



PSY 1010 - General Psychology



Offered on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays from 10:30 to 11:20 am in BUS215

<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>Office</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Office Hours</i>
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Course Description. General Psychology is a one semester course designed to expose and familiarize students with the basic concepts and principles of psychology and psychological investigation. Psychology is a vast field that investigates every aspect of behavior.

Students pay a \$15 fee to enroll in the course. The fee is used to cover copying costs, scantron forms (which are provided), equipment and software costs, and costs associated with the required lab.

Course Learning Objectives. There are six broad learning objectives for this course. All class activities (e.g. readings, lectures, labs, exams, quizzes, etc.) are designed to help students meet, and/or assess their progress on, these objectives. While there are content specific learning objectives available on Blackboard (see the “Course Goals and Objectives” and the exam study-guides), the course-level objectives are included here. By the end of the course, successful students will:

- Demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in the field of psychology.
- Understand and apply basic research methods in psychology.
- Respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.
- Understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues.
- Value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of psychology as a science.
- Develop insight into their own and others’ behavior and mental processes and apply effective strategies for self-management and self-improvement.

Textbook/Readings. *Psychology Themes & Variations* (7th ed.) by Wayne Weiten is required. Two copies are available on reserve at the Merrill-Cazier Library. A web-based study aid called ThomsonNow is available online and is recommended. Reading assignments are provided herein.

BlackBoard. This course will make extensive use of BlackBoard (<http://bb.usu.edu>). Exam study guides, lecture slides, and information about the lab will be available exclusively via BlackBoard. Additionally, all lab assignments must be submitted via blackboard.

Grading & Evaluation. There are ample opportunities to earn points—no extra-credit opportunities will be offered. Grades will be assigned as follows: A: 930 - 1,000, A-: 900 - 929, B+: 870 - 899, B: 830 - 869, B-: 800 - 829, C+: 770 - 799, C: 730 - 769, C-: 700 - 729, D+: 670 - 699, D: 600 - 669, F: 0 - 599.

Exams. There will be four non-cumulative exams (2/2, 2/25, 4/1, and 4/30). Each will contain approximately 50 multiple choice questions and (potentially) one or more short-answer essay questions. Each exam will be worth 200 points. While questions will be drawn from the readings as well as the lectures, material that is covered in *both* readings and lectures will be emphasized. Study-guides for all exams are posted on Blackboard. The non-cumulative final exam will be held on Wednesday (4/30) during finals week, in the regular classroom, and will start at 10:30am.

Labs. The lab system will be described in detail during the first week of the semester; *students should attend the section that they are registered for during the first week of class.*

Briefly, students are to select 10 lab assignments, each worth 20 points, to complete during the semester. Performance on lab assignments will account for 20% of students' overall grade. A variety of lab opportunities will be available. Labs will be submitted for grading on three occasions: three labs each on 2/4 and 3/6, and four labs on 4/24. Late labs will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Chance Quizzes. On days that readings are assigned there is a 50% chance that there will be a quiz (I reserve the right to modify the odds for any reason, at any time). The quizzes will consist of 5 questions that are derived directly from the textbook. Students complete the quiz in class and may use any notes that they have taken; students will not be allowed to use their text. No make-up quizzes will be offered (for exceptions, see "Extensions & Make-Ups," below). Missed quizzes will be scored as a 0. At the end of the semester, if it is to the student's advantage students' quiz-average will be used to replace their lowest non-zero exam score. *Important note: Students may not replace their exam 4 score.*

Borderline Grades. Students whose final grades are *five or fewer points* to the next highest grade will be considered 'borderline' and will be evaluated for potentially being awarded the next highest grade. The criteria for receiving the next-highest grade include, but are not limited to: completion of

Unit	Dates	Reading Assignment	Points Possible	% of Grade
Exam 1	2/2	Ch1, 2, 3	200	20.0%
Exam 2	2/25	Ch5, 6, 7	200	20.0%
Exam 3	4/1	Ch10, 11, 16	200	20.0%
Exam 4	4/30	Ch12, 14, 15	200	20.0%
Labs	2/4, 3/6, 4/24		200	20.0%
Quizzes	Various	Various	-	-

all quizzes, improvement in exam performance over time, completion of all labs, and completion of high-quality lab assignments. Students who do not meet criteria will not be so-rewarded.

Extensions & Make-Ups. In the event of a University-approved absence or a significant medical problem please see the instructor or a teaching assistant to discuss making up a missed exam, quiz, or assignment. In general, advance notice and/or appropriate documentation are required to schedule a

make-up exam. Neither family vacations (even with a note from your parents), nor friends' weddings, nor accidentally sleeping-in, justifies a make-up exam. There are no exceptions.

Help!

From your Professor. I hold 3 'drop-in' office hours per week: Mondays 2-4pm and Tuesdays 1-2pm. If these times are inconvenient, please contact me to set up an individual appointment.

I typically respond to email within 24 hours of receipt. Besides seeing me directly before or after class, email is by far the best way for you to communicate with me or the GTAs. The telephone, and voice mail, is the least effective way to reach me or the GTAs.

From your Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs). The GTAs will also hold weekly office hours. They can help with course material, answer questions about the exam and provide hints for effective learning. Their primary responsibility, however, is the lab. While I will be able to help students with the lab generally, please see a GTA if you have questions regarding the lab, lab assignments, or lab grading.

Supplemental Instruction. Supplemental Instruction (SI) is an academic support program designed to assist students in mastering material in difficult General Education courses and, at the same time, increase their learning strategies and study skills. Supplemental instruction is available for this course and will be managed by Brady DeHart (email: W.Brady.DeHart@aggiemail.usu.edu). Attendance at SI is open, free and voluntary. Attendance at SI sessions is related to better grades in this course. Two 50-minute sessions will be held each week: Mondays at 7:30 in ENGR 108, and Thursdays at 4:30 in ENGR 108.

Additional Resources. A variety of additional sources of assistance are available to all students at Utah State University. Three that we have found particularly useful to students are described below. Feel free to talk to you instructor about the following services or seek them as follows:

- *Academic Resource Center.* Students qualify for services through the Academic Resource Center. The mission of the Academic Resource Center is to provide and promote services to enhance the learning skills, study strategies, and personal attitudes that influence students' academic success. For more information, call the Academic Resource Center at 797-1128 or visit TSC305.
- *Disability Resource Center.* Students with physical, sensory, emotional or medical impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations. All accommodations are coordinated through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in Room 101 of the University Inn, 797-2444 voice, 797-0740 TTY, or toll free at (800) 259-2966. Alternate format materials (Braille, large print or digital) are available with advance notice.
- *University Counseling Center.* Students qualify for services through the University Counseling Center (UCC), which exists to aid USU students in their personal, social, and academic adjustment and development during their university experience. For more information, call the UCC at 797-1012 or visit the TSC306.
- *Early Alert Program.* Recently USU has developed an Early Alert Program for new students who are having difficulty in their classes. This is an excellent program that is designed to assist students in being successful this semester. I have agreed to participate in this program and will submit the names and A#s of *all* students who score less than 70 percent on the first exam.

Month	Day	Date	Topic	Tasks / Assignments
January	M	5	Milgram	
	W	7	Syllabus	
	F	9	Introduction	Quiz Ch1
	M	12	Introduction	
	W	14	Research	Quiz Ch2?
	F	16	Research	
	M	19	No Class	
	W	21	Research	
	F	23	Bio-Basis of Behavior	Quiz Ch3?
	M	26	Bio-Basis of Behavior	
	W	28	Bio-Basis of Behavior	
	F	30	Bio-Basis of Behavior	
February	M	2	Exam 1	Exam 1
	W	4	Consciousness	Three Labs Due
	F	6	Consciousness	Quiz Ch5?
	M	9	Consciousness	
	W	11	Learning	Quiz Ch6?
	F	13	Learning	
	T	17	Learning	
	W	18	Learning	Quiz Ch7?
	F	20	Memory	
	M	23	Memory	
	W	25	Memory	Exam 2
	F	27	Exam 2	
March	M	2	Motivation & Emotion	Quiz Ch10?
	W	4	Motivation & Emotion	
	F	6	Motivation & Emotion	Three Labs Due
	M	16	Human Development	Quiz Ch11?
	W	18	Human Development	
	F	20	Human Development	
	M	23	Social	Quiz Ch16?
	W	25	Social	
	F	27	Social	
	M	30	Social	
April	W	1	Exam 3	Exam 3
	F	3	Personality	
	M	6	Personality	Quiz Ch12?
	W	8	Personality	
	F	10	Disorders	Quiz Ch14?
	M	13	Disorders	
	W	15	Disorders	
	F	17	Disorders	
	M	20	Therapy	Quiz Ch15?
	W	22	Therapy	
	F	24	Closing	Four Labs Due
	W	30	Exam 4	Exam 4