



PSY 1013: Introduction to Psychology

Spring 2013

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1.0 Course Description

Course section/name: PSY 1013-006, Introduction to Psychology
Meeting Time: MW 8:30 PM to 9:45 PM
Meeting Location: MH 2.01.30
Prerequisites: None, this is an introductory course
Learn: <http://learn.utsa.edu>

2.0 Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is to provide students an opportunity to learn about the field of psychology. Psychology is the scientific study of behavior in humans and other species. This course will cover:

- History of psychology
- Methods in psychological research
- Evolution and behavior
- Brain and behavior
- Learning and memory
- Human cognition and artificial intelligence
- Personality
- Social psychology
- Abnormal/Clinical psychology

3.0 Instructor Information

Professor: Dr. Ray Lopez
Office Location: MH 4.04.22
Voice mail/Text: 210.460.0246
Email: ray.lopez@utsa.edu
Office Hours: W 5:45 – 6:45 PM in office
Facebook: Join *Dr. Lopez' Students Group*
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/drlopezgroup/>

About your professor: Dr. Lopez is a Lecturer in the psychology department at UTSA. Dr. Lopez earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from The University of Texas, and master of science and doctoral degree in experimental physiological psychology from UT Arlington. He is the Chief Technology and Innovation Officer for the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. Prior to working at HACU, Dr. Lopez was a lead system engineer at USAA, a managing consultant with IBM Global Services, a consultant with EDS, and technology director for a couple of dotcoms. While working for these companies, Dr. Lopez worked on a very wide variety of projects with many different clients in the public and private sectors. Prior to working in information technology, Dr. Lopez was a research scientist in the pharmacology department at UTHSCSA. He is happily married and has two great kids.

4.0 Textbooks

Required Text: Nairne, J. (2009). *Psychology, 5 ed.* Wadsworth Publishers, Boston.
Recommended Text: *Study Guide for Psychology, 5 ed.*

5.0 Exam Policies

5.1 Number of Exams:

There are a total of four exams to be given during the semester. Three of these exams will be given during the regular semester. A Final Exam will be given during the final exam time period for this course. All exams are mandatory, you must take all four of them. If you do not show up for any exam, you will receive a grade of zero for that exam and that grade will be used to compute your final grade.

5.2 Exam Types:

All four exams will consist of 65 multiple choice questions. Unless otherwise noted, the questions will cover all pages of each chapter that was lectured on since the previous exam. No cumulative exams will be given in this course.

5.3 Final Exam:

The final exam will be given during the designated final exam time for this course. See the course calendar below. The final exam is NOT cumulative and will be just like the exams administered during the semester. **The final exam is MANDATORY.** If you do NOT show up for the final exam, you will receive a grade of zero for that exam and that grade will be used to compute your final grade.

5.4 Materials for each exam

For each exam, bring a pair of number "2" pencils and a Scantron Sheet Form 882.

5.5 "Make Up" Exams

No make up exams will be given. If you miss an exam you will receive a zero for that exam, and that grade will be the lowest grade dropped before calculating your course grade. See "Grading Policy" below. The following exceptions apply:

1. If you foresee a scheduling problem (such as university-sanctioned reasons, medical operation, religious holy day), notify the professor as soon as possible with **the latest of A WEEK BEFORE the WEEK OF THE SCHEDULED EXAM.** Students are responsible for notifying the instructor. Professional documentation should be turned in as early as possible BEFORE the scheduled exam. A rescheduled test date for these reasons is not given if notification of missing the exam is made DURING OR AFTER its scheduled week and time.
2. In the event that a student must miss an exam due to an **accident** or **emergency**, a student may take the exam **no later than five business days after the scheduled date of the missed exam.** In addition, the student must provide **supporting documentation** for the accident or emergency, and receive a **ten point penalty** on the grade for the exam. The student must also take the exam at the **time and place specified by Dr. Lopez.** No choices will be given in time and place for the make up exam.

5.6 Posting of exam grades

Grades for the exams will be posted in Learn.

5.7 Procedures for administering each exam

Although very few students actually cheat on exams, it is the responsibility of a professor to initiate precautions during the test session to insure that NO students have unfair access to test-relevant information. Some students do not like these precautionary rules because it seems to suggest (unintentionally) that the professor does not trust them at a personal level. However, an increasing number of students understand and appreciate the need for such general precautions as a way to insure overall fairness in the testing procedure and equitable treatment across students. Given this understanding, all students in this class are expected to comply with the following procedure during an exam:

1. All students **MUST** show their UTSA ID if/when he/she is asked to show it.
2. If possible, students on each row should leave at least one seat vacant between themselves.
3. Caps, hoods, scarves, or any head-and-face clothing article should **NOT** be worn during the test period. If you must wear a head covering for religious or medical reasons, just make sure your eyes are visible at all times.
4. **ALL** personal belongings (e.g., purses, backpacks, briefcase) should be stored **UNDER** the student's seat and/or desk.
5. **ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES** should be **DEACTIVATED** and **REMOVED** from the desk top. They should be stored away such that there is **NO** easy access to them during the exam. Do not use an electronic device to store your exam number. Any student found using any electronic device during an exam, for any reason, will receive a grade of zero for that exam.
6. **NO** other paper besides those required for the exam should be on or around the student's desk during the exam.
7. Students should take reasonable steps to **COVER** their answers on the scantron sheet and other exam sheets.
8. **NO** student should communicate (verbally or nonverbally) with another student once the exams are passed out.
9. **NO student will be permitted to leave the classroom FOR ANY REASON during the test period. (A written excuse about a medical condition should be given to the professor PRIOR to the WEEK OF THE EXAM).**
10. Any student arriving **LATE** for an exam will be allowed to take the exam, but only if **NO OTHER STUDENTS HAVE COMPLETED THE EXAM OR EXITED THE LECTURE HALL**. If you arrive late and someone has already walked out the doors before you arrived, you will receive a grade of zero for that exam.
11. Students should sign their names on all exam materials, answer sheets, and the **COVER**

PAGE.

These rules will be listed on every exam as a reminder.

6.0 Grading Policy

6.1 Calculation of final grade average

If you **do not miss taking any exams**, your final grade for this course will be calculated like this:

1. Lowest grade of Exam 1 and Exam 2 will be DROPPED.
2. Highest grade of the first two exams will be averaged together with the grades from Exam 3 and the Final Exam.
3. Attendance Points (see below) will be added to this average

If you **do miss taking one of the first three exams**, your final grade for this course will be calculated like this:

1. Highest grade of Exam 1, 2, or 3 will be averaged with a ZERO and grade from the Final Exam.
2. Attendance Points (see below) will be added to this average.

Note that the **Third Exam and Final Exam grades will NOT be dropped**. Even if you miss one of these exams, that zero will be used to calculate your final grade average.

6.2 Assigning of letter grade based on final grade average

Once your final grade average is calculated it will be used to assign a letter grade according to the following chart:

Final Grade Average	Final Letter Grade
=> 90	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
< 60	F

6.3 Example grade calculation

Let's say that a student named Chuck U. Farley has earned the following grades on the first three exams:

Exam 1: 78

Exam 2: 60 (Chuck's lowest grade)
Exam 3: 97

Then Chuck takes the Final Exam, and makes a 91. He also earns 8 Attendance Points during the semester.

Chuck's lowest grade from his first 2 exams is a 60 (on Exam 2). So that grade would be dropped, then the other two grades plus the Final Exam grade would be averaged together to calculate Chuck's final grade average:

$$(78 + 97 + 91) / 3 = 88.67 + 8 = 96.67$$

A final grade average of 96.67 would give Chuck U. Farley a "A" grade for the course.

6.4 Extra Credit Policy

There is no extra credit available for this course. Please don't ask.

6.5 Earning Research Credits

If you do not earn the required number of research credits during the semester you will receive a grade of INCOMPLETE for the course. See the section below.

7.0 Mandatory Participation in Experiments

7.1 Overview

As introductory psychology students, you get to take part in a long-standing academic tradition, that of being a subject in psychological research studies. The Department of Psychology at UTSA has a very robust research program, and these researchers use the introductory psychology student pool as a source for research subjects. These studies provide students an invaluable opportunity to understand first-hand some of the different types of psychological research that they will be learning about in this course.

7.2 Research studies

The studies themselves cover a broad range of areas. Typically, each study will require you to spend 15-30 minutes either in a lab at UTSA or online, and you will be filling out questionnaires or doing other activities associated with the experiment. There are no medical procedures or similar manipulations involved, and you will be briefed on the details of the experiment following your participation.

7.3 Earning Research Credits

To satisfy the requirement of research participation for this course, each student must earn a certain number of research credits during the course of the semester. Details on how to earn credits, how many to earn, and how those credits are tracked appear on the yellow hand-out sheet accompanying this syllabus.

Participation in these studies is mandatory. If you do not earn the required number of research credits before the end of the semester, you will receive an incomplete grade for the course, and then you'll have to satisfy the research requirement during the next long semester.

8.0 Attendance Policy and “Attendance Points”

8.1 Points for Attendance

Attendance will only be taken at the first day of class, and then ten times more throughout the semester.

For each class session that attendance is taken (excepting the first class session) and that you are in attendance, you will receive one Attendance Point, for a possible total of 10 Attendance Points during the semester. These Attendance Points will be added to the final average of your exam grades (see above).

8.2 Arriving late and leaving early

If you must arrive late to class or leave early, please 1) Let Dr. Lopez know ahead of time, and 2) do NOT sit up front and disrupt the class when you arrive or leave.

9.0 Lecture Policy

9.1 Policy during lectures

Students who continually disrupt the class by engaging in horseplay or disruptive lecture-irrelevant conversations will be given two verbal warnings to stop. After the second warning, if the students continue with the disruptive behavior, they will be asked to leave the classroom. A petition will be submitted to the Dean's office to drop the disruptive students from the class roster after they have been asked to leave the room. Those dropped from the roster will receive a grade of “F”. A student who enrolls at the University is charged with the obligation to conduct himself/herself in a manner compatible with the University's function as an educational institution. Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. To assure all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, students are prohibited from engaging in any form of distraction.

9.2 Other key rules during lectures

1. Electronic devices are allowed during the class lectures ONLY if they are used to take down lecture notes and are inaudible.
2. If you are going to use electronic devices for lecture-note taking, you should **SIT TOWARD THE FRONT OF THE CLASS**. There should be **NO** web-surfing or any other Internet-related activity that is not associated with the class. **Failure to comply with this rule will result in your losing your privilege to use your device for note taking.**

3. **Cell phones**, other text messaging devices, music/video players are **NOT allowed**. Please turn them off.
4. Absolutely, **NO TEXT MESSAGING**, Facebooking, instant messaging, emailing, or tweeting during class.
5. If you are expecting an important call for whatever reason, put your cell phone in vibrate mode and step outside of the class to take the call.
6. Recorders (of any kind) are absolutely **not** allowed in class. This rule includes any **VOICE MEMO** capabilities in any electronic device. **TURN IT OFF**.

10.0 Supplemental Instruction (SI) Sessions

This course has an assigned Supplemental Instructor (SI). This person is a student who has taken the course, and is charged with providing extra study sessions to aid students in understanding the materials. This is a great resource and you are encouraged to participate in the study sessions. In addition, the SI will answer questions online in the Learn forums.

11.0 Disabled Student Services

11.1 Overview

Instructional support services are available to students with documented disabilities through the **Office of Disabled Student Services (DSS)**, MS 2.03.18. Contact 458-4157 to make arrangements to access these services. **VERY IMPORTANT**: Notify the course instructor of your requested use of DSS **ASAP**. A letter from DSS should be given to the instructor for documentation.

11.2 Legal definitions

“Disability” refers to physical **AND/OR** mental, emotional, psychological dysfunction. Do **NOT** be embarrassed about seeking assistance with DSS. DSS is set up specifically to help students.

“Documented” means that the disability must be backed by some professional verification, such as medical doctor, psychiatrist, therapist, counselor, etc. Verification must be in writing. DSS requires it. “Documentation” does **NOT** mean a note from one’s mother, spouse, minister, etc.

12.0 Academic Dishonesty

12.1 UTSA Policy

UTSA Roadrunner Creed and Honor code are available at the following links. You are required to read these documents and understand the fact that the University takes academic dishonesty very seriously.

Creed: <http://www.utsa.edu/about/creed>

Honor Code: <http://www.utsa.edu/about/creed/honorcode.html>

12.2 Course Policy

Dr. Lopez does not deal gently with those who cheat on his exams. If you cheat on any of Dr. Lopez' exams, you will suffer mightily.

13.0 Dropping the course

Please check the semester calendar on ASAP to determine when the course drop deadline is. It is not possible to drop the class after the deadline has passed.

14.0 Summary of Policies and Expectations

- 1. Learn. Be open-minded. If you make mistakes, remember that mistakes do not make you. Keep trying and doing. It's one of the best ways to learn. Work hard.**
2. Don't leave class early unless you've already informed the professor you need to do so.
3. Don't lie, cheat, or plagiarize. This code of honor includes reporting anyone you know is cheating.
4. Show up for class and at least act like you are interested.
5. Don't whine or give excuses. Stop acting like a child (NO temper tantrums). Act like a **responsible** adult. Conduct yourself appropriately.
6. Respect and be courteous to your classmates.

15.0 Course Calendar

Date	Day	Topic	Chapter
14 Jan	M	Course introduction	Syllabus
16 Jan	W	Introduction to Psychology	1
21 Jan	M	MLK Holiday	–
23 Jan	W	Tools of Psychological Research	2
28 Jan	M	“	“
30 Jan	W	Biological Processes	3
4 Feb	M	“	“
6 Feb	W	Human Development	4
11 Feb	M	“	“
13 Feb	W	Exam 1 – Ch's 1,2,3,4	--
18 Feb	M	Sensation & Perception	5
20 Feb	W	“	“
25 Feb	M	Consciousness	6
27 Feb	W	Learning from Experience	7
4 Mar	M	“	“
6 Mar	W	Memory	8
11 Mar	M	Spring Break!	–
13 Mar	W	“	–
18 Mar	M	Exam 2 – Ch's 5,6,7,8	--
20 Mar	W	Language & Thought	9
25 Mar	M	“	“
27 Mar	W	Intelligence	10
1 Apr	M	Motivation & Emotion	11
3 Apr	W	“	“
8 Apr	M	Personality	12
10 Apr	W	“	“
15 Apr	M	Exam 3 – 9,10,11,12	--
17 Apr	W	No Class!	–
22 Apr	M	Social Psychology	13
24 Apr	W	“	“
29 Apr	M	Psychological Disorders	14
1 May	W	Therapy	15
6 May	M	Final Exam – 13,14,15 (8 PM)	--