

Western Washington University  
Department of Psychology

**Psychology 101: Introduction to Psychology**  
**Fall 2009**

**Professor:** Dr. Larry Symons

**Office Hours:** MWF 10:00-11:00, T 1-2, R 10:30-11:30

**Web:** <http://mywestern.wvu.edu/>

**Required Texts**

Lilienfeld, et al. (2009) Psychology From Inquiry to Understanding. Allyn & Bacon, publishers.

Lawson, T. (2007) Scientific Perspectives on Pseudoscience and the Paranormal. Pearson, Prentice Hall, publishers.

**Course Overview**

Psychology is the scientific study of mind and behavior. This course is an overview of the various topics that psychologists study. Through the quarter, you will be exposed to the methods and concepts of psychology. The topics to be considered range from an examination of how drugs work to attempts to explain why people commit war crimes to studies of how children process information to the discussion of the mechanisms underlying disorders of the mind.

**Course Objectives**

Provide a content overview of psychology

Cover all major core areas

Introduce psychology as a science

Underlying assumptions

Methodologies

Provide opportunities to experience research

Provide an opportunity to present writing about the topics presented.

Introduce major issues in psychology

Historical

Overarching themes

Controversies/debates

Philosophical underpinnings

Ethics/values

Provide opportunities for critical thinking

Evaluate conclusions of psychology

Evaluate current media

Link ideas to other disciplines

**Course Evaluation**

Your progress in the course will be evaluated through a set of examinations, a set of writing assignments and participation in research projects.

### Examinations

There are four multiple-choice examinations. Two exams will be completed online and two will be completed in-class. The online exams will each be worth 20% of your final grade and the in-class exams will each be worth 25%. The in-class exams will be cumulative. The exam dates are as follows:

Exam 1 <i>online</i>	Oct 12	Chapters 1-4
Exam 2 <i>in-class</i>	Oct. 26	Chapters 1-8
Exam 3 <i>online</i>	Nov. 16	Chapters 9-12
Exam 4 <i>in-class</i>	Dec. 9	Chapters 9-16

There are **no makeup exams** for this course. If you have a *legitimate* reason for missing an examination, you must submit a written (or emailed) request to Dr. Symons to have your missed grade prorated over your other exam grades. This will only be allowed **once** during the course. In all other cases, the missed exam will be assigned a grade of 0. Legitimate reasons include illness documented by a physician or compassionate reasons approved by Dr. Symons. Travel time for holidays or jobs is not considered a legitimate reason. There are **no opportunities for extra credit**.

### Writing Assignments

There are four writing assignments. For each writing assignment, you will be required to read **one** of the readings from each of the chapters assigned in Scientific Perspectives on Pseudoscience and the Paranormal (Lawson). At the end of each reading, there is set of **Review and Contemplate questions**. You will be required to answer **all** the questions for each reading and submit them electronically through the course webpage. The assignments will be graded on a Pass-Fail basis. If you do not achieve a Pass for an assignment, you cannot resubmit the assignment. Each assignment is worth 2.5% of your final grade. The due dates for the assignments are as follows:

Assignment 1	Oct. 9	Lawson 1, 2 _ 3
Assignment 2	Oct. 23	Lawson 4 _ 5
Assignment 3	Nov. 6	Lawson 6, 7 _ 8
Assignment 4	Nov. 23	Lawson 9 _ 10

Late assignments will **not** be accepted under **any** circumstances.

## Research Requirement

As part of this course, you are required to obtain **two hours** of research credits. You must complete this research requirement in order to pass the course, regardless of your grade in the class. You may obtain research points either of the following ways:

- 1) Participate in *two hours* of psychological research. You sign up for experiments through the Research Participation link on the course webpage.
- 2) If you prefer not to participate in psychological research, you may write summaries of two psychology research articles. Each summary should be 2-3 pages long, double spaced. The research articles that

you use should be chosen from the Scientific American Psychology Reader that has been placed on reserve in the library.

IMPORTANT: If you miss an experiment for which you have signed up, *you will be penalized* the time equivalent to the experimental credit, unless you contact the experimenter 24 hours prior to the experiment. You will have to make up the penalty as well as the missed experiment credit to meet your research requirement. If you do not meet the research requirement, you will not receive a grade for the course.

**Grade Assignment**

Grades will be assigned as follows:

93 to 100%	A
90 to 92.9%	A-
87 to 89.9%	B+
83 to 86.9%	B
80 to 82.9%	B-
77 to 79.9%	C+
73 to 76.9%	C
70 to 72.9%	C-
67 to 69.9%	D+
63 to 66.9%	D
60 to 62.9%	D-
below 60%	F

**A note about cheating**

Plagiarism is defined in Western Washington University's Academic Dishonesty Policy and Procedure as "presenting as one's own in whole or in part the ideas, language, creations, conclusions, or scientific data of another without explicit acknowledgment." You must cite works appropriately and cannot submit a work you have submitted to another class. In testing situations, it is considered academic dishonesty to look on another's paper as well as providing your paper to another for information. Other instances of academic dishonesty are discussed on page 397 of the 2008-2009 Bulletin. Please note that this list does not limit behaviors that constitute academic dishonesty.

In all cases of academic dishonesty, the *minimum* consequence you will receive will be a mark of zero on the assignment or examination *and* the mark you would have received for the assignment or examination if you had achieved 100% on that work will be subtracted from your final grade. (e.g., cheating on an examination will result in a zero for that exam and 25% deduction from your final grade). All incidents of cheating will be reported to the Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

**Equal Opportunity**

Western Washington University is committed to equal opportunity and non-discrimination in all activities and programs. For accommodation or assistance requests, please contact the Office of Student Life at (360) 650-3844