

**Introduction to Psychology
PSYC 101
3 credit hours
Messiah College
Summer 2011**

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Instructor Contact Information:

I (Dr. Hostler) will be checking in on the course, commenting, and/or grading at least once Monday through Saturday. I will NOT be available on Sundays whatsoever. I am also available to communicate individually with students as needed first via text for “easy” issues. Should we need more in-depth communication, we can connect via email, cell phone, or the chat room feature in Sakai. I welcome communication and look forward to challenging and learning from each other! Remember that you and your questions are not an interruption to my work, you ARE my work. It is a joy and an honor to teach this course at Messiah! Should you have questions about the course (assignments, dates, rubrics, etc.) post them first on the Course Navigation forum so that everyone can benefit from the answers. Chances are that fellow students may have the same questions you do.

Course Dates:

This course will run from **May 30 to July 22**. These 8 weeks will go by very swiftly, so plan accordingly how you will complete the course requirements! Certain days of the week have “standing” assignment due dates, so we will develop a learning routine as the course builds.

Course Format: This course is entirely online. There will be no traditional classroom meetings. Other than the readings from the textbooks, all other necessary information (Power Points, notes, exams, videos, links, assignments, etc.) can be accessed online.

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the empirical basis of modern psychology, the major theorists, classical and operant conditioning, and an overview of developmental, social, and abnormal psychology. We will also focus on how faith impacts this social science.

Purpose:

As the title and description indicate, this course introduces the student to the discipline of psychology through a broad overview of many of its major theorists, theories, terminology, and concepts. For those majoring in psychology, the purpose of this course could be understood as providing the essential foundation for all other courses taken in the discipline. In that, it merely touches on the surface of notable and important concepts and research which will be dealt with more intensely in other courses. For those taking this course as part of a requirement for other majors or for general education, the purpose could best be understood by stating that the area of human understanding is important for many areas of study and for living in general, regardless of field of study. Therefore, for these students, exposure to human understanding from the many perspectives within psychology will contribute to those students' own growth and understanding of themselves and others. The topics are fascinating and will certainly connect with your major (and even your life!) in a very real, applicable sense.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, the student should be able to...

1. **Articulate** how the field of psychology can be both compatible and incompatible with issues of faith.
2. **Demonstrate** awareness of the breadth of psychological understandings.
3. **Appreciate and comprehend** the experimental method, types of research and basic statistical reasoning used in psychology.
4. **Understand** something about the major theorists, theories, terminology and concepts which are part of the contribution psychology has made to society.
5. **Apply** psychological principles and concepts to one's own life and others.
6. **Think about and discuss** intelligently various current issues in which knowledge of psychology is brought to bear, such as adolescent development, homosexuality and personality disorders.

Texts:

Myers, D. G. (2011). *Exploring psychology* (8th ed.). New York: Worth.

Myers, D. G., & Jeeves, M. A. (2003). *Psychology through the eyes of faith* (2nd ed.). San Francisco: HarperCollins.

Technology and Communication Awareness:

The course will be delivered through Sakai, a learning management system. Therefore, all class notes, PowerPoint slides, handouts, videos, links, etc. will be available in the Resources section of the course home page. It is imperative that you read the Announcements each and every time you log onto the course for vital information. Check the Calendar in Sakai frequently for assignment due dates and reminders.

IT Support for Students:

Messiah will provide you with "real person" technical support as an online student through a variety of ways including instant messaging, phone, and e-mail:

- Via instant messaging (AIM) @ SCS5901
- By phone at (717) 796-1800, ext. 5901 weekdays 8AM – 5PM EST
- By phone at (717) 796-1800, ext. 3333 weekdays 5PM – 11PM EST
- By phone at (717) 796-1800, ext. 3333 weekends 8AM – 11 PM EST
- Or via email at bthomps@messiah.edu or ResNet@Messiah.edu

The above support is available during summer session between 8 AM and 11 PM EST seven days a week. Be ready to offer your name, number, and a brief description of the issue you are experiencing. You will be contacted as soon as possible. You will also have access to technical support (i.e. tutorials, help functions, etc.) through the College's portal, MCSquare, and also through Sakai.

Computer User Requirements:

Students who enroll in this online course must have basic computer skills including a working knowledge of word processing; the ability to navigate the internet using different search engines; the ability to compose, attach, send, and read email; the skill to utilize Microsoft Office programs (Word & PowerPoint); the ability to copy and paste. You must have access to a computer, the Internet, a web browser, and other software and hardware configurations as described below. Current Messiah College students taking online courses will continue to use their established computer account.

Computer System Requirements:

The following list represents configurations that provide the best performance with our learning management system and synchronous software and configurations. These are the configurations the College is ready and able to support. Although students may find that other configurations may work as well, those configurations may not be supported by Academic Technology Services.

- Internet Connection - High speed or broadband cable
- Browser - Mozilla Firefox 3.0 or higher
- Operating System Version: Windows® XP, Windows® Vista, or Windows® 7; Mac OS 10.4 or higher
- Processor (CPU): 2.0 – 4.0 GHz
- Memory (RAM): Minimum 2 GB of RAM
- Hard Disk Space: Minimum of 40 GB of free space
- CD-ROM/CD-RW drive: DVD or combo drive helpful
- Office Suite: Microsoft Office 2007 or newer, OpenOffice 3.1, or Google Docs

Americans with Disabilities Act

Any student whose disability falls within ADA guidelines should inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester of any special accommodations or equipment needs necessary to complete the requirements for this course. Students must register documentation with the Office of Disability Services. Contact DisabilityServices@messiah.edu, (717) 796-5382.

Statement of Copyright Protection

The materials in this course are only for the use of students enrolled in this course for purposes associated with this course and may not be retained or further disseminated.

Academic Integrity Policy:

Personal integrity is a behavioral expectation for all members of the Messiah community: administration, faculty, staff, and students. Violations of academic integrity are not consistent with the community standards of Messiah College. It is the student's responsibility to familiarize one's self with the academic integrity policy. Refer to the Messiah College Student Policy Handbook (2010-2011) for the policy regarding penalties, appeal process and procedures for violations. These violations include:

Plagiarism: Submitting as one's own work part or all of any assignment (oral or written) which is copied, paraphrased or purchased from another source, including on-line sources without the proper acknowledgment of that source. Examples: failing to cite a reference, failing to use quotation marks where appropriate, misrepresenting another's work as your own, etc.

Cheating: Attempting to use or using unauthorized material or study aids for personal assistance in examinations or other academic work. Examples: using a cheat sheet, altering a graded exam, looking at a peer's exam.

Fabrication: Submitting altered or contrived information in any academic exercise. Examples: falsifying sources and/or data, etc.

Misrepresentation of Academic Records: Tampering with any portion of a student's record. Example: forging a signature on a registration form or change of grade form.

Facilitating Academic Dishonesty: Helping another individual violate this policy. Examples: working together on an assignment where collaboration is not allowed, doing work for another student, allowing one's own work to be copied.

Computer Offenses: Altering or damaging computer programs without permission. Examples: software piracy, constructing viruses, introducing viruses into a system, copying copyrighted programs, etc.

Unfair Advantage: Attempting to gain advantage over fellow students in an academic exercise. Examples: lying about the need for an extension on a paper, destroying or removing library materials, etc.

Course Requirements:

All assignments may be accessed online and will be submitted solely through Sakai. The course requires that you read and review all of the assigned chapters from the two texts, PowerPoint presentations and notes, videos, and any additional assignments that may be in the Resources section.

1. *Myers and Jeeves Reflection Responses (8 total at 20 points each; 160 points total):* These reflection responses are posted to the Forum section for all to read. They are to be 300 to 350 word reflections on one of the topics covered in the readings that week from the Myers and Jeeves (Psychology: Through the Eyes of Faith) text. Do not merely summarize the chapter, but rather offer your reactions to what the authors have said. They are due every Thursday by 11:59 PM (EST). They are to be written according to the following format:
 - a. Identify the chapter and topic you are commenting on by either page numbers or a quote with a page number.
 - b. Give your thought or opinion in reference to that topic in a thoughtful, well-articulated response. Use correct grammar, syntax, and style.
 - c. Higher grades will be given for adding to/expanding what the text offers by providing documented examples, personal experiences, links to web sites, journal articles, and/or videos, or by carefully connecting personal experience to course material in support of your reflection.

2. *Class Participation/Postings (3 total weekly at 10 points each; 240 points total):* Since this is an online course, your classmates (that you would normally associate with in a classroom for small group work) are now remotely connected to you. This interaction will be facilitated via Forums in Sakai. You are to post one comment on the reading in the Myers text (Exploring Psychology) by Wednesday of the week that the chapters are examined. These need not be long (less than 150 words) yet should be thoughtful and engaging for others to read in the class. They might be an insight you discovered in your

reading, a brief comment to a reference in the text with a follow-up question, an observation/personal experience to share based upon a portion of the text, or an online resource (YouTube, Wiki, webpage, etc.) or link with a comment as to its relevance to the weekly topics.

Beyond this Wednesday posting, you are to comment on at least two of your classmate's postings by Sunday midnight. The format for the initial Forum posting follows:

- a. Identify the chapter and topic in the text your comment/observation/experience/resource relates to. (e.g. *My comment relates to the issue of animal experimentation mentioned in chapter 1...*)
 - b. Share your comment with the idea that others in class may be reading it—so be provocative enough to elicit responses in your classmates, but not so provocative as to be offensive. (Remember, you will be writing online, so social cues that demonstrate sarcasm or wit are not always easily communicated nor inferred.)
 - c. Initial post and responses to others posts that week will be granted 8 points on average. If the initial post is exceptional or responses to others insightful, then the full 10 points will be given. I will give feedback as to your posting quality.
3. *Try It/Share It (5 at 20 points each; 100 points total):* Each week, the Announcements section will provide a Try It/Share It (TISI) set of tasks from which to choose. Again, since all of your interactions pertaining to the class are online, this assignment forces you to move away from the screen to interact with a friend or family member. This is an activity that will illustrate a concept from your learning. You will share what you have learned via the Forum. You will complete 5 TISI activities over the 8-week course, with at least three completed by June 26.
4. *Exams:* There will be 5 multiple-choice exams (100 points each, totaling 500 points) as indicated on the schedule below. These exams cover the designated chapters and are open book. You will not consult with others while taking the exam; it is your responsibility to act with integrity and honor. Furthermore, the exams are timed, so prior knowledge, reading, and familiarity with the chapters is essential for optimal performance. You will have 2 hours to take the exam during the “window of opportunity” from 6AM until midnight of the designated day.

Course Grading:

Reflection Responses	16%	or 160 points
Participation/Postings	24%	or 240 points
Try It/Share It	10%	or 100 points
<u>Exams</u>	<u>50%</u>	<u>or 500 points</u>
Total Score	100%	or 1000 points

Grading Scale:

93 - 100%	A	73 – 76.9%	C
90 – 92.9%	A-	70 – 72.9%	C-
87 – 89.9%	B+	67 – 69.9%	D+
83 – 86.9%	B	60 – 66.9%	D
80 -- 82.9%	B-	< 60%	F
77 – 79.9%	C+		

Special Notes:

*I will do my best to grade your work and provide access to your scores within one week of the assignment's due date. To check your grades, use the **Gradebook** tool in Sakai.

*Unless there is an emergency or extenuating circumstances out of the student's control, late work will not be accepted and will not receive a grade. Please contact me if the above exceptions pertain to your situation.

*There is an eBook version of the Myers' text (remember...8th edition please!) that you may find helpful to purchase and use. You may also find the study guide for the Myers' text to be an excellent resource. The book companion website (linked from Sakai) has also been a welcome study tool/review to students in previous semesters.

Guidelines for Forums:

Students are expected to comply with the following NETIQUETTE:

- Before posting anything online READ what others have posted
- If you respond to someone else's posting(s) do the following:
 - Summarize or quote what the student said (use the student's name)
 - State your position clearly
- Do not respond too quickly; take the time to reflect upon what you learned in the course
- Be sure to respond to someone else's comment(s) about your original posting(s)
- Think and try to make connections between what you have learned in the course and your personal experiences
- Focus on one issue and treat it thoroughly instead of addressing several issues superficially
- Take the time to look at your old postings and monitor your progress throughout the course
- If you agree or disagree with someone, make sure you back up your position with solid reasoning and justification
- No personal attacks permitted
- This is not Instant Messaging:
 - Do not use abbreviations
 - Use proper grammar
 - Do not use foul language
 - Spell check your document before posting
- When taking information from other sources remember
 - Do not cut and paste
 - Make sure the information is referenced properly including author, title, URL, year of publication
 - Paraphrase, do not quote verbatim
 - Give credit where credit is due
 - Make sure the resources are reliable

COURSE CALENDAR

The following course calendar outlines the assigned readings and exams for each week. While I reserve the right to make modifications to the course calendar when necessary, such modifications will be made with sufficient warning and will never result in an earlier due date.

Week (Monday-Sunday)	Class Topics & Assignments	
1	May 30- June 5	Chapters 1, 2, & App. A (Myers); Chapters 1 & 2 (Myers & Jeeves)
2	June 6- June 12	Chapters 3 & 4 (M); Chapters 3 & 4 (M&J)
3	June 13- June 19	Chapters 5 & 6 (M); Chapters 5 & 6 (M&J)
4	June 20- June 26	Chapters 7 & 8 (M); Chapters 7 & 8 (M&J)
5	June 27- July 3	Chapters 9 & 10 (M); Chapters 9 & 10 (M&J)
6	July 4- July 10	Chapters 11 & 12 (M); Chapters 11 & 12 (M&J)
7	July 11- July 17	Chapter 13 & 14 (M); Chapters 13 & 14 (M&J)
8	July 18- July 22 (M-F)	Chapter 15 (M); Chapter 15 (M&J)
	Exam 1 (Chs. 1-3; App. A)	Exam 1 available from 6 am (EST) until midnight (EST) on June 9 (Thursday)
	Exam 2 (Chs. 4-6)	Exam 2 available from 6 am (EST) until midnight (EST) on June 19 (Sunday)
	Exam 3 (Chs. 7-9)	Exam 3 available from 6 am (EST) until midnight (EST) on July 1 (Friday)
	Exam 4 (Chs. 10-12)	Exam 4 available from 6 am (EST) until midnight (EST) on July 11 (Monday)
	Exam 5 (Chs. 13-15)	Exam 5 available from 6 am (EST) until midnight (EST) on July 22 (Friday)