

**UNIVERSITY OF THE INCARNATE WORD  
Psychology Department**

**Course Outline**

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**COURSE NO:** PSYC 1301.04  
**COURSE TITLE:** Introduction to Psychology  
**FACULTY:** John M. Velasquez, Ph.D.  
**TIME:** Tuesday and Thursday 2:45-4:00 PM  
**ROOM:** NB 216  
**OFFICE:** NB 110      **OFFICE PHONE:** 829-3960  
**OFFICE HOURS:** M & W 1:00-3:00 PM; T & Th 1:30-2:30 PM (other hours by appt.)  
**E-MAIL:** velasque@universe.uiwtx.edu

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**COURSE OBJECTIVES and OUTCOMES:**

This course studies the basic facts and principles of psychology (p. 229, Undergraduate Bulletin). Prerequisites: None. This is a review course to prepare psychology majors for an introduction to the discipline. It is also a social science elective and/or requirement to introduce non-psychology majors to the study of human behavior, particularly for people-oriented professions.

- To review the major theories of psychology;
- To review the research issues relevant to psychological studies;
- To recognize and comprehend the concept of behavioral variability;
- To appreciate the influence of gender and culture on human behavior;
- To review the major paradigms within the discipline of psychology.

**REQUIRED TEXT:**

Halonen, J.S., & Santrock, J.W. (1999). Psychology: Contexts & applications (3rd ed.). Boston: McGraw-Hill College. [ISBN 007-397558-3]

Supplementary Texts & Media:

Landrum, R.E. (1999). Introduction to psychology practice tests. Boston: McGraw-Hill College.

Schneider, S.A. (1999). Student study guide to accompany: Psychology: Contexts & applications (3rd Ed.). Boston: McGraw-Hill College.

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Survey of the historical and modern views of human behavior, including a study of etiology of, methods of investigation of, implications for, and interventions with human behavior. This course will emphasize the research methods employed by psychologists across the various subspecialties of psychology and how psychological principles are applied across society. There will be an additional emphasis on the contexts in which human behavior occurs. This emphasis considers the socio-cultural factors contributing to human behavior, including: age, culture and ethnicity, gender, and the unique worldviews of different subgroups. There is also an emphasis on the use of psychological principles for personal growth and the betterment of society.

### **COURSE EVALUATION:**

**Academic Honesty:** Cheating, plagiarism, and other acts of dishonorable conduct can result in the student receiving a sanction for the assignment and also may result in a referral to the deans office, VP for Academic Affairs and Student Life, and/or the Honor Board. Refer to the student handbook for specifics of this policy.

**Attendance:** As indicated in the attendance policy of UIW, instructors are permitted to advise student who miss more than 15% of all meetings to withdraw from the course. You will be recommended to the VP of Academic and Student Affairs to withdraw from this class if you miss this number of class meetings. Attendance policy of UIW allows students to miss classes due to University sponsored events (“excused absences”); therefore the attendance policy of this course allows for such absences with appropriate University documentation. However, if any combination of unexcused and excused absences totals more than 15% of class meetings, your professor may advise you to withdraw from the course.

**NOTE:** If there are extenuating circumstances for which you believe you deserve an exception to this attendance policy, you must communicate these circumstances to the instructor prior to missing your third class session. Also, it will serve your best interests if you communicate with the professor prior to or immediately following every absence.

**Grading Policy:** Your final course grade is based on the total number of correct items on Quizzes and Examinations.

- 3 Unit Exams (35 multiple choice items each): **70 points**
- 3 Unit Quizzes (10 multiple choice items each): **30 points**
- Comprehensive Examination (100 multiple-choice items): **100 points**  
**200 points (total)**

Your final grade will be based on the sum total of points earned on two Unit Exams (you may drop the lowest unit exam score, but you must take all unit examinations), the Chapter Quizzes, and the Final Exam. Final class results at the end of the semester will be evaluated for a possible “curve” of individual course grades.



September 18	<b>Exam #1</b>	<b>Chs. 1, 15, 16</b>
September 20 & 25	Biological Foundations Brain Structure & Function	Chapter 2
September 27 & October 2	Sensation and Perception Psychophysics	Chapter 3
October 2	<b>Quiz #2</b>	<b>Chs. 2 &amp; 3</b>
October 4 & 9	Learning Classical Conditioning Operant Conditioning	Chapter 5
October 11, 16 & 23	Development Prenatal Development Cognitive Development Parent/Child Relationships	Chapter 8
October 18	Fall Break (no class)	
October 25	<b>Exam #2</b>	<b>Chs. 2,3, 5 &amp; 8</b>
October 30 & November 1	Social Psychology Social Influence Interpersonal Relationships	Chapter 14

November 6, 8 & 13	Personality Major Paradigms Assessment	Chapter 10
November 13	<b>Quiz #3</b>	<b>Chs. 10 &amp; 14</b>
November 15, 20 & 27	Abnormal Psychology Classification Systems Diagnostic Categories	Chapter 11
November 29	<b>Exam #3</b>	<b>Chs. 10, 11 &amp; 14</b>
December 4	<b>Final Examination</b> <b>3:30 – 5:30 PM</b>	<b>Comprehensive</b>

- *Note: This schedule is tentative. The student is responsible for any changes announced in class.*

The University provides support services for students with disabilities. Any student who anticipates the need for assistance, support services, or reasonable accommodations related to a disability should contact Connie Kuwamoto at 805-5813.

8/23/2001

**INTRODUCTORY PSYCHOLOGY**  
**Quizzes, Unit Examinations**  
**and Final Examination**

**QUIZZES**

Quizzes are given to help you keep up with reading in a timely fashion. If you read the material *when it is assigned*, learning is enhanced, and you can become a more active participant in class discussions. The objective is to determine whether you read the assigned Halonen & Santrock chapters. Quizzes will be given for selected chapters assigned leading up to the next unit examination. Quizzes will consist of 10 multiple choice questions. Questions will be written to test the broad and general principles presented in the chapters, and they are designed to cover the full range of information presented in the chapters. See the syllabus for dates of quizzes.

NOTE: Quizzes will take place in the *last* 15 minutes of the class session. The chapter assigned to be read for that day will also be covered on the quiz.

**UNIT EXAMINATIONS**

You will take three unit exams, one of which you can drop. You must take all unit exams. These exams will cover material presented in Halonen & Santrock chapters as well as class lectures, class discussions and supplementary materials (i.e. study guide, practice tests). However, the best strategy for preparing for these exams is to pay attention to class lectures and class discussions. What we cover in class will be emphasized on unit exams (with a few questions covering textbook readings not covered in class).

**FINAL EXAMINATION**

The final exam will be comprehensive. All assigned textbook readings, and all class lectures and class discussions will be covered. However, no material (concepts, theories, facts) will be tested on the final exam that was not already tested in previous exams. The best strategy is to focus on the same material covered and tested throughout the course of the semester. An undetermined number of items on the final exam will come directly from the three unit exams.