

# Psych 1105

**Fall 2010**

Class Website

<http://www.unm.edu/~nlucas>

Instructor: Nick Lucas

Phone: 710 – 0691

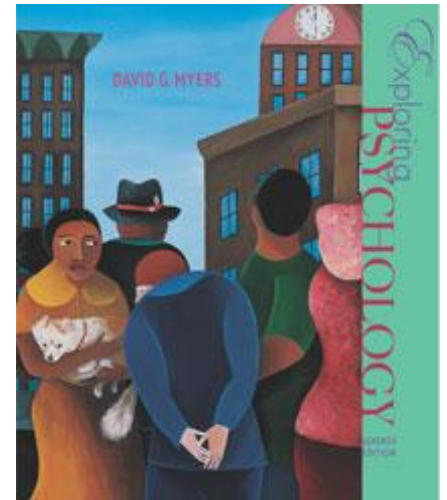
Office Hours: T R 8:00 – 8:30am E-mail: [nicklucas2000@yahoo.com](mailto:nicklucas2000@yahoo.com)

## **Required Text**

Myers, D.G. (2005). *Exploring Psychology* (7<sup>th</sup> edition). Worth

Publishers: New York, NY.

(Accompanying study guide is optional)



## **Prerequisite**

RDG 100 or Accuplacer Reading score of 80 or equivalent. If a student does not meet the prerequisite for this course, he or she may be dropped from the course at any time during the term.

## **Course Description**

Introduction to Psychology is designed to give students an overview of the core topics in contemporary psychology. Topics covered include the history of psychology, brain and behavior, sensation and perception, learning and memory, motivation, personality theories and psychological disorders. Students can expect to learn about key concepts, suggested theories and related empirical research, as well as current issues and controversies. This course offers students an opportunity to achieve a better understanding of how the human mind works and how to apply what's learned in the classroom into everyday life.

Students are encouraged to frequently ask questions and seek help from the instructor or available tutors. Time management is also extremely important. If you don't plan sufficient time outside of class for completing assignment on time and studying you will always find yourself behind and confused. Attendance will be taken for each class, however your attendance to class is your responsibility and the consequence for non-attendance is also your responsibility.

### **Course Objectives**

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- ▶ Describe the field of psychology (e.g., define "psychology," list the major sub fields, discuss what psychologists do and the kinds of information they consider to be important, describe the methods of study utilized by psychologists).
- ▶ Define or describe basic concepts and principles of psychology, and
- ▶ Apply the information provided in this course to real-life situations

### **Weekly Assignments (Homework)**

There will be 5 homework assignments. Assignments will review the material covered and require students to apply the concepts learned. Each assignment is worth 4 points. Credit is given based on the amount of effort shown in your work and not the correctness of the answers given. Students are urged to make a personal copy of each assignment in the event credit is not given for a completed assignment. No assignments will be accepted after the corresponding exam.

### **Exams**

There will be three exams plus a comprehensive final exam. The first three exams are worth 15 points each. These exams will include material from the text and lecture and are closed book, closed notes. The final exam is worth 35 points and will consist of questions on all chapters from the textbook as well as class lectures. Make-up exams are only given if you notify the instructor within 24 hours of the missed exam and have a reasonable excuse.

### **Extra Credit (Review Exercises)**

Students will be given the opportunity earn extra credit. These optional assignments will further review the material covered in class and in the text. Although there is no specific number of extra credit assignments planned, students can expect to have the opportunity to earn no less than 5 points extra credit for the semester.

## **Grades**

Your final course grade will be computed from your four exam scores and seven homework assignments. There are a total of 100 points possible for the course (5 homework assignments @ 20 points, three exams @ 45 points, and a comprehensive final exam @ 35 points for a total of 100 points possible for the class). The assignment of final letter grades will be contingent on the total class performance. However, students may expect the following grading distribution to be used in lieu of the total class performance: A → 90 - 100, B → 80-89, C → 70-79, D → 60-69, and F → 59 or less. A grade of C or above must be achieved in order to receive credit (CR) for this course.

## **IMPORTANT**

In the event CNM is closed the day of the scheduled final exam, the final exam will be rescheduled to the first non-exam day available, at the same time and the same location as originally scheduled. If closures occur for more than one day during finals week, finals cancelled on subsequent days will be rescheduled for the next available day; again at the same time and location originally scheduled. If rescheduling of a final exam is impossible due to a lengthy closing during finals week, final grades for students will be calculated on the work assessed up to that point.

## **Additional Important Information**

1. The CNM Tutoring Center provides assistance to CNM students with tutoring and academic assistance. Please contact the Tutoring Center for more information.
2. Should you want any of your work returned to you after the end of the semester, please give me a self-addressed, stamped envelope with appropriate postage attached. If you would like to discuss your final grade, please schedule an appointment with me early in the following semester. (Be sure to bring all of your work with you to the meeting. This will aid our discussion.)
3. You must receive a grade of **C** or better to receive credit (CR) for this course. Please see your academic advisor for more information about this policy

## **Ethics Statement**

As members of the CNM community, we are all bound by the ethical guidelines established by the college. This includes policies regarding sexual and ethnic harassment; discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, handicap, sexual orientation, and veteran status; academic honesty and plagiarism; and other guidelines for appropriate professional and student behavior. Many of these policies are outlined in the Student Handbook, available from the Dean of Students Office.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these policies, please consult with any faculty member, including department chairs.

### **No Credit Withdrawal Policy**

Students are expected to comply with CNM regulations regarding no credit withdrawal as noted in the class schedule.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act Policy**

Students desiring a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act must contact the Special Services office immediately to discuss their needs. Failure to notify the Special Services office in a timely manner may hinder the college's ability to assist students in successfully completing the course.

### **CLASS SCHEDULE**

Week	Chapter	HW	Material Covered
8/31	1	1	Introduction; Psychology as a science
9/7	1 & 2		Neuroscience and behavior
9/13			<b>LAST DAY TO DROP WITH REFUND</b>
9/14	2		Neuroplasticity and reorganization
9/16			<b>EXAM 1 – Chapters 1 and 2</b>
9/21	4	2	The developing person – Stages of cognitive development
9/28	4 & 7		Learning – Associative and classical conditioning
10/5	7		Operant conditioning and observational learning
10/12	8	3	Memory – Encoding, storage, and retrieval
10/19	8		Biological basis for memory; Psychological basis for memory
10/21			<b>EXAM 2 – Chapters 4, 7, and 8</b>
10/26	10	4	Motivation – Physiological and psychological
11/2	10 & 13		Psychological disorders – Anxiety and Mood
11/9	13		Schizophrenia
11/11			<b>EXAM 3 – Chapters 10 and 13</b>
11/16	14	5	Therapy – Psychoanalysis, Client-centered, and Cognitive-behavioral
11/23	14		Evaluating the effectiveness of psychotherapy and biomedical therapies
11/25			<b>*** THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO CLASS ***</b>
12/2	15		Social Psychology – Fundamental attribution error and cognitive dissonance
12/7	15		Group think, conformity and obedience, aggression, and attraction
12/14			<b>FINAL EXAM – Chapters 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 15 Exam time: 7:30a.m. to 9:30a.m.</b>

**\*\*\* The professor reserves the right to change and/or modify sections of this syllabus.**

