

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

FOUNDATIONS OF PSYCHOLOGY

PSYC 1101, sect. 09. FALL 2016

Mon and Thurs. 11:45 AM-1:25 PM

Shillman Hall 420

Instructor: Ann Blumer
Office: 108 Lake Hall
Email: a.blumer@northeastern.edu
Phone: 617-373-4753

Office hours: Wed, 12:30-2:30 PM and Thurs, 10:30-11:30 AM, **or by appointment.**

NOTE: the best way to contact me is by email. You can also connect with me before or after class to set up an appointment.

Course Description

This course surveys the fundamental principles, concepts, and issues in the major areas of contemporary scientific psychology. It approaches the study of psychology as a method of inquiry as well as a body of knowledge. It emphasizes the biological, behavioral, cognitive, and social factors that influence and regulate learning and motivation; personality dynamics; psychopathology and its treatment; life-span development; sensory and perceptual processes; and communication and social behaviors. The influence of cultural factors on psychological studies and theories is also explored. 4 credits; no prerequisite.

This course has been designed to meet the learning goals of the *Understanding Societies and Institutions* AND the *Engaging with the Natural and Designed World* NUPATH categories. It also continues to fulfill the *Social Science Level 1* requirement in the old NU core.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you will have: 1) an understanding of the essential concepts and theories within the major subfields of psychology; 2) an understanding of the research methods employed by psychologists; 3) an ability to apply your understanding to critically assess psychological research; and 4) have the theoretical foundation for further study in psychology.

Required textbook

Meyers, D. and Dewall, N. (2015). *Psychology in Modules*, 11th ed. Worth Publishers.
ISBN: 9781464173585. (**E-textbook; on-line access to Launchpad**).

You **MUST** purchase this access code; required course work has to be completed on Launchpad.

Other resources

All other materials, including study guides, course announcements, power point slides, assignments, and updates to the course schedule will be distributed through Blackboard at <http://blackboard.neu.edu>. It is your responsibility to attend class, and if you must miss class, it is up to you to get missed information from another student. Please check Blackboard regularly.

Structure of the course

This course meets 2 times per week. Each class session will be a combination of lecture and discussion. Some class periods will include videos or other activities relevant to our topic. You should read the assignments **PRIOR** to the corresponding lecture date so that you are able to participate and ask questions. Note that due to our limited class time, the instructor will not be able to cover all material adequately in class. For this reason, study guides are provided to help you focus on essential material to be learned.

Classroom etiquette

You are asked to make every attempt to arrive on time. Arriving late or leaving early can be very disruptive to students around you. If you must do so, please sit somewhere that causes as little disturbance as possible. Laptops are NOT permitted during lectures. The only exceptions to this are when you are explicitly asked to use them for group work, or in the case of students who provide documentation stating that laptop use is necessary.

Cell phones and other mobile devices should be turned off or silenced upon entering the classroom. They should be stowed away during class time. If you have an emergency situation that requires you to keep your phone on, please inform me at the beginning of class.

Conversations with other students during lecture can also be extremely distracting to others. If you have a question relating to lecture, feel free to interrupt me.

Also, please respect your fellow students' contributions to discussions, and if you are speaking in class, speak loudly so that your classmates can hear you.

Grading

The grading scale will be as follows:

A = 94-100	C = 73-76
A- = 90-93	C- = 70-72
B+ = 87-89	D+ = 67-69
B = 83-86	D = 63-66
B- = 80-82	D- = 60-62
C+ = 77-79	F = below 60

You will be graded based on your performance on:

4 exams (100 pts each; 400 pts total; ~75% of course grade)

Group presentation: 50 pts (~10% of course grade)

8 on-line assignments (10 pts each; 80 pts total; 15% of course grade)

NOTE: I almost never accept extra credit work.

In addition, you MUST meet the research participation requirement (see below) in order to receive credit for this course.

Attendance: Although attending class regularly is highly recommended, attendance is not a factor included in your course grade. The only exception to this is when group work is being done in class, which will be announced in advance.

Please note: Absences do not constitute a withdrawal. Students formally withdraw from classes only by submitting a Course Withdrawal Form available from the Registrar's Office.

Exams: Each exam will consist of multiple choice questions. Anything on the study guides is fair game for exam questions, even if not covered in lecture. In addition, any topics presented in class or in assignments may be drawn upon for exam questions. The fourth exam will be given during final exam period and will NOT be cumulative.

Make-up Exams: The exam dates will not change, and it is my expectation that you will be present to take the exams during the scheduled exam time. I suggest writing the exam dates on your calendar and consulting it before making any plans. NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN for your failure to appear on the day of an exam, unless you have an illness or emergency situation (note that family vacations are not usually considered to be emergencies!) that causes you to miss the exam. In such a case, you MUST EMAIL ME

within 24 hours of the time of the exam to explain your absence. Without such email contact, you will not be permitted to make up the exam and you will receive a zero for that exam. In addition, I **may** ask you for documentation explaining your absence before I will allow a make-up. In general, you will be allowed **only one make-up exam during the semester**.

If you know in advance that you will be unable to take an exam due to an approved and documented absence (e.g., court date, surgery, athletic contest, religious observance, etc.), then you **must let me know at least 1 week prior to the exam date that you will be missing the exam and for what reason**. I will determine whether your reason for missing the exam warrants allowing you to take a make-up exam. **Note: I WILL NOT allow a make-up exam to accommodate your travel plans, whether during the semester or at the end of the semester.**

Make-up exams will be taken during my office hours or at another time convenient for me **within one week** of when the exam was initially given in class. The make-up exam may not be identical to the exam given in class.

If I approve the taking of a make-up exam, it is your responsibility to 1) schedule the time of the make-up with me and 2) meet with me at the agreed upon time to make up the exam. I will not remind you. If you do not meet with me at the scheduled time to make up the exam then you will receive a zero for that exam.

Group Presentation: In small groups you will consider a statement of a possible misconception about an aspect of psychology, do scholarly research to either debunk or support the statement, and then discuss your findings in a brief presentation to your classmates. You will be assigned to groups and may choose a topic from a list provided by your instructor.

Research Participation

In keeping with the Northeastern University Psychology Department policy, PSYC 1101 includes a **six-hour research participation requirement**. **You cannot receive credit for this course without fulfilling this requirement**. The Psychology Department uses its PsyLink website (<http://psylink.psych.neu.edu>) to handle experiment sign-ups and credit tracking. You will receive a handout explaining more about the site and the research requirement. On the Psylink site you will be able to see available experiments and sign up for them, and you will be able to track your current status (how many experiment hours you've completed, how many you have left, etc.). Most of the experiments give you a 1-hour credit, but occasionally an experiment offers a 2- or 3-hour credit. Just complete enough experiments so that the total number of hours of credit comes to 6.

If you have objections to research participation, you may do the Alternative Assignment of equivalent length instead, in which case you should contact Prof. Hall (225 Nightingale Hall, x3790, j.hall@neu.edu). Note that you must opt for this Alternative Assignment **early in the semester** and complete it **well before** the end of the semester.

Important note: Failure to complete the research requirement will result in a course grade of Incomplete, which will be changed to a letter grade when the requirement is completed.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is highly valued at Northeastern University. The University's Academic Integrity Policy, available at www.northeastern.edu/osccr details your rights and responsibilities as a student. In particular, it defines academic dishonesty issues such as cheating and plagiarism. In addition, it spells out potential consequences to violating the Academic Integrity Policy. Failure to conduct yourself with integrity in this course will result in appropriate sanctions and your referral to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. Please familiarize yourself with these policies. Plagiarism or unauthorized

collaboration on a written assignment in this course will result in at least a grade of zero for that assignment. Cheating on an exam may result in an F grade for the course.

Disability Accommodations: Northeastern University is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in its programs. If you have a documented disability (or if you think you may have one), and as a result, need a reasonable accommodation to participate in class, complete course requirements, or benefit from the University's programs or services, then you should contact the Disability Resource Center (617-373-2675; DRC@neu.edu). It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of the DRC's determination of reasonable accommodations for each course.

Class cancellations: Check the University's webpage for cancellation information due to inclement weather. In the unlikely event that I must cancel class on short notice, I will announce this on the course Blackboard site and send out a global email. Regardless of the reason for class cancellation, you should check Blackboard to see if I have left an assignment for you to complete in lieu of our class time. Note: in the event of a class cancellation on an exam date, the exam will be given during the next scheduled class meeting.

Tips for success in this course

1. Read the assigned material **prior** to the date that I will be covering it in class. Rather than simply highlighting or underlining material in your book, take notes by summarizing the main points of the reading.
2. Use the study guides posted on Blackboard to go over key terms and other questions included there.
3. After reading a module, use the Module Review questions and Test Yourself questions provided at the end of the chapter.
4. Distribute your study times throughout the week. Cramming for an exam the evening before is unlikely to result in long-term memory for the information.
5. As you read and listen in class, consider how the course material relates to your own life or things that you already understand. Research shows that linking material to be learned to information already held in memory is more likely to result in your recall of the new material.
6. Think about what you are learning. Be an active learner; ask questions and participate in class.
7. If you are having a hard time balancing all your responsibilities, consider reading the section on Time Management in your textbook (pp. xlviii-lv).
8. Stay caught up with your reading—we will move at a fast pace.
9. If you are struggling in the course, ask your instructor for help early in the semester rather than waiting. However, later is better than not at all!
10. Frequently check your syllabus, or use an planner, to see what's coming up in terms of assignments and exams.

Syllabus is subject to change. Although every effort will be made to follow the schedule and content outlined in this syllabus, this syllabus may be changed at the discretion of the instructor to accommodate instructional needs. These changes will be announced in class and posted as announcements on Blackboard.

Tentative Course Schedule: All readings are in Meyers and Dewall. All assignments are in Launchpad.

Date	Topic	Readings
Th, 9/8	Welcome/ Introduction to Psychology	Syllabus; Module 1
M, 9/12 & Th, 9/15	Research Methods	Modules 2, 3
M, 9/19	Assignment due: <i>How would you know if there's a "hot hand"?</i> Module 2	
M, 9/19 & Th, 9/22	Biological Bases of Behavior	Modules 5, 6, 7
M, 9/26	Assignment due: <i>How would you know if people are right-brained or left-brained?</i> Module 7	
M, 9/26	Motivation	Module 33
Th, 9/29	Exam 1---Modules 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 33	
Th, 9/29	Memory	Modules 24, 26
M, 10/3	Assignment due: <i>PsychSim5 Short Term Memory—activity AND quiz.</i> Module 24	
M, 10/3	Memory (continued)	Modules 24, 26
	Sensation and Perception	Modules 18, 19, 20
Th, 10/6	Sensation and Perception (continued)	Modules 18, 19, 20
M, 10/10	☺ No class—Columbus Day ☺	
T, 10/11	Assignment due: <i>PsychSim5 Visual Illusions—activity AND quiz.</i> Module 19	
Th, 10/13	Emotion	Modules 37, 38, 39
M, 10/17 & Th, 10/20	Development	Modules 15,16
M, 10/24	Exam 2---Modules 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 24, 26, 37, 38, 39	
M, 10/24 & Th, 10/27	Learning	Modules 21, 22, 23
M, 10/31	Assignment due: <i>PsychSim5 Operant Conditioning—activity AND quiz.</i> Module 22	

M, 10/31	Cognition	Module 27
Th, 11/3	Assignment due: <i>PsychSim6 Dueling Hemispheres</i> —activity AND quiz. Module 28	Note: you do NOT need to read Module 28 (which is not assigned) to do this assignment.
Th, 11/3 & M, 11/7	Personality	Modules 46, 47, 48
Th, 11/10	Intelligence	Modules 29, 30
M, 11/14	Exam 3---Modules 21, 22, 23, 27, 29, 30, 46, 47, 48	
M, 11/14	Social Psychology	Modules 42, 43, 45
Th, 11/17	Social Psychology (continued)	Modules, 42, 43, 45
M, 11/21	Assignment due: <i>PsychSim5: "Everybody's Doing It!"</i> —activity AND quiz, Module 43.	
M, 11/21	Psychological Disorders—Intro, Anxiety	Modules 49,50
Th, 11/24	☺ No Class—Thanksgiving Break ☺	
M, 11/28	Psychological Disorders—Depression, Schizophrenia, etc.	Modules 51,52,53
Th, 12/1	Therapy	Modules 54, 55, 56.1
F, 12/2	Assignment due: PsychSim6 Quiz —Classifying Disorders. Module 49.	Note: you do NOT need to complete this PsychSim <i>activity</i> , <u>just the quiz</u> . Do not attempt until you've read all modules 49-53.
M, 12/5	TBA	
Th, 12/8	☺ NO CLASS---READING DAY ☺	
TBA--Finals Week 12/9-12/16	Exam 4: Modules 42, 43, 45, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56	