

**PSY 100, Introduction to Psychology Department of
Communication and Media Studies and Psychology, Fall 2018**

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Office location:	Main Villa, Office 8
Office Hours:	M 15:45-16:45 and by appointment
Class location	Main Villa, Classroom 4
Class meeting times	M/Th 14:30-15:45

I. COURSE INFORMATION

Please contact me for any course related matters. I am open to receiving e-mails from students but I get on average 30 emails per day and therefore I ask that you put PSY100 as the subject in your email. These e-mails will be answered usually within 48 hours but not later than one week. Please use your student e-mail account when sending me a message. I have a spam filter and often non-university email (such as those generated from Hotmail accounts) gets sent to my junk folder which I do not read. I encourage students to speak with me directly after a lecture to set up an appointment.

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This introductory course is designed to provide an overview of the field of psychology by exploring the major areas within the field, including: biopsychology, learning and memory, developmental, theories of personality, abnormal, health, and social psychology. We will also explore specific topics in depth such as development of cognition, language, intelligence, creativity, perception and sensation, consciousness and unconsciousness, emotion and feelings. There will be a focus on empirical research relevant to each of these domains.

III. RATIONALE

This is the introductory course in the psychology sequence. It is required in the psychology minor, major and combined major. It serves as a prerequisite to subsequent courses in Psychology.

III. CLASS CONDUCT

Some of the topics discussed in this class might be of a sensitive nature or highly controversial. While students might disagree/debate with others who hold opinions different from their own, an atmosphere of respect must be maintained at all times. Students are expected to listen to and interact with open minds regarding one another's differences. Malicious racism, sexism, homophobia, classism, ageism, and other forms of bigotry and discrimination are inappropriate to express in class. Students unable to abide by this policy should not take this class.

IV. COURSE GOALS

The goals of this course are as follows:

1. Introduce students to psychology as a multidisciplinary field of study;
2. Introduce students to basic research methods in scientific research;
3. Present the major concepts, theoretical perspectives and empirical findings from diverse subject areas and methods of study within the field of psychology;
4. Help students understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social and organizational issues; and
5. Encourage students to respect the complexity of socio-cultural diversity, act ethically, and reflect the values that are the foundation of psychology as a discipline.

V. SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the basic processes underlying behavior in the human person;
2. Access, read, and critically evaluate peer review articles in psychology journals;
3. Demonstrate an ability to integrate knowledge and present it effectively through written papers;
4. Exhibit listening, questioning, and verbal expression skills in group discussions;

5. Develop critical thinking and analytical skills;
6. Recognize and make distinctions about the bio-psycho-social health concepts in general and in mental care; and
7. Be able to speak to others with respect and empathy, understanding human behavior better.

VI. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

- Specifics literature about different topics will be given in class
- Power Point Presentations

VII. ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Your final grade will be determined by the number of points you obtain with respect to a total of 200 points.

Regular reading and review of information provided is essential for learning; therefore, two exams are planned for this course. Each exam will be based on multiple choice questions / open questions and will be worth 60 points. The key to success on these exams is to keep up with the reading, take notes and study.

To help keep you on track and provide interim feedback on your understanding of specific topics, there will be three quizzes, each worth 20 points.

Finally, attendance and class participation will be noted. If you have no more than two unexcused absences and you actively participate in the class, you might be awarded up to 20 points to be applied toward your final grade.

In this way, your final evaluation will be determined by several different means, providing a well-balanced reflection of your effort and ability to integrate the material throughout the course.

VIII. GRADING POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Final grades will be determined based on the following weighting:

Midterm Exam 30%

Final Exam 30%

Quiz 1 10%

Quiz 2 10%

Quiz 3 10%

Attendance and Class Participation 10%

Failure to complete an exam or the research paper will result in failing the course.

An approximate guide for final grades is as follows:

A: 191-200 total points; A-: 181-190 total points

B+: 174-180 total points; B: 167-173 total points; B-: 161-166 total points

C+: 154-160 total points; C: 147-153 total points; C-: 141-146 total points

D+: 134-140 total points; D: 127-133 total points; D-: 121-126 total points

F: 119 total points and below

IX. POLICY ON LATE WORK AND ABSENCES

Make-up exams will not be offered, except in the case of documented personal/family emergencies. In these exceptional cases, appropriate documentation (for example, a note from a doctor or counselor) is required for a student to make-up a missed exam. All other work is expected to be turned in on time, so please plan accordingly.

X. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: STATEMENT ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

A student whose actions are deemed by the University to be out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives or the spirit of good conduct as fostered by the University and Swiss community, June be placed on Disciplinary Probation or become subject to dismissal from the University. Cheating is a dishonest action out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives and spirit of the University. Furthermore, cheating reflects negatively on one's personal integrity and is unjust to those students who have studied.

Consequently, the University has adopted the following code:

- When an examination is in progress, all unauthorized books, notes, papers, notebooks, and phones must be left outside the classroom, or, where this is not feasible, left beneath the student's seat unopened.
- As logistically as possible, students will be asked to distribute themselves around the room during an exam so as to leave the widest possible space between them.
- During the examination only the blank paper required for the examination and a pencil, pen or other tools as permitted by individual instructors June be on the desk.
- Should an instructor see written crib notes in evidence or see a student consult a cell phone during an exam, the presumption will be that the student has cheated on that exam.
- If a student must leave the classroom during an examination due to physical duress, the student must turn in the exam and will not be allowed to return during the examination period. No make-up examination will be administered.
- It is within the prerogative of the instructor to take a student's paper during an exam and to ask that student to take an oral exam, or another exam, at the instructor's choice.
- A student found cheating will be reported to the Dean of the University. A second offense, in the same or any other course, will result in dismissal from the University.

- A student found cheating on an exam will be given an “F” for that examination. If it is a final examination, the student will be given an “F” for the course.

A student whose paper or assignment has clearly been plagiarized will receive an “F” for that paper. Notification will be sent to the Dean of the University. A second offense, in the same or any other course, will result in dismissal from the University.

XI. COURSE CALENDAR

WEEK	MAIN THEMES
27 August	Introduction: What is Psychology?
3 September	Research Methods
6 September	Thinking and Intelligence
10 September	Intelligence and Communication
13 September	Memory
17 September	Quiz 1
20 September	Motivation
24 September	Behavioral Learning
27 September	Cognitive and Social Learning
1 October	Quiz 2
8 October	Language
11 October	Perception
15 October	Environment and Perception
18 October	Mid-Term Exam

ACADEMIC TRAVEL

5 November	Reasoning and decision-making
8 November	Problem solving and creativity
12 November	Psychological Development

15 November	Social Psychology
19 November	Quiz 3
22 November	Personality
26 November	Psychological Disorders / 1
3 December	Psychological Disorders / 2
6 December	Therapies for Psychological Disorders
10 December	Final Exam (Monday)
