PSYCH 105 - Psychology as a Science and Profession

Contact Information
Andrew Peck, Ph.D.: 116 Moore Bldg., 865-1838, acp103@psu.edu or andrewpeck@psu.edu. Please email for an appointment.

TA for last names beginning with...
A-K: Lauren Vazquez, lcv5@psu.edu. Please email for an appointment.
L-P: Chloe Bliton, cbh18@psu.edu. Please email for an appointment.
Q-S: Danfei Hu, duh243@psu.edu. Please email for an appointment.
T-Z: Brandon Bray, bab456@psu.edu. Please email for an appointment.

Course Readings
Required: Psychology’s Identity
Required: Thinking About Modern Psychology, 2nd Ed.
Required: Online readings posted on CANVAS -- Note: Apple users might need to use a PC.
Recommended: Careers in Psychology: Opportunities in a Changing World

Important Dates (tentative)
Sept 1 CANVAS Quiz # 1: Why PSYCH105 due
Sept 4 Labor Day - no class
Sept 8 CANVAS Quiz # 2: Do You Mind due
Sept 15 Movie Analysis Paper due at the beginning of class
Sept 22 CANVAS Quiz # 3: Studying Human Nature due
Sept 25 Final Exam Conflict Filing Period begins
Sept 29 Exam 1 (during class; those with Yom Kippur conflicts should let me know by Sept 18)
Oct 6 CANVAS Quiz # 4: Majoring in Psychology due
Oct 9 Career Paper due at the beginning of class
Oct 13 CANVAS Quiz # 5: Unveiling the Truth due
Oct 15 Final Exam Conflict Filing Period ends
Oct 20 CANVAS Quiz # 6: Breaking Through the Breakthrough Myth due
Oct 27 Exam 2 (during class)
Nov 3 CANVAS Quiz # 7: Constructing Psychology due
Nov 5 DST ends (gain an hour)
Nov 10 Late Drop deadline & CANVAS Quiz # 8: Just Cause due (consider doing this quiz early)
Nov 11 Homecoming (Go State!)
Nov 15 Exam 3 (during class)
Nov 20-24 Thanksgiving Break
Dec 1 CANVAS Quiz # 9: Ethics and Helping Careers due
Dec 4 Myth Busters Paper due at the beginning of class
Dec 8 CANVAS Quiz # 10: Pseudoscience due
Dec 11-15 Final Exam Week – time, date, and location of exam TBA

Course Overview
PSYCH 105 is designed for PSYBS and PSYBA students. PSYBS and PSYBA students must earn a C or better to graduate with a degree in psychology. Although this course will count towards the psychology minor, it is not recommended for most psychology minors. This course will NOT satisfy General Education requirements. It will count as elective credits for students not majoring or minoring in psychology.

Prerequisites
This course is designed for students who have already completed 2 semesters, including an Introductory Psychology course (or an equivalent approved by the PSU Department of Psychology). I will assume that you have a fundamental understanding of introductory-level psychology. Do not take PSYCH 100 and PSYCH 105 at the same time.
Course Goals
The course is designed around 3 main goals. The first is to help you learn about the identity of contemporary psychology - where psychology fits in the world, where it does not, how these are misunderstood, and why. The second is to help you learn about psychology-related career paths (jobs, professional school, ethics, etc.) and to dispel many common myths about psychology-related careers. The third is to help you learn about psychology as a process. Surprisingly, few people understand that psychology is a science and fewer understand how science shapes psychology.

This is a serious course with a serious workload.
“it can’t be that hard, it is a 100-level course” -- At PSU-UP, course numbers indicate the scope of course topics, not the level of difficulty. The scope of 100-level courses tends to be broader and shallower, and the scope of 400-level courses tends to be deeper and narrower. Students rate this course as “difficult.” Students report spending 4-5 hours per week on this course, and 6 or more hours preparing for exams. Seniors report that this course is harder than most 200-level courses and some 400-level courses in psychology. Students who do not attend class regularly, who do not complete assignments and quizzes on time, and who do not take the exams seriously are not likely to earn the grade they are hoping for.

Note: History shows that there is a strong direct relationship between attendance and overall grade.

“But it looks like it is going to be an easy class because I’ve already learned some of this stuff” -- Please do not be fooled by the listing of topics in this course. This course is designed to target your weakness - whether it is knowledge, information synthesis, or expressing ideas. We will focus on “filling in the blanks” in the knowledge you’ve learned so far and “connecting the dots” between concepts. This course will provide information about how different topics fit together and how these connections play a role in modern psychology.

If you can avoid it, I recommend that you do not take PSYCH 105 and either PSYCH 301W or PSYCH 490 at the same time. I also recommend that you do not take PSYCH 105 if you are taking more than 18 total credits.

Course Web Site
You can find the course web site at http://www.personal.psu.edu/acp103/PSYCH105.htm (but, CANVAS quizzes are on CANVAS). The course web site contains fill-in-the-blank lecture notes, information about assignments and extra-credit, links to on-line readings, and a bunch of other helpful things.

Please bring the fill-in-the-blank notes to class and fill in the missing information. Please note that, in addition to the blanks, these notes are incomplete. There is room for you to add your own notes (which you need to do to get all of the information), so you won’t need to bring a separate notebook.

Please do not make the mistake of thinking that you will get what you need by skipping class and copying these notes from a friend or filling in the blanks after class. Exams are designed to test your understanding of our in-class discussions, activities, demonstrations, etc., and just filling in the blanks in the notes without understanding the discussion is not likely to be enough.

Heads up - you take a risk when you purchase notes from vendors. Often, they are not very good. If you miss class for legitimate reasons, please ask us for help. Often, we are happy to help you catch up.

General Policies
• Attendance is expected. Questions and discussion during class are highly encouraged!!!
• Please do not call me at home. The best way to contact me is through e-mail.
• Please bring questions or concerns about an assignment or exam grade to my attention before the next assignment/exam is due.
• Please contact me as soon as possible to discuss University-approved absences, medical problems, or other emergency situations that cause extensive absence or late work.
• Sometimes the unexpected happens (think weather). If class is cancelled on the day a paper is due or an exam is scheduled, the exam will be given or the paper will be due during the next class.
• If the University is open, I will do everything I can to hold class (and keep due dates). If the University is open and the weather is too bad for you to travel, please contact me.

Penn State welcomes students with disabilities into the University’s educational programs. Please refer to the information provided by Student Disability Resources (SDR) at http://equity.psu.edu/student-disability-resources/ for information about the procedures required to obtain reasonable accommodations in this course. Students should discuss SDR-approved
accommodations with their instructor as early in the semester as possible, even if they have taken another course with the instructor. Please note: students are not required to provide their instructor with information about the nature of their condition.

Penn State students are also welcome to contact other units for assistance with personal concerns that interfere with academic progress, including: Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS; http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/counseling/), the Office of Student Affairs (http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/), Career Services (http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/career/), the Center or Women Students (http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/womenscenter/), the LGBTQA Student Resource Center (http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/lgbtqa/), the Office of Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response (http://titleix.psu.edu/), Penn State Educational Equity (http://equity.psu.edu/), the Multicultural Resource Center (http://equity.psu.edu/mrc), and University Health Services (http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/health/).

Earning your Grade
We will use the typical grading scale to determine course grades. Penn State does not use the A+, C-, D+, or D-designation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92.9%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86.9%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82.9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-76.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>00-59.9%</td>
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<td>NOTE: We do NOT round grades</td>
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</table>

Course grades will be based on exam and quiz scores, paper scores, and research participation. **You can earn up to 12 points of extra credit (3 percentage points).** Please see the Extra Credit section of the course website for details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work</th>
<th>% of course grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1 (~30 mc questions, 2-3 essays)</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>50 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2 (~30 mc questions, 2-3 essays)</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>50 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 3 (~30 mc questions, 2-3 essays)</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>50 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (~60 mc questions, no essays)</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
<td>78 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exam Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>57%</strong></td>
<td><strong>228 pts</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movie Analysis Paper</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>10 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Career Paper</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>20 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myth Busters Paper</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>30 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Paper Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>15%</strong></td>
<td><strong>60 pts</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10 CANVAS Quizzes</strong></td>
<td><strong>25%</strong></td>
<td><strong>100 pts (10 pts each)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Research Participation</strong></td>
<td><strong>3%</strong></td>
<td><strong>12 pts</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>400 total pts</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**CANVAS Quizzes:** There are 10 CANVAS quizzes. You may take each quiz twice. We will count your higher score. Quizzes are open book and based on the required reading. Some questions will be general, while others will be very detail oriented. Quizzes are set up so that you get a random subset of questions each time, so you will not have the same set of quiz questions both times. The least time-consuming strategy is to take the time to read and do your best the first time. You may not accept help from, nor assist, another person.

To earn credit, quizzes must be **submitted by midnight** on the due date. **Please note that technology problems will not be accepted as legitimate excuses for missed or late CANVAS quizzes. If you have a technology problem, please contact me at least 24-hrs. before the quiz deadline.**

**Exams:** The first three exams will be given during the regular class time. The final exam will be given during finals week. The date, time, and location of the final exam will be determined by the Registrar’s Office. Exams will evaluate
your understanding of information presented in class, including movies, discussions, and demonstrations. The multiple-choice questions will **assess understanding, information synthesis, and application**. Except for the first exam, the exams will be partially cumulative. Exam 2 will test some information covered for Exam 1. Exam 3 will test some information covered for Exam 2. The final exam will test some information covered for Exam 3. Please see the study sheets posted on the course website for more information, including concepts on the exams and potential essay questions.

**Papers:** Please see related links on the course website for paper details. Three papers are due throughout the semester. Papers should be handed in at the beginning of class. Please make sure you hand-in the correct version of your paper. Whatever you hand-in will be considered your final version and we will grade it (even if the paper is a draft or blank). I will accept papers through email if you encounter legitimate and unavoidable obstacles that prevent you from handing your paper in during class, but please ask if you can email your paper before you send.

**Please note:** Although I encourage you to discuss your ideas with others, you may not work with/collaborate with others when you write your papers. Please do your own work. Also, if we determine that your paper is not of acceptable quality, we will not grade it – we will return it to you and ask you to redo it for partial credit.

**Research Participation:** Participation in research activities is worth 3% of the course grade. Please click on the Research Participation Info link on the course website for IMPORTANT details. You are required to know these details.

**Extra Credit:** You can earn up to 12 points of extra credit. See the course website for additional details.

Once you have earned 100% of the research participation requirement, you can earn up to 8 of the 12 pts by doing extra research activities. Your 7th and 8th hour of participation (or research alternative) are each worth 2 pts. of extra credit. You can also earn another 4 pts. of extra credit if you participate in 6 or more hours of research activities (or complete 6 or more research alternatives) without getting an unexcused absence (a.k.a. “unexcused no show”).

You do not have to participate in extra research activities to earn extra credit. There are other things you can do instead. Please see the extra-credit section of the course website for links and details, and for information about earning the maximum amount of extra credit.

**Late Work**
If you are truly sick or have a legitimate emergency, then please stay home/take care of things. No one wants you to come to class and spread the flu, and I don’t expect you to come to class when your family is dealing with an emergency. BUT…..If you know that you are going to miss a paper deadline or an exam, please contact me in advance to discuss an extension. Generally, unexcused late papers will be penalized. Exceptions for emergencies will be made on a case-by-case basis. We will stop accepting papers 1 week after the due date. The availability and format of make-up exams is at the discretion of the instructor. Please contact Andrew to discuss ways to make up missed exams due to University-approved absences, medical problems, or emergency situations.

**Please note:** Providing a false excuse or fake medical documentation is a violation of the University’s Academic Integrity policy and will result in disciplinary or academic sanctions (or worse; providing false medical documentation is an arrestable offense in PA).

**Considerations for Course Grades**
If you are on the border between two course grades at the end of the semester, I will consider moving you up if: 1) you have completed the research-participation requirement, 2) you have earned 12 points of extra credit, 3) you have been in class for all/almost all of the in-class extra credit assignments, 4) you completed all of the CANVAS quizzes, and 5) you have been a model student in all aspects of the course.

**Academic Integrity**
Penn State defines academic integrity as the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. All students should act with personal integrity, respect other students’ dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts (Faculty Senate Policy 49-20).

Students are responsible for maintaining academic integrity. Violations include cheating on exams or CANVAS quizzes, talking to others during an exam or CANVAS quiz, getting help from others on CANVAS quizzes, having notes accessible during exams, looking at another student’s answers during an exam or CANVAS quiz, removing exams from the classroom without consent from the instructor, **plagiarizing**, and dishonesty in any aspect of course participation. Violations of academic integrity may result in a grade of F for the course as well as other penalties (see Faculty Senate Policy 49-20).
When you write papers, remember the ABCs to avoid plagiarism: Always place copied information within quotation marks, include information about the quoted or paraphrased source in a Bibliography, and Cite the source in the body (in the text) of your paper immediately after the quoted or paraphrased information. When in doubt, cite in the text and include the source in a bibliography.

Heads up – several note-taking/note-sharing companies approach students about “jobs” (including “jobs” that appear to be connected to PSU). If this is something that you want to do, you MUST make an appointment and talk with me first. You may not share any information from this course (including notes and assignments) with others who are not currently registered for the course, nor post such information electronically without the permission of the instructor – this includes on-line note-taking/note-sharing services (see Penn State Administrative Policy AD-40). Unless you have my permission, you risk academic sanctions related to charges of plagiarism and disciplinary sanctions.

### Topic Sequence, Required Reading, and CANVAS Quiz Due Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>CANVAS QUIZ DUE DATE</th>
<th>READING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PSYCHOLOGY’S IDENTITY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Why PSYCH 105?</td>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>Course Syllabus &amp; Thinking About Modern Psychology Chapters 1 &amp; 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do You Mind?</td>
<td>September 8</td>
<td>Psychology's Identity: Part 1 Chapters 1 &amp; 2; Part 2 Chapter 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Studying Human Nature</td>
<td>September 22</td>
<td>Thinking About Modern Psychology Chapters 3, 4</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PSYCHOLOGY AS A PROFESSION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Majoring in Psychology</td>
<td>October 6</td>
<td>Thinking About Modern Psychology Chapters 5, 6, 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH at PSU-UP</td>
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<td>Psychology's Identity: Part 3 Chapter 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Schooling</td>
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<td>Thinking About Modern Psychology Chapter 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applying to Professional School</td>
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<td>Thinking About Modern Psychology Chapter 9</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PSYCHOLOGY AS A SCIENCE</strong></td>
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<td>Unveiling the Truth</td>
<td>October 13</td>
<td>Thinking About Modern Psychology Chapter 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breaking Through the Breakthrough Myth</td>
<td>October 20</td>
<td>Thinking About Modern Psychology Chapters 12, 13, 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Constructing Psychology</td>
<td>November 3</td>
<td>Thinking About Modern Psychology Chapters 15, 17,18 &amp; Psychology's Identity: Part 4 Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just Cause</td>
<td>November 10</td>
<td>Thinking About Modern Psychology Chapters 19, 20, 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethics &amp; Helping Careers</td>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>Thinking About Modern Psychology Chapter 10 &amp; Articles on CANVAS for <em>The Milgram Debate and The Animal Debate</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pseudoscience</td>
<td>December 8</td>
<td>Thinking About Modern Psychology Chapters 16, 22, 23</td>
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Psychology is “Common Sense” Quiz

Please mark ‘true’ if you think the statement is true and ‘false’ if you think it is false.

1. To change the way people act, you must first change their attitudes. ______
2. The greater the reward promised for a boring activity, the more one will come to enjoy the activity. ______
3. Most people rate themselves as below average when comparing themselves to others on socially desirable characteristics (such as attractiveness). ______
4. Most people will disobey a person in authority who orders them to hurt a stranger. ______
5. In a debate, it is always to your advantage to be the last speaker instead of going first (you want the last word). ______
6. People pull harder in a tug-of-war when they are part of a team than when they are pulling by themselves. ______
7. Groups will generally make more moderate decisions than a single individual will. ______
8. People are LESS likely to help another person when they are alone than when there is a group around. ______
9. If you pick up a crying baby whenever it cries, this will increase the amount the baby will cry, so it can get picked up again. ______
10. Children who grow up in a family with gay parents are more likely to become gay. ______
11. A person who is blind in one eye can’t see depth. ______
12. Some people never dream. ______
13. When we sleep, the brain sleeps as well. ______
14. Eyewitness testimony is amongst the best evidence used in courts. ______
15. A person’s intelligence is partly determined by brain size. ______
16. The more motivated and aroused you are, the better your performance will be. ______
17. A person with schizophrenia has a split personality. ______
18. How a person shows he is happy depends on his culture and upbringing. ______
19. Most old people have some degree of senility. ______
20. Many people come through adolescence with emotional scars. ______


Questions 12-20 from the Common Sense Psychology Quiz (Martin et al, 1997) found at http://ibs.derby.ac.uk/~aimee/Intro/Commonsenseseminar.htm.