

Muhlenberg College - Department of Psychology Introductory Psychology - Course Syllabus (Fall, 2004)

- Instructor:** Mark J. Scitutto, Ph.D.
- Class Meetings:** W- F 10:30 - 11:45 a.m., Moyer 302
- Office Hours** WF 1:00-2:00, TR 9:30-10:30, or by appointment.
Room 217 Moyer (Phone: Ext. 3649)
E-Mail: sciutto@muhlenberg.edu
- Required Texts:** Myers, D. G. (2002). Psychology: Myers in Modules (7th ed.). New York: Worth Publishers.

Companion Website: <http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/myersinmodules/>
- Additional Readings:** Additional readings will be placed on reserve in the Trexler Library
- Course News, Documents etc.** Blackboard.com (<http://blackboard.muhlenberg.edu/>). This link is also available from the MuhlNet Start Page.

This course will introduce you to the basic content and methodology of the field of psychology--the scientific study of human behavior. There are several educational objectives: (a) to learn about human and animal behavior through an exploration of the various areas of psychology, (b) to develop an understanding of the theoretical and methodological basis of the science of psychology, (c) to understand and respect different points of view, and (d) to develop an understanding and appreciation for the potential applications of psychology to our lives. We will be organizing a variety of psychology content areas according to three major themes: (1) Nature and Nurture (2) Understanding Human Ability and (3) The Subjective World. In addition, you will be gaining practical experience in scientific reasoning by completing laboratory assignments.

Course Requirements and Grading Policy

The final course grade will be determined as follows:

Exam 1:	20%
Exam 2:	20%
Exam 3:	20%
Lab Reports	20%
Quizzes:	20%

Individual exam and assignment grades will be assigned according to the following numerical equivalents:

93 - 100	A	77 - 79	C+
90 - 92	A-	73 - 76	C
87 - 89	B+	70 - 72	C-
83 - 86	B	65 - 69	D
80 - 82	B-	Below 65	F

In-Class Examinations: (60%) Three in-class examinations (including the final) will be administered. The exam format will include multiple choice, true/false, and short essay questions. If you have a conflict with any exam, you must notify me at least 48 hours in advance. Make-up exams will only be given for the following reasons, (1) sickness—you must bring me a note from the health center verifying your illness, (2) a family emergency/crisis/death—must be verified by the Dean of Students. If an exam is missed for reasons other than those listed above and I am not notified ahead of time, you will receive a zero for that exam. You must take the final exam during the designated final period. *If you have to miss the final, you will receive an “Incomplete” for the class. You are then subjected to College procedures regarding an incomplete grade (see student handbook).*

Lab Reports (20%): You will do two laboratory projects for this class. The planning and data collection parts of these projects will be done as a class. Then each student will collect data and write his or her own laboratory report. More specific details on the requirements for these labs will be distributed near the beginning of the semester.

Laboratory Due Dates: (tentative)

	<u>Assigned</u>	<u>Data due by 10:30 a.m.</u>	<u>Paper due by 10:30 a.m.</u>
Lab 1: Correlational	9/22	9/29	10/15
Lab 2: Experimental	10/29	11/10	12/1

Quizzes (20%): You will have a reading quiz for each chapter on the first day that the chapter is to be read (see course outline below). These quizzes will consist of approximately 10 multiple choice questions. The purpose of these quizzes is (a) to enhance your level of preparation for classroom discussion and (b) to facilitate studying for the in-class examinations. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Quizzes missed due to unexcused absence will be given a zero (see exam policy above).

Learning Outside the Classroom (LOC): As part of this course, you must complete a requirement called Learning Outside the Classroom. This requirement includes a two-hour Research Requirement (LOC-R) and a one-event Public Presentation Requirement (LOC-P). More specific details about the LOC requirements can be found at: <http://www.muhsenberber.edu/depts/psychology/loc.htm>. After completing a unit of research or going to a public presentation, you should fill out the appropriate LOC form and submit it to me within 3 days of participating in the study or attending the event. Forms can be accessed via the general LOC page or by visiting <http://www.muhsenberber.edu/depts/psychology/loc2.html>. Failure to fulfill this requirement will result in up to a 3-point deduction from your final course grade.

Late Assignments: Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day late (including weekend days).

Attendance: Although attendance is not mandatory, it is strongly encouraged. Attendance records will be used in determining borderline courses grades (e.g., Johnny has a 92.9 average and has only missed one class--he gets an A; Jimmy also has a 92.9 average and he has missed 10 classes--he gets an A-). A word of caution: In the past, students who have missed multiple classes have not done very well. Your presence and active participation are essential to learning in this course.

Academic Integrity: You are expected to conduct yourself in accordance with the Academic Behavior Code of Muhlenberg College (www.muhlenberg.edu/mgt/deans/abc_statement.html). Honesty is an essential aspect of academic integrity. Individual students are responsible for doing their own work and for not taking credit for the effort and ideas of others. This includes plagiarism, cheating and not contributing to group projects. This obligation is based on mutual trust and is essential to meeting the goals of this course. Academic dishonesty of any type on exams, quizzes or other graded work will not be tolerated.

Some important points about academic integrity:

1. You are responsible for keeping drafts, references/sources, disk copies, and backup copies of all of your written assignments, to turn in upon my request until final grades are completed.
2. You should begin your work early. An unforeseen event arising the night before a paper is due is not a legitimate reason for a paper extension. When submitting assignments electronically, you should request confirmation that your assignment has been received or you should save some form of confirmation that your e-mail was sent (each e-mail program differs in how to do this).
3. You are responsible for taking precautions that your work (especially written work that paraphrases another written source). If I determine that you have copied all or part of an exam or paper from another source (including another student, a web page, a textbook, or other published source), you will receive a failing grade in this course. If your written work includes material that is paraphrased unacceptably from the original source, I will ask you to re-submit the written work and I will lower the assignment grade by 10%.
4. On all work submitted for a grade, you must write and sign the following pledge: "I pledge that I have complied with the Academic Behavior Code in this work."

Students with Disabilities. Students with disabilities who may need disability-related accommodations are encouraged to make an appointment to see me as soon as possible. If you have a documented condition, such as a physical or sensory disability, that will make it difficult for you to complete the work as outlined or that will require additional time on examinations, then it is your responsibility to see me during the first two weeks of class so that we can make appropriate arrangements. I will not indulge any requests that come to my attention for the first time the day before an exam.

Important Note about Information Technology:

In this course, you will be required to make extensive use of the information technology available at Muhlenberg. You will be using a software program called Blackboard © to exchange documents electronically, communicate outside of class, and stay updated on class events. Students who are less comfortable with information technology should schedule an appointment with me so that I can help orient you to the various tools we will be using.

Course Outline**		
Date	Topic	Reading
9/1 (W)	The History and Science of Psychology	Myers Module 1
9/3 (F)	Investigating Human Behavior: Correlational Methods	Myers Module Module 2 (Practice Quiz)
9/8 (W)	Investigating Human Behavior: Experimental Methods	
Theme I. Nature and Nurture		
9/10 (F)	Genetic Influences on Behavior; Evolutionary Theory and Human Behavior	Myers Module 5 (Quiz)
9/15 (W)	Neuroscience	Myers Modules 3, 4 (Quiz)
9/17 (F)	Learning: Classical and Operant Conditioning	Myers Module 20, 21, 22 (Quiz)
9/22 (W)	Correlational Designs: Intro to Lab 1	Myers Module 42 (No Quiz)
9/24 (F)	Issues and Applications of Learning Theory	
9/29 (W)	Issues and Applications of Learning Theory	
10/1 (F)	Exam 1	
Theme II. Understanding Human Ability		
10/6 (W)	Development Over the Life Span (Infancy & Childhood)	Myers Modules 7,8 (Quiz)
10/8 (F)	Development Over the Life Span (Adolescence & Adulthood)	Myers Modules 9,10 (Quiz)
10/13(W)	Memory	Myers Modules 23,24,25,26,27 (Quiz)
10/15(F)	Memory	
10/20(W)	Intelligence	Myers Modules 30, 31, 32 (Quiz)
10/22 (F)	Intelligence	
10/27(W)	Intelligence	Sternberg (1998); Gottfredson (1998) (Quiz)
10/29 (F)	Experimental Designs (Lab #2)	
11/3(W)	Exam 2	
Theme III. The Subjective World		
11/5 (F)	Cognition: Reasoning and Bias	Myers Module 28,41 (Quiz)
11/10(W)	Cognition: Freud and the Unconscious	
11/12(F)	Social Influences on Behavior	Myers Modules 53,54 (Quiz)
11/17(W)	Social Influences on Behavior	
11/19 (F)	Social Influences on Behavior	Myers Module 55 (Quiz)
11/24(W)	Psychological Disorders	Myers Modules 45, 46,47, 48, 49 (Quiz)
12/1 (W)	Psychological Disorders	
12/3 (F)	Psychological Treatment	Myers Modules 50, 51, 52 (Quiz)
12/8 (W)	Open Date	
12/13 - 12/17	Final Exam (TBD)	

**This schedule is tentative. We may find it necessary to alter the schedule slightly as the semester progresses. Check regularly for announcements posted on Blackboard.