

Westfield State University
Psychology 0101 - Introductory Psychology (Online)
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 purchased through the WSU bookstore.
2. **Forty Studies that Changed Psychology. 2013. (7th ed) by Roger Hock**, purchased through the WSU bookstore.

*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. *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. *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)

Total points possible = 425

Below is a sample of a past semester schedule of what was covered to give an idea. The schedule for this class may look a bit different.

Week	Topic for the week	Reading	Quiz and/or Exam Posted	What is Due
Wk 1 9/5-9/9	Getting familiar with Plato & course content	*CW – Psychology In Action (the preface to Ch.1) & Appendix B		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Log-in to Plato & MyPsychLab Check-in by posting your bio in the Student Lounge by Sun, Sep 9th
Wk 2 9/10-9/16	The Science of Psychology & Applied Psychology & Psychology Careers	Ch.1; Hock preface	<u>Quiz 1</u> – open until 11:59 pm Fri 9/14, covers Ch.1 & Hock preface	Discussions: Original post due 9/13 Response posts due 9/15
Wk 3 9/17-9/23	The Biological Perspective	Ch.2; Hock #2	<u>Quiz 2</u> – open until 11:59 pm 9/21, covers Ch.2 <u>Exam 1</u> – open until 11:59 pm 9/23, covers Ch.1-2 & appendix B; Hock preface	Discussions: Original post due 9/20 Response posts due 9/22 *Mandatory intro psych assessment Due date TBA
Wk 4 9/24-9/30	Sensation & Perception	Ch.3; Hock #5	<u>Quiz 3</u> – open until 11:59 pm 9/28, covers Ch.3	Discussions: Original post due 9/27 Response posts due 9/29
Wk 5 10/1-10/7	Learning	Ch.5; Hock #12	<u>Quiz 4</u> – open until 11:59 pm 10/5, covers Ch.4 <u>Exam 2</u> – open until 11:59pm 10/7, covers Ch.3-4	Discussions: Original post due 10/4 Response posts due 10/6
Wk 6 10/8-10/14	Memory	Ch.6; Hock #16	<u>Quiz 5</u> – open until 11:59 pm 10/12, covers Ch.6	Discussions: Original post due 10/11 Response posts due 10/13
Wk 7 10/15-10/21	Consciousness	Ch.4; Hock #6	<u>Quiz 6</u> – open until 11:59 pm 10/19, covers Ch.4 <u>Exam 3</u> – open until 11:59pm 10/21, covers Ch.4 & 6	Discussions: Original post due 10/18 Response posts due 10/20
Wk 8 10/22-10/28	Development Across the Lifespan	Ch.8; Hock #19	<u>Quiz 7</u> – open until 11:59 pm 10/26, covers Ch.8	Discussions: Original post due 10/25 Response posts due 10/27
Wk 9 10/29-11/4	Motivation, Stress & Emotion	Ch.9; Hock #22	<u>Quiz 8</u> – open until 11:59 pm 11/2, covers Ch.9	Discussions: Original post due 11/1 Response posts due 11/3

			<u>Exam 4</u> – open until 11:59pm 11/4, covers Ch.8-9	
Wk 10 11/5-11/11	Social Psychology	Ch.10; Hock #40	<u>Quiz 9</u> – open until 11:59 pm 11/9, covers Ch.10	Discussions: Original post due 11/8 Response posts due 11/10
Wk 11 11/12-11/18	Theories of Personality	Ch.11; Hock #27	<u>Quiz 10</u> – open until 11:59 pm 11/16, covers Ch.11 <u>Exam 5</u> – open until 11:59pm 11/18, covers Ch.10-11	Discussions: Original post due 11/15 Response posts due 11/17
Wk 12 11/19-11/25	Cognition: Thinking, Intelligence, & Language	Ch.7; Hock #14	<u>Quiz 11</u> – open until 11:59 pm 11/30, covers Ch.7	Discussions: Original post due 11/29 Response posts due 12/2
Wk 13 11/26-12/2	Psychological Disorders	Ch.12; Hock #31	<u>Quiz 12</u> – open until 11:59 pm 12/7, covers Ch.12	Discussions: Original post due 12/6 Response posts due 12/8
Wk 14 12/3-12/9	Psychological Therapies	Ch.13; Hock #34	<u>Quiz 13</u> – open until 11:59 pm 12/14, covers Ch.13	Discussions: Original post due 12/13 Response posts due 12/15
Finals Week			<u>Final Exam</u> – open from 7am – 11:59pm Tue, Dec 18th, covers Ch.7, 12, 13	

*The chapter readings correspond to the Ciccarelli & White text