

University of North Texas at Dallas
Fall 2014
SYLLABUS

PSYC 1630D (091): General Psychology I; 3 Hrs

Department of	Sociology & Psychology	Division of	Liberal Arts & Life Sciences
Instructor Name:	Mario P. Casa de Calvo, Ph.D.		
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Office Hours:	M & W from 10-12; T & TR from 12-2; by appointment		
Classroom Location:	DAL2 213		
Class Meeting Days & Times:	MW 8:30am-9:50am		
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. Satisfies the Social and Behavioral Sciences requirement of the University Core Curriculum.		
Prerequisites:	None		
Required Text:	<p>King, L. A. (2013). <i>Experience Psychology/2nd Edition</i>. New York: McGraw Hill. ISBN: 9780078035340</p> <p>*Note: if you have a different edition of the text please notify me to make sure that your text will satisfy the requirements of the course</p> <p>**I will provide all other reading material in advance either electronically or in hardcopy in class</p> <p>On Readings in General:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are responsible for completing the readings for the day they are assigned and come to class prepared to discuss them. 		
Access to Learning Resources:	<p>UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm</p> <p>UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: 1012mgr@fhcg.follett.com</p>		
Course Goals or Overview: This course is designed to assist learners to:			
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Know and understand the scope of psychology and basic psychological concepts, intrapersonal and interpersonal processes, and theories. 2. Understand and critically evaluate significant classical and contemporary psychological perspectives. 3. Know the quantitative and qualitative research methods used by psychologists and understand and apply research findings to one's daily life. 4. Understand psychological processes involved in developing academic skills and critical thinking, and to apply this material to their own academic efforts. 5. Develop an appreciation for the complexity of the human person and the psychological processes involved in our experience, behavior, and interactions. 6. Gain academic skills that students will be able to use throughout their college experience (reading effectively, writing, note taking, studying, etc.) 7. Become a part of a learning community based on the principles of kindness, respect, and caring for one another. 		

	<p>8. Develop the character trait of resiliency.</p> <p>9. Continue to develop their own self-identities, so that they may know themselves and where they want to go in the world.</p>
Learning Objectives/Outcomes: At the end of this course, learners will be able to:	
1	Know, understand, and apply the seven contemporary psychological perspectives.
2	Know, understand, apply, and analyze the scientific method and research results in psychology.
3	Know, understand, and apply principles of social psychology.
4	Know, understand, and apply principles, concepts, and major theories related to life span development including prenatal influences, cognitive development (Piaget), moral development (Kohlberg), personality development (Freud), attachment and identity (Erikson).
5	Know, understand, and apply principles, concepts, and major perspectives on personality.
6	Know, understand, and apply the criteria, prevalence, causes (etiology), treatment, and prognosis for major psychological disorders, particularly anxiety and mood disorders.
7	Know, understand, and apply principles of health psychology.
8	Know, understand, and apply principles of social psychology.
9	To gain exposure to the different types of careers in Psychology.

Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in class.

TOPICS	TIMELINE
The Science of Psychology Reading: King, Chapter 1 (pages 1-14)	8/25-8/27
No Classes – Labor Day	9/1
Research Methods in Psychology Reading: King, Chapter 1 (pages 15-39)	9/3-9/8
Health Psychology and Sleep Reading: King, Chapter 14 and Chapter 4 (pages 133-143)	9/10-9/15
Exam 1	9/17
Prenatal, Physical, & Cognitive Development Reading: King, Chapter 8	9/22-9/24
Socioemotional and Moral Development Reading: King, Chapter 8	9/29-10/1
Personality Theory and Freud's Psychodynamic Theory Reading: King, Chapter 10	10/6-10/8
Humanistic, Trait, and Social Cognitive Theories of Personality Reading: King, Chapter 10	10/13-10/15
Exam 2	10/20
Defining and Explaining Abnormal Behavior; Anxiety Disorders Reading: King, Chapter 12	10/22-10/27
Mood Disorders; Therapies Reading: King, Chapters 12 & 13	10/29-11/3
Social Cognition and Social Behavior (Altruism & Aggression) Reading: King, Chapter 11	11/5-11/10
Social Influence and Close Relationships Reading: King, Chapter 11	11/12-11/17
Exam 3	11/19
Careers in Psychology	11/24-11/26

Supplemental Readings	
Working on the Gratitude Project	12/1-12/3
Presentations: Gratitude Project	12/8 from 8:00am-10:00am

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

Homework Assignments (50 total points)

To facilitate discussion and understanding of the material, you will periodically be given homework assignments that will be due the following class period. The topic and structure of these assignments will be announced in class. You are responsible for the homework assignments, even if you are not in class..

Exams (100 points apiece)

There will be a total of three exams worth 100 points each. Exams cover material from the texts, assigned readings, lectures, and class discussions, and will typically consist of multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay questions. The exams are not cumulative.

Presentation/Gratitude Letters (100 points). For this project, you will use aspects of Positive Psychology to improve the lives of those around you. More specifically, you will be asked to write gratitude letters to those who have been crucial in your development as a person. First, you will write a letter of gratitude to the person in your personal life that has had the most positive impact on you. Next, you will write a letter of gratitude to someone in the greater school community who has helped you along your academic path (e.g., janitor, teacher, school administration, academic advisor, etc.). Finally, write a letter of gratitude to someone in your local community, such as police, firefighters, bankers, grocery store workers, hospital staff, etc. I will ask you to read your letters to the people you have selected aloud, and to film the interaction while you are doing it. If you do not have filming capabilities, you may arrange to use UNT-D's video equipment. You will then present your videos to the entire class during our assigned final exam time (12/8 from 8-10am). I will also ask you to turn in copies of your letters to me following the completion of your in-class presentations. The project is worth a total of 100 points.

In-Class Participation (50 points)

On multiple occasions during the semester, I will assign students to groups for the purpose of debating two opposing viewpoints on a particular idea that we discuss. The debates are not designed to determine a correct answer on an issue, but rather to allow students to obtain practice in developing arguments and presenting them to peers. As such, students are reminded to show respect for each other and the professor at all times during the debates. **Full** participation in the debate process will result in 5 points per debate. Debate topics and dates will be announced in class.

Students will also **frequently** be asked to participate in other miscellaneous in-class assignments (e.g., group discussions/presentations, brief writing summaries, etc.) that will be described, detailed, and collected during class. Students will receive 5 points for completing these assignments, **and they cannot be made up if one misses class.**

Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
Homework Assignments	To Be Announced in Class	50
Exams	3 exams at 100 points each	300
In-Class Assignments	Debates, Group Discussions, etc.	50
Project Gratitude	Due at the End of the Semester	100
Total:	100%	500

Grade Determination

A = 450 – 500 pts; i.e., 90% or better

B = 400 – 449 pts; i.e., 80 – 89 %

C = 350 – 399 pts; i.e., 70 – 79 %

D = 300 – 349 pts; i.e., 60 – 69 %

F = 299 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 (i.e., 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 (i.e., 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:

No extensions are given, unless a legitimate excuse is received well before the due date. For illness or injury a doctor's note is required. An unexcused late assignment will result in an automatic 10 point deduction and an additional 5 point deduction for each day after that.

Exam Policy:

Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook). Note: If you come in late for an exam and another student has already turned in a completed exam, you cannot take the regular exam.

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 for complete provisions of this code.

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.

Classroom Policies

- 1. Since discussion is an essential part of this course, please come to class prepared and on time.*
- 2. Please turn off your cell phones and pagers.*
- 3. Do not come into class late or leave early.*
- 4. You are responsible for tracking your own grade progress (see course requirements and grading scheme to help you keep track of available points). If you have questions about your grade come to office hours, make an appointment, or contact me via email. Do not make specific inquiries about your grade in class.*
- 5. No late work will be accepted unless you have a valid, documented excuse (documented illness or death in the family). If you miss an assignment and you have a valid, documented excuse, notify me as soon as possible via phone or email so we can arrange a reasonable time for you to make up the missed assignment.*
- 6. All work must be turned in during class. I will not accept emailed work unless you have a valid, documented excuse.*

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 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 for notifying the instructor if they will be missing class, and they must share their reason for missing class. Students are also responsible for making 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 class is missed.

To get the most out of this class your attendance is required.

- An attendance sign in sheet will be circulated at the beginning of each class. Sign your name in the sheet to document your attendance. Failure to sign the sheet will be considered an absence.*
- Students are expected to attend all scheduled meetings of this class. Students are also expected to be on time for all scheduled class meetings. Students who come to class late will be counted as absent. **After 3 absences, 5 overall points will be deducted for every class period missed.***
- If you have a documented excuse for your absence let me know as soon as possible and bring it to class. A valid, documented excuse consists of a doctor's note documenting your illness or death in the family.*

Diversity/Tolerance Policy:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive & 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.

**This syllabus is subject to change. If changes are made, I will communicate them to you in a timely manner.*