

**Westfield State University**  
**Psychology 0101 (section 001): Introductory Psychology (Online) Spring 2018**  
**Course Info Page (sample of the class, subject to change)**

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**Course Objectives & Requirements**

The goal of this course is to enable students to learn the vocabulary, concepts, theories and methodologies relevant to psychology; understand how selected factors influence individual and group behavior and/or to understand why people form societies and/or the role of institutions in society; become knowledgeable about contemporary social issues and possible solutions; and become aware of differing viewpoints regarding current and historical issues within psychology.

In support of these objectives students will be introduced to research techniques in a context that requires the student to use the information appropriately; will be required to utilize relevant concepts and methodologies and to read from primary and secondary sources; to highlight factors contributing to individual and group differences; and complete writing assignments which will evaluate students' understanding of the subject and involve library skills and other discipline-appropriate vehicles.

**Teaching Philosophy:** During this course I will be training you how to think critically as a social science researcher and gain a better understanding of how psychological research is conducted, an essential tool in preparing the psychology major for courses in research methods and statistics, as well as upper level coursework. For the non-psyc major you'll gain an understanding of seminal research on human behavior & development. It is my sincere hope that you will be better equipped to evaluate the many psychological claims that you encounter in the future, that you'll have a better idea of what makes us all "tick", and that you might apply some of what of we will cover this semester to make your own lives more fulfilling.

**Expected Student Learning Outcomes:**

This introductory psychology course is designed around the American Psychological Association's ten established and recommended learning goals for psychology majors. A detailed outline of undergraduate learning goals and outcomes are displayed on preface pages xviii-xxi of the Ciccarelli & White text that accompanies this course. For more details on the APA learning goals and assessment guidelines, please see <http://www.apa.org/>

**Required Texts:**

1. **Psychology: An Exploration. 2018. (4th ed) by Ciccarelli & White**, bundled with MyPsychLab access – 9780134078861. (Note: this text also has a much cheaper e-text option if you purchase through the publisher which is Pearson. That would be fine to get, just make sure you also buy the MyPsychLab access). Here is a link to the book at the publisher's website so you can get a look at it and the options available to you: <http://www.pearsonhighered.com/educator/product/Psychology-An-Exploration-Plus-MyPsychLab-with-Pearson-eText-Access-Card-Package/9780134078793.page>
2. **Forty Studies that Changed Psychology. 2013. (7th ed) by Hock** - ISBN 0-205-91839-5. Here is the link to the publisher for more info (there is also an e-text option for this text): <http://www.mypearsonstore.com/bookstore/forty-studies-that-changed-psychology-9780205918393>

\*The campus bookstore will have these or you can order online, but please be aware of what you are ordering online. Make sure you order the correct edition and the Ciccarelli & White text must be bought with MyPsychLab access which is not automatic. We will be using MyPsychLab in this class.

### **Performance Evaluation Overview:**

You will be evaluated in this course on the basis of the following 3 elements:

1. Exams: there will a total of 5 exams over the course plus a final exam. Exams will be posted no later than noon on Thursday of the week in which they are assigned and you will have until 11:59pm Sunday (of that same week) to complete the exam. Once you click into the exam you MUST complete it in ONE SITTING. YOU HAVE 30 MINUTES TO COMPLETE AN EXAM ONCE YOU CLICK INTO IT. If you are bumped out of the system for any reason while taking a exam you'll be able to log back in and resume your exam where you left off but the timer continues. While taking the exam you will not be able to go back and forth between questions, the questions will appear one at a time and once you submit your answer for a question the exam will move forward. When your time limit is reached the exam will automatically close at whatever point you're at. Always double check to make sure your exams are submitted correctly. **The exams are meant to be challenging and you should be prepared. No notes or books allowed for the exams (and there isn't really enough time to be looking up answers anyways).** At the end of an exam due date period you will receive feedback on your score and submitted answers versus correct answers by clicking into your grade for the exam in Gradebook on Plato. After the due date & time have expired you will not be allowed to take the exam. *Your lowest exam score will be dropped.*
2. Quizzes: You will have a quiz at the end of each week, covering one chapter. Quizzes are a gauge of how you are doing and what you need to brush up on before the exams come and they are a good representation of what you can expect on the exams. Quizzes will follow the same format as exams (see above). Quizzes will be due by Friday 11:59pm each week. Once you click into a quiz you MUST complete it in ONE SITTING. YOU WILL HAVE ONLY 10 MINUTES TO COMPLETE A QUIZ ONCE YOU CLICK INTO IT. You will be able to view your quizzes as well with the same process as for exams (detailed above). All of the same rules as above apply to taking quizzes. *Your lowest quiz score will be dropped.*
3. Discussion Board: Your participation in this course is vital to the lively discussions that can ensue just from the challenging and poignant topics we will be covering! In this manner I gauge your participation in the course through your weekly responses to questions I pose on the course discussion board, as well as your responses/comments on other students' posts. Discussion postings are my way of also gauging your writing, so careful attention should be given to your responses (grammar, sentence structure, content, etc.) You will asked to respond to a question I pose regarding the weekly readings in *Forty Studies That Changed Psychology* by Roger Hock. This book compiles forty of the most influential and important studies in the history of psychology all into one book with easy to read readings. You'll notice that readings are numbered 1-40 and all list the original author of the study, title of the article, journal it first appeared in and date it was originally published. So, Hock is not the author of the studies, he simply compiled them all into a book and wrote some comments, updates, and narratives about the articles at the end of each reading to help you understand the importance of the article and the original author's contribution to the field.
  - a. Instructions will be given for the discussion question(s) each week in your weekly links menu tabs on left bar of Plato and will be labeled by week (e.g., "Week 1

- Discussion Question.”) OR you can go into the *Discussions* tab on the left, but that will show you all discussions for every week (which may be confusing).
- b. You are to first respond to the discussion question by creating a new “thread” or discussion and writing your original response to the question. You’ll need to do this early in the week, **no later than Thursday of each week**. Next, you will follow-up by commenting on THREE other classmates’ threads by clicking into their threads and posting replies. Your responses should be thoughtful, incorporating what you’re learning in the text and via lectures (I expect integration of the concepts/key terms you are learning), as well as your opinion when asked. You’ll need to do this **by Sat of each week. I will be grading discussion posts the following week and commenting on your original post. Once I’ve commented on your original posting it is your responsibility to view those comments and respond to my comments within that week.**
  - c. A rubric for how discussion posts and replies will be graded is provided in the “Start Here” folder on the left-hand menu of the course Plato site. Take time to look over the rubric and make sure you understand what the desired characteristics of your responses are and how exactly your responses will be evaluated. Pay attention to the due date of each discussion post, the system will automatically track and date-stamp when you post a response and when you respond to other students’ posts.

#### **Grading Breakdown:**

**Exams** = 5 exams x 30pts each = 120 pts possible (28% of grade)

\*Each exam will have 30 questions worth 1pt each and your lowest exam score will be dropped

**Final Exam** = 45 questions x 1pt ea = 45pts possible (11% of grade)

**Weekly Quizzes** = 13 quizzes x 10 pts each = 120 pts possible (28% of grade)

\*Each quiz will have 10 questions worth 1pt each and your lowest quiz score will be dropped

**Discussion Board** = 13 weeks of discussion board postings and responses to others’ postings x 10pts/ea week = 140 pts possible (33% of grade)

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**Total points possible = 425**