TBA</i>
Email Address:	<i>Michael.Barnett@unt.edu</i>
Office Hours:	<i>MW 11:20-12:20</i>
Virtual Office Hours:	<i>Email in Blackboard classroom, online Th 10:00-11:00</i>
Classroom Location:	<i>DAL2, 212</i>
Class Meeting Days & Times:	<i>MW 10:00-11:20</i>
Course Catalog Description:	Nature of psychology with emphases on the study of personality development, decision making, reactions to frustration, mental health, and how the individual interacts with and is influenced by others.
Prerequisites:	
Co-requisites:	
Required Text:	Gerrig, R.J. & Zimbardo, P.G. (2010). <i>Psychology and Life</i> . 19th ed. Boston: Pearson.
Recommended Text and References:	
Access to Learning Resources:	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: 1012mgr@fhcg.follett.com
Course Goals or Overview:	
	The goal of this course is to introduce psychology as a scientific discipline and a profession. Emphasis will be placed on the diverse theoretical approaches within psychology and applications of these theories. We will broadly cover many core areas in psychology in academia and the real world. By the end of the course, students should be familiar with the basic methodologies and theories of the topics presented in class.
Learning Objectives/Outcomes: At the end of this course, the student will:	
	Understand the psychological perspective and how it differs from other perspectives. He or she will learn how psychological research is conducted and how to evaluate that research. The student will gain knowledge about psychology as a profession and the nature of the work that is done by psychologists.
	Enhance their ability for critical thinking, develop their problem solving skills, and learn to incorporate multiple viewpoints into analysis. He or she will be able to demonstrate competence in the application of psychology to a current topic.
	Demonstrate an ability to engage with others in thoughtful and well-crafted communication through classroom discussions and interactions. He or she will have broadened and refined his or her thinking abilities as part of the give and take of ideas, seeking to better understand others' perspectives as well as his or her own.
	Have a deeper understanding of the variety of human experience. He or she will be able to demonstrate

	how psychological methods and theories help people understand exposure to different ideas, perspectives, cultures, and viewpoints.
	Have gained exposure to the biological and physiological bases of behavior.
	Understand personality theories and development.
	Be able to explain basic learning theories and behavior analysis.
	Describe intelligence and cognitive assessment techniques and measurements.
	Understand the nature of psychological disorders and different therapeutic approaches in the counseling field.

Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in the classroom, via email, and by announcement in the Blackboard classroom. Please note that readings are expected to be completed by the date listed (e.g., please have read Chapter 1 before our second meeting on 08/31). Additional topics may be added as time allows.

TOPICS – READINGS	TIMELINE
1. Introduction	08/29
2. Psychology and Life – Chapter 1	08/31
3. Off (Labor Day)	09/05
4. Research Methods in Psychology – Chapter 2	09/07
5. “ Continued	09/12
6. “ Continued	09/14
7. Test Review	09/20
8. Test 1 (Chapters 1 and 2)	09/22
9. Learning and Behavior Analysis – Chapter 6	09/26
10. “ Continued	09/28
11. Intelligence and Intelligence Assessment – Chapter 9	10/03
12. “ Continued	10/05
13. Test Review	10/10
14. Test 2 (Chapters 6 and 9)	10/12
15. Human Development Across the Life Span – Chapter 10	10/17
16. “ Continued	10/19
17. Understanding Human Personality – Chapter 13	10/24
18. “ Continued	10/26
19. Social Psychology – Chapter 16	10/31
20. “ Continued	11/02
21. Test Review	11/07
22. Test 3 (Chapters 10, 13, and 16)	11/09
23. Psychological Disorders – Chapter 14	11/14
24. “ Continued	11/16
25. Therapies for Psychological Disorders – Chapter 15	11/21
26. “ Continued	11/23
27. Off	11/28
28. Test Review	11/30
29. Test 4 (Chapters 14 and 15)	12/05
30. Test Review	12/07
31. Test Review	12/12

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following evaluation methods to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course: exams and an optional supplementary assignment. Grades will be based on **four out of five tests**. Each test will count for 25% of your grade. If a student takes all five tests (which they are encouraged to do), their highest four scores will be used. The tests themselves will consist of approximately 30-50 items, which primarily will be in multiple choice format, although other formats (e.g., fill in the blank, matching, short answer, and filling in graphs/tables) may be utilized as well. Items will come from the readings and the lectures. Additionally, short answer/essay items will be used to evaluate content mastery, analytical skills, and demonstrate critical thinking. Each exam will cover the most recent material with the exception of the final exam, which is comprehensive. **There will be no make-up exams.** If you miss an exam, that will be your one test score that is dropped. **Overall grades will be based on the amount of points you have accumulated divided by the total number of points offered for the semester.** Students can choose to do a supplementary assignment which can be substituted for an exam score; however, it should be noted that this cannot be used to substitute for an absence from an exam. This supplementary assignment must be approved in advance and can take many forms: a research paper, a presentation, or a written reaction to an appropriate book or film. Once approved, the supplementary assignment must be turned in before the final exam.

Grade Determination: *(sample given)*

A = 400 – 360 pts; i.e. 90% or better

B = 320 – 359 pts; i.e. 80 – 89 %

C = 280 – 319 pts; i.e. 70 – 79 %

D = 240 – 279 pts; i.e. 60 – 69 %

F = 239 pts or below; i.e. less than 60%

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

The University of North Texas Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with documented disabilities are responsible for informing faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations and providing written authorized documentation. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed as accommodations are not retroactive. For more information, you may visit the Student Life Office, Suite 200, Building 2 or call Laura Smith at 972-780-3632.

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Assignment Policy:

Additional opportunities (e.g., quizzes or small assignments) may be provided to earn bonus points.

Exam Policy:

Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook).

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic

Integrity at [http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/policies/Chapter%2007%20Student%20Affairs,%20Education,%20and%20Funding/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic Integrity.pdf](http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/policies/Chapter%2007%20Student%20Affairs,%20Education,%20and%20Funding/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic%20Integrity.pdf) for complete provisions of this code.

In addition, all academic work submitted for this class, including exams, papers, and written assignments should include the following statement:

On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance that violates the UNTD Academic Integrity Policy.

Bad Weather Policy:

On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call UNT Dallas Campuses main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website www.unt.edu/dallas. Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically.

Attendance and Participation Policy:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in class. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it impossible for students to make-up or to receive credit for missed classes. Attendance and participation in all class meetings is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they are missing class and for what reason. Students are also responsible to make up any work covered in class. It is recommended that each student coordinate with a student colleague to obtain a copy of the class notes, if they are absent.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive and inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Life as the instructor deems appropriate.

Optional Policies:

- *Use of WebCT/Blackboard*
- *Use of Cell Phones & other Electronic Gadgets in the Classroom*
- *Food & Drink in the Classroom*
- *Use of Laptops*
- *Grade of Incomplete, "I"*