**Syllabus**

**PSYCHOLOGY 105 IS (Introduction to Psychology I) - Online**

**Trinity Western University - Summer 2017**

**Instructor: Todd Dutka (**[**todd.dutka@twu.ca**](mailto:todd.dutka@twu.ca)**)**

**3 Semester Hours**

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**Course Description:**

Introduction to Psychology, is intended as a broad introduction to the field of psychology. It may be seen as an answer to the questions "What is psychology?" and "What do psychologists do?" Topics considered include: the biological basis of behaviour, sensation and perception, human diversity, memory, psychological development, and learning (and in Psychology 106, thinking and language, emotion, intelligence, personality, behavioural disorders, motivation, therapy, and social processes). Attempts will be made throughout to relate the content of psychology to students' everyday experience as well as to a Christian worldview. Of course, to take this course it is not necessary that you be a Christian. Whatever your beliefs, you are encouraged to examine them in light of what you are learning.

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**Student Learning Outcomes:**

The following chart outlines the learning outcomes associated with this course, and how they fit with the university-wide, TWU learning outcomes for all students. Each assignment is also listed to show the specific learning outcomes that it directly addresses.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| TWU Student Outcome | Course Learning Outcome | Assignment Strategy |
| **Knowledge and its Application:**  - a broad foundational knowledge of human culture and the physical and natural world  - a depth of understanding in any chosen field(s) of study  - applied knowledge through discipline-appropriate experiential learning | - to spark students’ interest in the field of psychology through a brief overview of the integration of foundational research and current knowledge within the field  - to understand the major theoretical approaches and how they have guided research and the application of psychology  - to define, explain, and remember foundational principles of psychology | - Quizzes  - Final Exam  - Unit Assignments |
| **Cognitive Complexity:**  - skills including: critical and creative thinking, quantitative reasoning, communication, research, and information literacy  - an ability to articulate various interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary  perspectives, integrating informed Christian perspectives  - an ability to respond with wisdom, humility, and charity to questions, issues, and problems of the human condition | - to identify and evaluate the presence of psychological phenomena in our daily lives  - to cultivate introspection and personal reflection on the topics presented  - to familiarize students with some of the methodological issues inherent to the discipline of psychology  - to summarize, classify, and critically examine current psychological literature | - Quizzes  - Unit Assignments  - Final Exam  - Forum Participation |
| **Spiritual Formation:**  A spiritual dimension by means of an exposure to a reflective and caring Christ-centred community which encourages:  - a further understanding of God  - a discovery of a deep and personal spiritual foundation  - an embodiment of a Christ-like way of life characterized by love for and service to others | - to explore ways to integrate and articulate a Christian perspective of psychology  - to consider and evaluate current psychological literature through your own Christian lens  - to strengthen your understanding of God through reflective integration of psychological phenomena with your personal spirituality | - Unit Assignments  - Forum Participation |

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**Textbook:**

Myers, D.G. & DeWall, C. N. (2015). Psychology, (11th ed.). New York: Worth Publishers.

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**Course Outline Topics:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Module 1** | **Module 2** | **Module 3** |
| What is psychology?  What do psychologists do?  Limits of psychology  Neural communication  The Brain  Genetics  Nature versus nurture  Subliminal perception  Pain  Hearing  Vision | Depth & distance  Constancies & illusions  Development of perception  ESP & parapsychology  Consciousness & rhythms  Sleep  Hypnosis  Drugs  Classical conditioning  Operant conditioning  Higher learning  Applications of learning | Encoding, storage, & retrieval Forgetting Memory construction Improving memory Prenatal development Infancy & childhood Adolescence Adulthood Death & dying |

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**Evaluation:**

A variety of evaluation methods will be used throughout the course. You will be able to choose from research papers, thought papers, analyses, and experiments. Some of these assignments will be worth more than others, but you will choose which ones to do. In addition, more traditional testing methods will also be employed (e.g., multiple choice questions). Finally, your active participation in online discussion is important and will also be considered in evaluation. Please plan on submitting your first assignment by June 15, your second one by July 15, and your third by August 15. If you choose to do 4 or 5 assignments to make up your 100 marks, you can submit these by August 15 as well.

**The value of each will be as follows:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Unit assignments | 35% |
| Quizzes (2 x 10) | 20% |
| Participation in online discussion | 10% |
| Final exam | 35% |
| **Total:** | **100%** |

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**Evaluation Details**

**Unit Assignments**   
  
Each chapter in the textbook covers a major topic in psychology. For each chapter unit you will have the option of choosing to do an assignment from among research papers, thought papers, analyses, and experiments. You will see that each assignment is worth from 20 to 50 points. You will need to choose a combination of assignments as you go through the complete course that adds up to 100 points (e.g., 20, 30, 50; or 20, 20, 20, 40, etc.). Your mark on these points will comprise the 35% of your total grade given for “unit assignments.” Be sure to integrate information from the relevant areas of the textbook and external sources (if applicable) into your papers. Please post these in the online “[Assignment Submissions](http://learn.twu.ca/mod/assignment/index.php?id=2)” or e-mail them to me at [todd.dutka@twu.ca](mailto:todd.dutka@twu.ca) with your name and the name of the assignment at the top (e.g., “Module 1 Analysis Paper” etc.). When posting to the online “Workspace” you will need to refresh your screen in order to see that your file has been submitted. Again, please plan on submitting your first assignment by June 15, your second one by July 15, and your third by August 15. If you choose to do 4 or 5 assignments to make up your 100 marks, you can submit these by August 15 as well.

**Quizzes**   
  
A multiple-choice test will follow each third, or “module,” of the course. The first 2 will be shorter quizzes worth 10% each. They will cover only the material in that module (i.e., from the beginning for quiz 1, and from quiz 1 to 2 for quiz 2). Quiz 1 & 2 have a 30 minute time limit. The last test will be the final exam. It will cover the whole course and be worth 35%. \*Plan on taking your quizzes/final exam around the same time that you submit your unit assignments.

**Participation in Online Discussion**  
You are expected to participate in your group’s [online discussion](http://learn.twu.ca/mod/forum/view.php?id=99). Each lesson contains online discussion questions to which you may respond. Equally valuable, you may respond to other people’s responses in your group discussion. **N.B.:** You don’t need to respond to every question posed in the course materials; there are far too many. Try to make 3 comments (each about a paragraph long) per module (3 modules X 3 comments = 9 comments in total). Forum participation is analogous to class participation in the traditional face-to-face classroom. Emphasis (and marks) in the forums is on participation, not depth of knowledge.

**Final Exam**   
  
The final exam will be a multiple-choice exam of 100 questions. It will be on all of the chapters from the Myers & DeWall textbook covered in this course. The final exam has a 90 minute time limit.

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I will assign your work a letter grade first, and then in order to combine it with your other marks and reach a final grade, I will give it a numerical percentage according to the following scheme:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 94-100 | A+ |
| 90-93 | A |
| 86-89 | A- |
| 82-85 | B+ |
| 78-81 | B |
| 74-77 | B- |
| 70-73 | C+ |
| 66-69 | C |
| 62-65 | C- |
| 58-61 | D+ |
| 54-57 | D |
| 50-53 | D- |
| 0-49 | F |