

# **PSY1391 Psychology, Intro.**

## **Course Syllabus**

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Psychology, Intro. is an introductory course. All students are eligible to take this course.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is drafted to familiarize students to the study of psychology. It is expected to provide broad coverage of the field by presenting basic theories, research, and applied use of psychology. It will give students a ground from which they can pursue more advanced psychological courses or maintain the information as a primary knowledge of psychology in general.

You will be able to exhibit familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology. You will analyze the major perspectives of psychology. You will develop an enriched proficiency to use critical thinking skills to scrutinize issues related to human behavior and mental processes. You will be able to convey how psychological principles can be used to explain social issues and differences. You will be able to assess the sociocultural differences that impact individual differences in behavior.

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Students will explore diverse theoretical viewpoints, and research findings that have influenced some of the major areas of contemporary psychology. This course also investigates the research approaches used by psychologists to study the foundations and deviations in human behavior. By the end of this course, all students should:

- Prove an understanding of the general history of the field of psychology
- Exhibit familiarity with social science research methods
- Grasp the steps of the scientific method, how it pertains to psychological research practice
- Illuminate the nature versus nurture claim
- Isolate the chief elements of biological systems often studied in psychology
- Express a knowledge of subfields within psychology
- Become acquainted with the major psychologists and their theories

### **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is mandatory for all students. Excellent attendance is imperative for mastery and application of the information dispensed. Whether you are sitting at a desk in a classroom or attending via Skype, your attendance is vital to your success. Late arrivals are distracting and disrespectful. Please refrain from being tardy. Grades will be affected by absences and tardiness. Participation in class is a prerequisite. You learn from lectures, discussions and presentations.

### **CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR**

Students are expected to treat all persons with respect. We should all conduct ourselves in a courteous and responsible manner. Be considerate, you can disagree, don't insult.

Please set all your electronic devices to silent during class so as not to be a disturbance to others in the class.

## **TUTORIAL ASSISTANCE**

We maintain an open-door policy for our students. We are absolutely willing to discuss any matter that may arise during the course. If you have any questions, problems, or need help with the course material, we urge you to reach out as soon as the issue arises. If you want to contest a grade, you must do so within 48 hours and put it in writing. Please ask your student advocate for help. If you do not have a student advocate send an email to: [tutordept@usilacs.org](mailto:tutordept@usilacs.org).

## **NON-DISCRIMINATORY STATEMENT**

All students regardless of age, race, gender, religion, physical disability, class, etc., shall have equal opportunity without harassment in this course. Any problems with or questions about harassment can be discussed confidentially via email at: [hr@usilacs.org](mailto:hr@usilacs.org).

## **DRESS CODE**

For students enrolled who are attending in a classroom or via Skype, please be sure you are dressed modestly and respectfully. Please refer to [www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/business%20casual](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/business%20casual). NO short shorts or skirts. Avoid low-cut tops. We want to present ourselves in a dignified manner at all times.

## **NETIQUETTE**

- Always read through all the comments of the class before responding. This will avoid duplicating comments or questions asked.
- Avoid language that could be offensive. All profanity is strictly prohibited. Remember that using all caps when replying online signifies shouting. This would be rude and combative.
- Be sensitive to the fact that there will be fellow students from all parts of the world with many differing backgrounds and languages. Remember that slang and idioms will most likely be misconceived and/or misinterpreted. These should be avoided.
- Respect others views or opinions.
- Be thoughtful of the privacy of others. Ask permission before sharing email addresses or other personal information.
- Do not forward inappropriate material such as: virus warnings, chain letters, jokes, etc. The sharing of pornographic material is strictly prohibited.
- Use good spelling and grammar. Avoid using texting shortcuts.
- Strive to compose your comments in a positive, supportive and constructive manner at all times.

Any of these offenses will be dealt with by the school disciplinary committee.

### **ADA ACCOMMODATIONS**

All reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with disabilities. Any student attending USILACS who needs an accommodation due to a chronic challenge (i.e. blindness, deaf or hard of hearing, mobility issues, psychological, or learning disability), register with:

USILACS Registrar's Office  
1221 Brickell Ave.  
Miami, FL 33131  
1-305-330-2202  
[registrarsoffice@usilacs.org](mailto:registrarsoffice@usilacs.org)

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY/CHEATING**

We encourage collaborating with others, either in person or online, to study and learn. When you complete your assignments or your exams, however, the wording has to be your own.

Plagiarism is the theft of someone else's work and ideas. You are permitted to cite or even quote someone else, however, you must properly cite them. There are two accepted ways of doing this. They are known as Modern Language Association (MLA) or American Psychological Association (APA). You can visit [www.citationmachine.net](http://www.citationmachine.net) for help in correctly citing information.

As a school that strives to maintain high moral standards, we strongly caution our students to be ethical and honest. Endeavor to be honest in conducting yourself in regard to any coursework you accomplish or exams you may take. Cheating is a dishonest practice.

### **REFERENCE MATERIALS**

The vast majority of textbooks are outdated by the time they are published. USILACS education programs are not based upon outdated printed textbooks. USILACS programs are based on the most accurate and reliable knowledge available; specifically, up-to-date vetted internet-based information.

For those who would like some reference or Internet search recommendations, we would recommend the following.

(2014) Psychology: OpenStax College. Rice University.  
Chapter 1 Introduction to Psychology  
Chapter 2 Psychological Research  
Chapter 12 Social Psychology  
Macat Introduction to Psychology  
Ivan Pavlov: Classical Conditioning  
Abraham Maslow: Hierarchy of Needs  
Leon Festinger: A Theory of Cognitive Dissidence

William James: Streams of Consciousness  
Sigmund Freud: Psychoanalysis

### **MINIMUM REQUIRED SUPPLIES**

All students will need all of the following:

- Computer with camera, microphone, and speakers.
- Skype installed on the computer with an active Skype account.
- Internet
- Printer
- Notebook paper
- Pens/pencils

If the student does not have a computer or internet, there will be some available for use at the school in the computer lab.

### **GRADING SYSTEM**

There will be three tests throughout the course. Each test will count for 33.3% of the final grade.

Grade	Percentage	Grade Point
A+	99	4.0
A	97	3.8
A-	94	3.7
B+	89	3.3
B	85	3.0
B-	81	2.7
C+	77	2.3
C	73	2.0
C-	69	1.7
D	66	1.0
F	59	0.0

All students must earn at least a “D” in order to pass the class.

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

*Psychological Disorder paper-*

Read an article of your choice dealing in an area of psychology. It could be someone's personal struggle with a psychological disorder, for ex, depression, anxiety.....It could also be a paper or journal written on psychological topic.

Give name of author and title of article and a brief summary of article followed by your opinion....., did you feel the author did well in describing the psychological disorder? Explain. Did you learn anything new? Explain.

Would you have written article differently? If yes, explain.

### *Research Paper-*

Read an article that deals with psychology and write a paper reviewing what you read. This paper should be at least 1,000 words in length.

### *Report on a Theorist-*

Pick one of the theorists that we have covered. Write a biography of the person and relate briefly what their theory entails. End with a paragraph of your opinion of the theory. This paper should be at least 1,000 words in length.

## **WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS**

<b>Week 1</b>	Overview of course and coursework Introduction to Psychology
<b>Week 2</b>	Psychological Research
<b>Week 3</b>	Social Psychology
<b>Week 4</b>	<i>Psychological Disorder paper due</i>
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>Video review and Exam</b>
<b>Week 6</b>	Critical thinking questions on social psychology
<b>Week 7</b>	Classic Conditioning
<b>Week 8</b>	Hierarchy of Needs <i>Research paper due</i>
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>Video review and Exam</b>
<b>Week 10</b>	A Theory of Cognitive Dissidence
<b>Week 11</b>	Streams of Consciousness
<b>Week 12</b>	Psychoanalysis <i>Report on a theorist due</i>
<b>Week 13</b>	<b>Video review and Final exam</b>