

# **PSYCHOLOGY 101: Introduction to Psychology**

**Instructor: Warner P. Woodworth**

Office: The Psych House on Campus

Course: Tuesdays-Thursdays 8:00-9:30 AM

Text: *Psychology* by Wilbert J. McKeachie

## Course Syllabus: Welcome to PSYCH 101: Introduction to Psychology

The University of Michigan is a leading institution for the study of psychology. We have some 100 Ph.D. professors in the department (of 12 sub divisions) who offer 402 psych courses! They are famous for thousands of research articles, hundreds of books, securing mayor funding to establish various research institutions throughout the United States from Harvard to Stanford, while having mentored many young doctoral scholars who did the same at many universities across the globe. A number of them have been leaders of APA and dozens of other psychology academic associations. Such an immense program will provide all serious Michigan undergraduate students many opportunities for a great education. Some of the greatest faculty include Rensis Likert (father of survey research), Daniel Katz, Norm Maier, Stan Seashore, Ted Newcomb, Robert Khan, Angus Campbell, Ronald Lippitt, Dorwin Cartwright, Alvin Zander, Robert Sears, Leon Festinger, Jack French, Arnie Tannenbaum, Robert Zajonc, Floyd Mann, and Bill McKeachie who oversees all the Psych 101 course sections and TAs.

## Psych 101 Course Description

Good study, class participation, and collaboration with other Ann Arbor students will assist you in learning the fundamental principles of psychology and the major subjects of psychological inquiry.

## Course Introduction

This course will introduce you to the fundamental principles of psychology and to the major subjects of psychological inquiry. It has been designed to not only provide you with the tools necessary for the study of psychology but to present you with a sampling of the major areas of psychology research. The course begins with a short overview of how psychology developed as an academic discipline and an introduction to a number of the principal methodologies most commonly deployed in its study. The subsequent units are arranged

around broad areas of research, including emotion, development, memory, and psychopathology. We will focus on well-substantiated research and current trends within each of these categories.

This Psych 101 course includes the following units:

- Unit 1: The History and Methods of Psychology
- Unit 2: Neuroscience
- Unit 3: Sensation and Perception
- Unit 4: Learning and Memory
- Unit 5: Development
- Unit 6: Personality
- Unit 7: Social Psychology
- Unit 8: Industrial and Organizational Psychology
- Unit 9: Health and Stress Psychology
- Unit 10: Psychopathology

## Course Learning Outcomes

Hopefully, upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of the general history of the field of psychology;
- demonstrate familiarity with social science research methods;
- understand the steps of the scientific method, how it applies to psychological research methodology, and the types of analysis common in psychological research;
- explain the nature versus nurture argument and the current status of thinking regarding gene-environment interaction;
- identify the major components of biological systems often studied in psychology;
- demonstrate an understanding of the following subfields within psychology: sensation and perception, learning and memory, human development, social psychology, and clinical psychology/psychopathology.

Throughout this course, you will also see learning outcomes in each unit. You can use those to help organize your studies and gauge your progress.

## Course Materials

The primary learning materials for this course are the Intro Psych text, articles, lectures and group meetings of students.

## Evaluation and Passing Score

Only the final exam is considered when awarding you a grade for this course. In order to pass this course, you will need to earn a 70% or higher on the final exam. Your score on the exam will be calculated as soon as you complete the semester.

There are also end-of-unit assessments in this course. These are designed to help you study, and do not factor into your final course grade. You can take these as many times as you want until you understand the concepts and material covered.

Succeeding in this course means your grade will be calculated based on three graded quizzes and the final exam. Each of the graded quizzes counts for 15% of your total course grade. The final exam counts for 55% of your total course grade. In order to pass this course, you will need to earn a total course grade of 70% or higher. Your score on the quizzes and on the exam will be calculated as soon as you complete them.

## Tips for Success

PSYCH 101: Introduction to Psychology requires that the "average" student will take a full semester to complete this course. It's a good idea to also schedule your study time in advance and try as best as you can to stick to that schedule.

Learning new material can be challenging, so we've compiled a few study strategies to help you succeed:

- Take notes on the various terms, practices, and theories. This can help you put each concept into context, and will create a refresher that you can use as you study later on.
- As you work through the materials, take some time to test yourself on what you remember and how well you understand the concepts. Reflecting on what you've learned is important for your long-term memory, and will make you more likely to retain information over time.
- Although you may work through much of this course independently, you may find it helpful to connect with other Michigan students.
- Use this Michigan course to enhance not just theories of psychology, but how they may apply to your own life.