

Class Time & Location

Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 11:10 – 12:00 in Packard Lab 101

Professor

Dr. Dominic Packer

Chandler-Ullmann, Room 338

Email: djp208@lehigh.edu

Office hours: Wednesday 3-5pm or by appointment

Teaching Assistant

Jordan Knicely

Chandler-Ullmann, Room 361

Email: jlk207@lehigh.edu

Office hours: Tuesday 1-3pm or by appointment

Required Text

Schacter, Gilbert & Wegner (2009). *Psychology*. Worth Publishers: NY, New York.

Course Website

On *Blackboard*: PSYC-001-010-SP10: Introduction to Psychology

Contacting Us

Log in to course website; Select COMMUNICATION (on left); select MESSAGES; select NEW MESSAGE; select “To”; select “**Jordan Knicely (Teaching Assistant)**”; write your message!

Before sending an email, please take a look at the syllabus to see whether your question is answered there. For further information on how best to write to your instructors, check out:

<http://www.wikihow.com/Email-a-Professor>

Course Objectives

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of psychology, the scientific study of mental processes and behavior. By the end of the course students should have an appreciation of the breadth of topics encompassed by the science of psychology, including: the biological bases of behavior; learning, memory, thinking, and language; cognitive and social development across the lifespan; social influences on behavior; personality, and coping with stress; mental disorders and potential treatments. Students who master the course material will be able to:

- Understand the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.
- Understand basic research methods in psychology and develop critical thinking skills useful in evaluating psychological findings presented in the media.
- Apply their knowledge of psychology to aid their own personal, educational, and professional development.

Course Expectations and Requirements

1. **Attendance.** Attendance in class is strongly encouraged, and will help you to succeed in this course. While the lectures will include important concepts from the textbook, the lectures will also include additional information that is not in the text and that will be part of the exams.
2. **Exams.** There are four parts to this course, and there will be a non-cumulative exam after each part (Exams 1 to 4). Each of these exams will consist of 50 multiple choice questions covering the material from the assigned reading and lectures from that quarter of the course. All of these exams will be held **in class**, except for Exam 4, which will be administered during the **scheduled final exam period**.

There will also be an **optional** Cumulative Final Exam that you can take at the same time as Exam 4 during the scheduled final exam period. The Final will cover the first three sections of the course. This exam will also consist of 50 multiple choice questions.

3. **Grading.** Students will have the opportunity to earn up to 200 points for this class. Each exam will be worth 50 points. Your grade will be based on your **four** best exam scores. For example, if you do better on the Final than on Exam 1, your grade will be based on Exams 2, 3, 4 and the Final. If your Final Exam grade is the lowest, I will drop that score and base your final grade on your other four exam scores. If you believe that your mark will be good enough without taking the optional Final, you do not need to take it.

Point system for assignment of final letter grades:

A	185-200	C	145-152
A-	179-184	C-	139-144
B+	173-178	D+	133-138
B	165-172	D	125-132
B-	159-164	D-	119-124
C+	153-158	F	0-118

Please note that pass/fail grading is NOT an option in this course.

4. **Policy on Missed Exams.** If you miss an exam, the Cumulative Final Exam will be used in place of the missed exam score. That means that you will have to take the final and I will not drop any score in calculating your final grade for the course. Thus, it should be clear that you should not miss any exam. Even if you are not feeling your best, you have nothing to lose by trying to take the exam. If you know you will be out of town for a scheduled university event, such as an athletic event, you should arrange to take the exam prior to the scheduled exam date. If I receive direct notification from the Dean of Students Office about a death in the family, other family emergency, or serious illness that requires absence from campus, I will work with you to make up missed coursework or exams.
5. **Participant Pool.** Participation in research is a great way to understand psychology as a science. Therefore, you will be asked to participate in current psychological experiments conducted by Lehigh faculty and students. An alternative writing exercise will be available for any student who does not want to participate in the experiments. However, because this is a requirement of the course, failure to complete this component of the course will result in a penalty. Students who do not complete the requirement (e.g., who do not turn in the paper by the end of the last week of the semester, or who do not complete all experiments to which they have been assigned) will receive an Incomplete and a 1/3 of a grade penalty for the course. This penalty is removable by completing a 10 page penalty paper, assigned by the Participant Pool Coordinator. Doing so will restore your grade, without the "1/3 of a grade" penalty. The penalty paper is due by the end of the first week of the following semester. If you do not do this penalty paper, then the incomplete will automatically be removed from your transcript and replaced with a 1/3 of a grade penalty for the course. That is, if the grade you earned from all other aspects of the course was a B+, the incomplete will now turn into a B. Essentially, you lose 1/3 of a grade if you fail to meet this requirement. Additional information will be forthcoming concerning this requirement. If you have any questions concerning your participation, please contact the participant pool coordinators at inpypool@lehigh.edu.
6. **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities.** If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting accommodations, please contact both your instructor and the Office of Academic Support Services, University Center C212 (610-758-4152) as early as possible in the semester. You must have documentation from the Academic Support Services office before accommodations can be granted.

7. **Academic Misconduct.** Lehigh’s Code of Conduct prohibits cheating and plagiarism. Evidence of either will be investigated and will result in **serious consequences** including failing the course, suspension or expulsion. For more information about what constitutes (in)appropriate academic conduct, please consult the Code of Conduct, Section III: Expectations of Conduct: <http://www.lehigh.edu/~indost/conduct/handbook/sect6.shtml>

Helpful Tips to Improve Your Experience (and Performance)

- Attend class. Don’t sit near distracting people.
- If you miss a class, get notes from a (high-performing) friend or acquaintance and meet with the TA or me to discuss the notes during our office hours.
- Minimize the extent to which you borrow others’ notes.
- Simply copying the PowerPoint slides will be inadequate. Keep your mind open and take good notes while I elaborate. Elaboration is very important.
- Within 24-48 hours of a class meeting, review your notes. Fill in information that you remember but did not have time to write down (or that you wrote down unclearly).
- Merely reading the textbook will be insufficient.
- If things don’t initially go well, don’t be easily discouraged. Apply yourself and you will improve.

Class Schedule

Part 1: Psychology as a Science, and its Biological Foundations

<i>Week</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading</i>
Week 1	01/18, 01/20, 01/22	Introduction	Chapter 1
Week 2	01/25, 01/27, 01/29	Research Methods	Chapter 2
Week 3	02/01, 02/03, 02/05	Neuroscience	Chapter 3
Week 4	02/08, 02/10	Visual Perception	Chapter 4
	02/12	**EXAM 1**	

Part 2: Cognition

<i>Week</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading</i>
Week 5	02/15, 02/17, 02/19	Memory	Chapter 5
Week 6	02/22, 02/24, 02/26	Learning	Chapter 6
Week 7	03/01, 03/03, 03/05	Language and Thought	Chapter 7
Week 8	03/08 – 03/12	NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK	
Week 9	03/15, 03/17	Consciousness	Chapter 8
	03/19	**EXAM 2**	

Part 3: Mental Health

<i>Week</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading</i>
Week 9	03/22, 03/24, 03/26	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 13
Week 10	03/29, 03/31, 04/02	Treatment	Chapter 14
Week 11	04/05, 04/07	Stress and Health	Chapter 15
	04/09	**EXAM 3**	

Part 4: Developmental, Social, and Personality Psychology

<i>Week</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading</i>
Week 12	04/12, 04/14, 04/16	Development	Chapter 11
Week 13	04/19, 04/21, 04/23	Social Psychology	Chapter 16
Week 14	04/26, 04/28, 04/30	Personality	Chapter 12
FINALS	TBA	**EXAM 4 AND CUMULATIVE FINAL**	

Please note that the final exam in this course could be as late as May 12. Do not make travel plans until the final exam schedule is published by the registrar.