

Class Syllabus

Welcome to Introductory Psychology! I am pleased that you have decided to take this class. You will receive an overview of the major fields and issues in psychology, which will prepare you for more advanced study in this most fascinating subject. This class will also enable you to better understand why people do some of the things they do. You will find the material to be of enormous value, not just as a student, but throughout your life because the information and techniques offered in this class can give you a new way to look at yourself and others.

You should also consider that Psychology deals with PEOPLE. Since you're a person, your participation in class is highly encouraged! You will get much more from this class if you do. **Student Learning Objective:** We will focus on learning the difference between genetics (nature) and environmental factors (nurture) as motivating forces underlying behavior, and upon the influence of cause and effect relationships in psychology. These themes will be presented throughout the semester, and there may be a short quiz covering nature vs. nurture and/or cause and effect.

If you must miss a day of class, please be sure to speak with me on the first day of your return, so I can give you any handouts you may have missed. All quizzes and due dates are listed on your agenda, and any changes will be announced in class as far in advance as possible. The order of chapters is on this syllabus and on your agenda, so you'll always know what's next. You might want to obtain the phone number of at least one of your classmates in order to find out what you missed in case you are absent. You will improve your chances of success in this class if you read the chapter in advance of the lecture.

This is how your grade is established

Chapter Quizzes are graded according to the percentage correct. If you earn a 90% on a quiz, you will have a grade of A on that quiz. Your total percentage points will be added up at the end of the semester and divided by the number of quizzes you took, and converted to an overall grade. For example, if you earned a 90% on each of our seven quizzes, you will have 630 points. This, divided by 7 quizzes, gives you an overall grade of 90% (A) in the class. There are 700 possible points, with each quiz worth 100. Points may be lost for absences; 1 percentage point will be deducted for each unexcused absence when role is taken at the beginning of each class.

Assessment

Grades are computed as follows:

A=100%-90% B=89%-80% C=79%-70% D=69%-60% F=<59%-0%

There will be in-class projects (personality inventories, a behavioral self management plan, a sample IQ "Test") that will benefit you, but won't be assigned points or grades.

Your grade will be based entirely on quizzes.

Quizzes are based almost entirely on material in your textbook, Essentials of Psychology, Concepts and Applications, Copyright 2006, ISBN: 0-618-43409-7, by Jeffrey S. Nevid. There will be a study guide (a list of key terms) available in advance of each quiz. **You can expect seven quizzes**, but don't despair; each quiz is preceded by a review. The good news is that the last quiz counts as your final, and is worth the same amount as any other quiz. Most quiz questions will be covered in class lectures, but you are responsible for the material in the chapter and on handouts given in class. Quizzes are objective and may include multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. **You'll need to bring a number 2 pencil and a scantron (#882-E) to each quiz.** I realize that something may come up that prevents you from getting to class on a quiz day. In order to allow for one such emergency, there will be a designated day set aside for a make-up quiz. This day (listed on your agenda) will be reserved for those who have missed one quiz. Quizzes which have received a letter grade may not be re-taken for a higher grade. All quizzes will count toward your final class grade.

Chapter and Title	Location (Page Numbers)
1 Introduction to Psychology and Methods of Research	2-37
2 Biological Foundations of Behavior	38-81
3 Sensation and Perception	82-123
4 Consciousness	124-159
5 Learning	160-191
6 Memory	192-221
7 Thinking, Language, and Intelligence	222-255
8 Motivation and Emotion	256-293
9 Human Development	294-343
10 Personality	344-379
11 Psychological Disorders	380-415
12 Methods of Therapy	416-447
13 Psychology and Health	448-479
14 Social Psychology	480-515

Here are some other items that are important:

- I really want you to succeed in this class. If you are having any problem of any kind that you think is affecting your performance, especially attendance, *please talk to me*. Communication is extremely important and I support your efforts.
- Please e-mail me if you want to discuss psychology, your progress in class, or anything else that concerns you. *My e-mail address is mfarris@cerritos.edu, and our class website is www.mlfarrispsych.webstarts.com.*
- Talking excessively to other students during a lecture or while another student is speaking is not advised. Leaving during the middle of a class may cause you to miss important handouts and other information. If you have to leave early, please let me know.
- Anyone can be late on occasion. However, habitual tardiness may reduce your grade. Attendance will be recorded each day on a sign in sheet.
- Please turn your phones and pagers off before class begins. If you must make or receive a call, please leave the classroom first.
- Final grades will officially be provided by the office of Admissions and Records.
- **If you should decide to stop attending class, *it is your responsibility to drop yourself* at Admissions. If you stop attending and do not file a drop card with admissions, you may receive an F.**
- Every aspect of this syllabus, your agenda, and this class are subject to change. I will adjust pacing and material to the needs of your particular class.

Thank you again for joining this class. I wish you a successful semester, and welcome you!