



Minzu University of China
PSY 100(A) Introduction to Psychology
Summer 2020

Basic Information

Class hours: Monday through Thursday, 2 hours each day
Discussion: Friday, 1 hour (60 minutes)
Review Section: Saturday, 1 hour (60 minutes)
Office Hour: 2 hours (According to professors' teaching plan)
Field trip: According to professors' teaching plan
Credit: 4
Total contact hours: 60 (50 minutes each)
Instructor: TBA

Course Texts

Our main text will be: *Psychology: An Introduction* by Russell A. Dewey. It's available online here:
<http://www.intropsych.com/index.html>
We will also read some of the book *The Geography of Thought: How Asians and Westerners Think Differently, and Why* by Richard Nisbett. I will make this reading available to you.

Course Description

Psychology is the study of our thinking and our behavior, our identities. Neuropsychology studies the brain. Developmental psychology looks at different stages of life, from infancy to old age. Social psychology looks at how our identities are connected to groups we are involved in. Clinical psychology tries to understand and cure mental illness. The subject matter is vast; our goal will be to get an overview of some of the main subject areas.

The psychologist Richard Nisbett published a study a few years ago about how Asians think differently than Westerners; we'll look at this study both to learn something about ourselves, and to get an idea of what psychologists do.

Week 1:

- 1) Introduction. Excerpts from Nisbett on differences in Asian versus Western thinking
- 2) Excerpts from Nisbett on differences in Asian versus Western thinking
- 3) Read Dewey, Chapter 01: Psychology and Science
- 4) Read Dewey, Chapter 02: The Human Nervous System
- 5) Discussion
- 6) Review

Week 2:

- 1) Read Dewey, Chapter 03: States of Consciousness
- 2) Dewey, Chapter 04: Senses and Perception
- 3) Dewey, Chapter 05: Conditioning
- 4) Dewey, Chapter 06: Memory
- 5) Discussion
- 6) Review



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Week 3:

- 1) Dewey, Chapter 07: Cognition
- 2) Dewey, Chapter 08: Animal Behavior and Cognition
- 3) Midterm Exam
- 4) Dewey, Chapter 09: Motivation and Emotion
- 5) Discussion
- 6) Review

Week 4:

- 1) Dewey, Chapter 10: Development
- 2) Dewey, Chapter 11: Personality
- 3) Dewey, Chapter 12: Abnormal Psychology
- 4) Dewey, Chapter 13: Therapies
- 5) Discussion
- 6) Review

Week 5:

- 1) Dewey, Chapter 14: Frontiers of Psychology
- 2) Dewey, Chapter 15: Social Psychology
- 3) Dewey, Chapter 16: Sex, Friendship, and Love
- 4) Review
- 5) Final Exam

Grading

The grade will be based on two exams, two quizzes, and on attendance. Attendance will be worth 10% of your final grade. Each exam will be worth 40% of your final grade, and each quiz will be worth 5%. The quizzes and the exams will be discussed in class ahead of time. Concerning the format: each exam will have 20 short answer questions. By “short answer,” I mean that each question can be adequately answered in three or four sentences. The questions will be based on both the lectures and on the text. Each exam will require the full class time. The quizzes, also short answer, will be much shorter (we will continue to have class on the same day we have a quiz), and will be based on reading comprehension.

Grading Standard

A+ 97-100; A 94-96; A- 90-93
B+ 87-89; B 84-86; B- 80-83;
C+ 77-79; C 74-76; C- 70-73;
D+ 67-69; D 64-66; D- 60-63; F < 60

Classroom Policies

Electronic Devices in the Classroom

There have been MANY MANY studies that show students who use electronic devices (like smartphones) in the classroom have lower grades than students who do not. Not only do smartphones distract you, they also distract people around you, and they distract me, the teacher. They distract from a serious learning environment. IF YOU INTEND TO BE A SERIOUS STUDENT, DO NOT BRING YOUR SMARTPHONE OR YOUR LAPTOP TO CLASS. IF YOU DO NOT INTEND TO BE A SERIOUS STUDENT, YOU SHOULD

NOT BE ATTENDING THE CLASS. For further information, see the following:

<http://news.stanford.edu/news/2009/august24/multitask-research-study-082409.html>

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2F978-1-4020-9408-52>

<https://teachingcommons.stanford.edu/teaching-talk/class-multitasking-how-laptops-hurt-learning>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/04/28/why-students-using-laptops-learn-less-in-class-even-when-they-really-are-taking-notes/>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/mental-wealth/201402/gray-matters-too-much-screen-time-damages->



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the-brain

<https://www.winona.edu/psychology/media/friedlaptopfinal.pdf>

Cheating

CHEATING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. If you cheat, I will catch you. If I catch you cheating, you will fail the class. If you plan to cheat, there is no point in taking the class. Do not waste my time, do not waste your time, do not waste your money.