

**PSYCH. 002: Sections 1 & 2
PSYCHOLOGY**

Spring 2003

Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth Mazur (rhymes with razor)

Class Meeting: Monday, Wednesday, & Friday

Section 1: 10:00 - 10:50 314 Frable

Section 2: 12:00 – 12:50 101 Main

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Office Hours: Mon., Wed., & Fri.: 11:00 – 11:50 and 1:00-2:00 and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to the study of psychology! Psychology 002 is designed to give you an understanding of basic psychological principles and of how these principles can apply to the science of human behavior and to the enrichment and understanding of your life. Also, since psychology is not just a body of knowledge but also a way of approaching and analyzing the world, this course will emphasize critical thinking: the importance of generating alternative explanations of events, asking questions, thinking of real-life examples, acknowledging controversy, and using one's imagination.

TEXTBOOK

The required textbook for this course is:

Psychology, 7th edition, by Carole Wade and Carol Tavris (2003).

An optional study guide should be available at the bookstore. Also, the publisher has a free online study guide that allows you to review each chapter's material and take practice tests at www.prenhall.com/wade.

I have listed specific reading assignments in the accompanying course schedule. In my experience, students who read the assigned chapter before I discuss the topic in class perform better on exams than those who do not. If you want to do well in this course, plan to read everything more than once and not immediately before the exam. We will go over a great deal of material fairly quickly, and much of it is challenging, rather than "just common sense." Each of your chapters is actually its own specialty area in psychology, and psychologists will often spend their whole working lives on one area. Plan to read and study for this course.

CLASS ETIQUETTE

Our class time is precious and limited, so in respect for your instructor and your classmates, do not arrive late or leave early unless it's an emergency. Occasionally, being late cannot be helped, and I understand that. But generally, tardy students disrupt the class, miss the quiz and/or the "Daily Double" (see below), and are immediately behind in that day's material. Therefore, plan to arrive early enough to find your assigned seat and get settled, and please wait until I formally end the class before you start to pack up your things or get up to leave.

Similarly, please turn off the sound on any cell phones, beepers, and pagers, and do not answer or make phone calls during class time. Do not read newspapers or books, and do not work on homework for another course. Also, although I understand that you may be tired, it is considered rude to lay your head down on the desk or sleep during class time so do not do it.

Please raise your hand when you'd like to speak. There are times when several students want to contribute to discussion, so some just blurt out their responses. This behavior, even if unintentional, often appears rude and can be intimidating to your classmates. Also, conversations with your neighbors while one of your classmates or I am speaking are disrespectful to us all. If you missed something that was said, just let us know and the speaker will repeat it.

These rules may seem obvious, but I am highlighting them to let you know how serious I am that this classroom be a learning environment built on mutual respect for everyone.

COURSE PROCEDURES

You are expected to attend all class periods, since it is through classroom interactions and activities that you can benefit the most from this course. If you miss a session, you should speak with me at the time you return to class or by telephone or email. Feel free to ask questions during class and to contribute your ideas to class discussion. By keeping up with the textbook, coming to class, listening, and participating, you will learn more about psychology, and your grades will reflect this learning.

If you do miss a class, it is your responsibility to get copies of a classmate's notes and handouts and to view any videos. I never lend out my notes and tend not to bring past assignments or handouts to class.

The Daily Double. There will be a Daily Double given in the first few minutes of every day in class. This is a multiple-choice question that will appear on the exam in the exact form in which it appeared in class. Write the Daily Double in your class notes so that you can learn and remember the answer. You are responsible for researching the answer in your textbook so please do not ask me.

Quizzes. As an incentive for you to stay on top of the reading, there will be a short 10-point True/False quiz for each of the 13 assigned chapters. The quiz will be offered at the beginning of one of the 3 classes dedicated to the relevant chapter. Once the quiz is handed out to all seated students, late students cannot take it. Missed quizzes due to absence or lateness cannot be made up and will be given a zero. However, the lowest 3 grades will be dropped, including any zeros.

Exams. There will be 6 noncumulative exams, each covering a different section of the textbook and the material presented in class (lectures, class activities, hand-outs, and videos). Each exam will be worth 100 points and will be comprised of 50 multiple-choice questions (2 points each) that test your understanding of both assigned textbook and class material.

I will offer one optional review session before each test. These will be scheduled at dates and times to be determined later by student, instructor, and room availability.

I expect honesty from all students as well as include procedures to help maintain the integrity of the exams and protect honest students. These include multiple but equivalent versions of each test, empty chairs between students if space permits, and only pencils at one's desk during exams (leave books and backpacks at the front of the room). Also, you must finish and turn in your exam before you leave the classroom – whether for the bathroom, a drink, or a tissue - and once at least one student has handed in an exam, no late student will be allowed to take it.

Make-up exams will be given at the same assigned time in the same room during finals week. Except for the last exam, you may make up one and only one exam during that time. If you have no missed exams, if you would like you may retake one exam – except the last one - for which you have earned a grade of 70 or below. However, no matter what the retake grade is, that second one will be substituted for the initial one. I will ask you to sign up for the make-up or

retake in the time period after the 5th exam and before the week of finals. It is your responsibility to know which exam you missed or performed poorly on.

Writing a Psychology Booklet. In addition to the exams and quizzes, you will be required to create a psychology booklet worth 100 points, which is due at the beginning of class on **Monday, April 14**. This assignment is designed to give you practice in critical thinking and in the application of psychological principles to daily life. Booklets handed in any time after the start of class on April 14 lose 5 points; on April 15, 10 points, and April 16, 15 points. No booklets will be accepted after 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 16.

The psychology booklet must be at least 4 pages long and written for a person who has never taken Introductory Psychology or any other Psychology course. Your booklet could target parents, teenagers, teachers, medical professionals, architects, athletes, or just a general audience. The choice of topic is up to you. It may be any topic discussed during class time or in the textbook, in an assigned or unassigned chapter, or in a chapter not yet read. Just keep in mind three guiding principles: (1) the topic should be explained very clearly in your own words (e.g., no copying of the textbook, another book or article, or of an internet site), (2) the information in the booklet should accurately represent psychological research, and (3) the topic should be perceived as interesting and useful to a nonpsychologist or someone who is not a psychology major. In addition to brief summaries of the information, I encourage you to use your imagination and to represent your topic with poems, drawings, photographs, puzzles, cartoons, or games - you don't want to produce a "boring" booklet. Also, you should feel free to use humor in your presentation.

In descending order of importance, I will grade the booklets on your demonstrated clear understanding of the topic, the development and persuasiveness of your explanations and examples, your effort, and your creativity. Presentation counts too; neatness, visual impact, and lack of spelling and grammar mistakes will be rewarded. Points will be lost if the booklet needs editing and/or proofreading.

On the due date, students will be able to look at and rate (for fun, not points) each other's psychology booklets.

Be careful that you do not plagiarize. Plagiarism is a form of cheating that involves presenting as one's own the ideas or work of another. That includes the work of another student or information, copy, and examples from the internet or other published media (books, newspapers, etc.). Students who plagiarize on this assignment may earn a grade of "F" in the course or on the assignment.

Possible Extra Credit. Participation in psychological research can show you how the types of studies discussed in class are actually conducted. Therefore, if invited, I encourage you to participate in one or two university psychology department research studies during the semester. After I receive notice of your participation from the principal investigator, I will award you 5 extra credit points for each study to add to your total score (thus, 10 points maximum). Unfortunately, I cannot guarantee whether or when there will be research projects being conducted. Therefore, if you are interested in extra-credit points, I recommend that you sign up to participate as soon as you learn of a study. Also, because no studies may be conducted during the semester, do not depend on extra-credit to boost your course grade. No other extra credit is available in this course.

Grades: You will be responsible for all information presented in class – including lectures, class activities and demonstrations, handouts, and videos - and all material assigned from the textbook, whether or not the information is discussed in class. Not all of the material in the text requires explanation, so class time will be spent on class demonstrations and experiments, discussing the more difficult material, adding new and relevant material, applying the information to realistic situations, and elaborating on especially important information.

If you are having difficulty with the exams, the quizzes, class work, the textbook, or the psychology booklet, please visit me in my office, email, or phone me so that we can work together on solutions. That's why I and other instructors have office hours; if those times aren't convenient, we'll make an appointment.

Your grade will be based on the percentage of 800 total points (six 100 point exams, your ten highest 10 point quizzes, and one 100 point psychology booklet) that you have earned during the semester. I will use the grading scale below to determine your final grade.

PERCENTAGE	# OF POINTS	FINAL GRADE
93-100	744-800	A
90-92.9	720-743	A-
87-89.9	696-719	B+
83-86.9	664-695	B
80-82.9	640-663	B-
77-79.9	616-639	C+
70-76.9	560-615	C
60-69.9	480-559	D
0-59.9	0-479	F

After all the exams, quizzes, the booklet, and any extra-credit points are added, the grade cutoffs are firm. Please don't expect to receive a higher grade if you fall on or near the borderline or expect me to raise your grade so as not to harm your GPA.

Disability Policy. Students with disabilities who require accommodations should consult with me and their other instructors during the first week of class to address modifications needed to complete course requirements. Consistent with University policy, any student requesting an accommodation must provide documentation from the campus. Additional information can be found at the University's Disability Services web page.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNED CHAPTERS
(Students are expected to read the chapter by the 1st day it is listed)

Date:		Topic/Assignment	Chapter
Monday	Jan. 13	Introduction to the Course & Psychology	
Wednesday	Jan. 15	What is Psychology?	1
Friday	Jan. 17	" " "	1
Monday	Jan. 20	How Psychologists Do Research	2
Wednesday	Jan. 22	" " "	2
Friday	Jan. 24	" " "	2
Monday	Jan. 27	Exam 1 (Chaps. 1 & 2)	
Wednesday	Jan. 29	Evolution, Genes, and Behavior	3
Friday	Jan. 31	" " "	3
Monday	Feb. 3	" " "	3
Wednesday	Feb. 5	Neurons, Hormones, and the Brain	4
Friday	Feb. 7	" " " "	4
Monday	Feb. 10	" " " "	4
Wednesday	Feb. 12	Exam 2 (Chaps. 3 & 4)	

Date:		Topic/Assignment	Chapter
Friday	Feb. 14	Body Rhythms and Mental States	5
Monday	Feb. 17	" " " "	5
Wednesday	Feb. 19	" " " "	5
Friday	Feb. 21	Sensation and Perception	6
Monday	Feb. 24	" "	6
Wednesday	Feb. 26	" "	6
Friday	Feb. 28	Exam 3 (Chaps. 5 & 6)	
Monday	March 3	Learning and Conditioning	7
Wednesday	March 5	" "	7
Friday	March 7	" "	7
Mon – Fri	March 10-14	Spring Break	
Monday	March 17	Behavior in Social and Cultural Context	8
Wednesday	March 19	" " " "	8
Friday	March 21	" " " "	8
Monday	March 24	Exam 4 (Chaps. 7 & 8)	
Wednesday	March 26	Memory	10
Friday	March 28	"	10
Monday	March 31	"	10
Wednesday	April 2	Emotion	11
Friday	April 4	"	11
Monday	April 7	"	11
Wednesday	April 9	Exam 5 (Chaps. 10 & 11)	
Friday	April 11	Theories of Personality	13
Monday	April 14	Psychology Booklet due	
Wednesday	April 16	Theories of Personality	13
Friday	April 18	" "	13
Monday	April 21	Psychological Disorders	16
Wednesday	April 23	" "	16
Friday	April 25	" "	16
Monday	April 28	Approaches to Treatment and Therapy	17
Wednesday	April 30	" " " "	17
Friday	May 2	" " " "	17
Date to be announced		Exam 6 (Chaps. 13, 16, & 17)	