

General Psychology (PSY 201)

MWF 8-9am

Rm: 66-202

Professor : Saadia McLeod, Ph.D.
Office Hours: ; Monday 11-12
Tuesdays 10am-11am (by email)

Building 5 Rm 228 – office ‘c’
Email (preferred): saadiamcleod@gmail.com

Website: drsaadiamcleod.com
Find syllabus, lecture slides, and discussion articles on my website.

Course Description

Exploration and application of basic psychological principles in understanding self, relationships with others, and interactions with social groups. Stages of psychological development and personality. Psychological approaches to interpersonal relations. Effective and ineffective living.

Course Goals

The primary goals of this course are twofold. First, this course will introduce you to psychology as a field and help you to learn basic terms and concepts important to understanding human behavior. Second, this course should help you think about ways to apply this new knowledge to your own life and to the world in which we live.

Required Text

Psychology Applied to Modern Life: Adjustment in the 21st Century (11th edition).
Weiten, W., & Lloyd, M.A. (2006). Thomson/Wadsworth.

The study guide that accompanies this text is recommended and may prove useful to you (and is available in the bookstore), but it is not required for the class.

Course Information, Requirements, & Policies

1. I'm very glad you have chosen to enroll in this PSY 201 class. My goal is to help you learn about psychology as a discipline and how information based on psychological research can be relevant to the world in which we live. I enjoy teaching this class, and I hope that you will enjoy the class as well. Please be sure to let me know if there is anything I can do to help you learn more and/or to be more successful in this course.
2. Your attendance and participation are very important to the life of this class, as well as to your own personal success in this course. Please plan to attend and participate in class regularly. This includes completing assigned readings prior to the class session. We have a large class, but your participation can help make the class more enjoyable and meaningful for all of us.
3. Please see me during office hours if you have any questions and/or are experiencing any difficulties with this class; I will be glad to work with you.

4. Your grade will be based on three exams, participation in student research, and a number of in-class activities and participating in class discussions. Grades will be assigned on a percentile basis as follows: 150 points from exams, 25 points from group work/participation, and 25 points from 2 Sona credits (research participation or paper).
90-100% = A range; 80-89.99% = B range; 70-79.99% = C range; 60-69.99% = D range; 59.99% and lower = Failing. Pluses and minuses will only be given for borderline grades.

a. **Exams:**

There will be four exams in this class. The first three exams will each cover preceding course material. The last exam will be comprehensive and will cover material from the entire course. Each exam will be worth 50 points, and exam questions will be based both on lectures and assigned reading material. Your course grade will include your three highest exam grades. If you take the first three exams and are satisfied with your performance, you will not be required to take the comprehensive final exam. If you miss one of the first three exams, or would like to try to improve an exam score, you may count the final exam as your third exam score. (Please note that if you have taken the first three exams and choose to take the final exam, this option may help, but not hurt, your grade given that the three highest exam scores will be used to calculate your final grade.) I am always happy to talk with you prior to exams and to help you review your previous exams in order to help you be successful in this course.

b. **In-Class Activities:**

This component of the class will involve a number of different activities we will work on during class sessions. Some activities will be individual and others in group. Each in-class activity will involve writing that needs to be turned in during class, so please have paper and writing utensils with you to facilitate this process. These activities will be announced in class (but not in advance), and you must be present when the activity is begun and when it is collected in order to participate and earn credit.

Please note that you will be able to earn a maximum of 25 on these activities and participating in class discussions. If you are absent or unprepared for any reason, you will not be able to make up these points, so your attendance and participation in class will be important.

Please note that, as stated above, you are not eligible to earn credit for an activity if you are not present when it is begun and collected. Therefore, please do not attempt to hand in a paper – or have someone hand in your paper for you – if you are not present at the beginning and during the collection of the activity. (Also, do not attempt to help someone complete an activity and/or hand in a paper for her/him.) There are no exceptions to this rule. If you do attempt to earn credit (or help someone else earn credit) and have not followed the rules stated above, you will lose all in-class activity points for the quarter, and I will refer the matter to the Judicial Affairs Office for disciplinary action. There is, simply, no reason for this to occur. Please be sure to see me if you have any questions.

c. **Research Participation**

All students are required to either volunteer as subjects for research or submit a paper. For the research participation option, you must earn 2 Sona-managed experiment credits (go to <http://cpp.sona-systems.com> to sign up and view instructions. Instructions on writing the paper is also available on the website. Note: the paper is submitted to the sona committee.

5. You will be able to earn a limited number of extra credit points throughout the quarter. Some extra credit points can be earned from quizzes given throughout the quarter.

6. The following policies have been developed after teaching this course. Please be sure to see me if you have any questions about the policies described below. I'll be glad to talk with you.
 - a) Please note that make-up exams WILL NOT be given under any circumstances. If you miss an exam for any reason, you may substitute the grade from the final exam as your third exam grade. (I know that emergencies can arise, and that is why there is an extra exam available to address any such situations.) Please be sure that you do not miss two exams for any reason as that will result in a grade of zero for one of your exams.
 - b) Please note that no one will be allowed to begin any exam after the first student has completed the exam and left the room. Please be sure that you are on time for all exams in order not to risk receiving a grade of zero for an exam. Please note that you will not be permitted to begin an exam, leave the room for any reason, and then return to complete the exam. Please be prepared to complete your exam fully once you begin.
 - c) Please note that you are NOT permitted to use any outside resources (e.g., any type of dictionary, book, notes, electronic organizers, etc.) during any examination. Use of any additional resources during an exam will lead to a grade of zero for that activity and the matter will be dealt with as a form of academic dishonesty.
7. I consider any form of academic dishonesty to be a very serious problem and will follow the university policy regarding academic dishonesty throughout this course. This policy is clearly spelled out in your university catalog. Please see me if you have questions.
8. Students are not permitted to audio- or video-record any portion of our class sessions.
9. Although this course should provide information that is relevant and interesting for your own life, it is not meant to provide personal psychological services. If you are interested in, and/or believe you may benefit from, individual psychological assistance, please contact Counseling and Psychological Services (x3220) here on campus. They will be glad to talk with you.
10. Finally, I think it is important to say a few words about how our class will function. I find that the class works best, and is most enjoyable, when we all have the opportunity to be actively engaged and participate fully in the learning process. With a large class such as ours, this means that we should all be attentive to what constitutes appropriate behavior during the class. I do not anticipate any problems whatsoever in this arena. However, periodically I have had students choose to engage in disruptive behavior during class. Please know that I take this issue quite seriously and that such behavior is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. Please see me if you have any questions regarding this issue.

Lecture Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>
3/28	Introduction to the Course & to Psychology as a Discipline	
3/30	Psychology as a Science	Ch. 1
4/1	Activity	
4/4	Personality Theories	Ch. 2
4/6	Personality Theories	Ch. 2
4/8	Activity	
4/11	Activity	Ch. 2
4/13	Exam Review/Activity	
4/15	Exam 1 (Chapters 1 & 2)	
4/18	Stress	Ch. 3
4/20	Stress: Activity	Ch. 3
4/22	Coping/Activity	Ch. 4
4/25	Perceptions of Self & Others	Ch. 6
4/27	Social Influence/Obedience	Ch. 7
4/29	Activity	
5/2	Gender and Behavior/Activity	Ch. 11
5/4	Exam Review	
5/6	Exam 2 (Ch 3,4,6,7,11)	
5/9	Communication	Ch
5/11	Activity	Ch.
5/13	Friendship and Love	Ch. 9
5/16	Intimate Relationships	Ch. 10
5/18	Activity	
5/20	Exam Review	
5/23	EXAM 3 (Chapters 12, 9, 10 & 14)	
5/25	Psychological Disorders/Activity	Ch. 14
5/27	Psychological Disorders/Activity	Ch. 14
5/30	NO CLASS	
6/1	Psychotherapy/Activity	Ch. 15
6/3	Review for final exam	
6/10 Friday 9:10-11:10	FINAL EXAM	(All Material in Course)

**** Please note that changes in this syllabus may occur at the instructor's discretion, and will be announced in class. You are responsible for any announced changes. ****