

PSY1106 – Introduction to Psychology,

Instructor:

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Office hour is on Monday after class. Please send an email beforehand.

Course Description

This course is a one semester overview and introduction to psychology, with a strong emphasis on Historical Problems, Philosophical underpinnings of the Discipline, Psychoanalysis, Biological Psychology, Sensory Psychology, and Mental Illness.

Course Objectives

- provide students with foundational knowledge in the basic areas, and major currents of enquiry in psychological research
- gain familiarity with the basic structure of the nervous system
- define questions of consciousness and embodiment, and the variety of methods for collecting research and analyzing data throughout the history of the discipline.
- address the question of the unconscious
- illustrate the critical evaluation of research methodologies
- gain competency in comprehending scholarly literature
- understand ethical principles and the imperatives of governing the discipline by ethical standards.

Procedures

Information will be presented in the form of lectures with interactive student participation. We will view and comment videos about scientific research.

Honor code: As a member of the McDaniel College community, you are expected to abide by the Honor Code on all of your assignments. All work should be submitted with the signed honor pledge, *"I have neither given or received unauthorized aid on this piece of work, nor have I knowingly tolerated any violation of the Honor Code."* We will discuss exactly what constitute plagiarism later in the semester.

Required Text

R.L. Atkinson, et. al. Hilgard's Introduction to Psychology

A secondary text is available electronically from the instructor upon request

Semester Schedule

1. The study of psychology. Fields, approaches, historical background, methodological problems
2. Psychoanalysis and the Freudian theories of Personality and Socialisation
3. Neurobiological and physiological basis of psychology
4. The nervous system and its functions. Sensory physiology. Presentation of Dr. Murillo's own research on colour vision
5. Sensory Process: Nature vs. Nurture debate. Perception and attention
6. Consciousness Aspects and different states of consciousness. Sleep and wakefulness – Mid-term test
7. Learning – Classical and instrumental conditioning
8. Personality and social conditioning
9. Motivation – Pleasure – biological basis of pleasure and addiction
10. Mental illness and pathological psychology

Assignments and grading

- Attendance is EXTREMELY important. Your grade drops precipitously after three unexcused absences.

- There will be at least ten regular quizzes
- You are supposed to take a midterm and comprehensive final test
- You are expected to prepare a final project
- Each one of you should have one oral presentation (min.) during the term

Calculating grades

Class participation – 10%

Ten best out of 12 quizzes - 20 %

Midterm test – 20 %

Final test – 30 %

Oral presentation – 10%

Final project – 10 %