PSY 2012: GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY
Syllabus Spring 2016

Section 15E5 (3 credits)

Course Time: Mon, Wed, Fri 6th Period (12:50 pm to 1:40 pm)
Course Location: Psychology Building (PSY), Room 130

Course Instructor:

Hayley Kamin

Office: Psychology Building; Room 015
Email: hkamin88@ufl.edu
Office Hours: Tues 2-3pm; Thurs 1pm-2pm
AND by appointment

Teaching Assistants: Melissa Hernandez
Jordan Jay

Social and Behavioral Sciences General Education Subject Area Objectives.

Social and behavioral science courses provide instruction in the history, themes, terminology, principles, and underlying theory or methodologies used in the social and behavioral sciences. These courses emphasize the effective application of accepted problem-solving techniques, and, in doing so, help students learn to identify, describe, and explain social institutions, structures, or processes. Students apply formal and informal qualitative or quantitative analysis to examine the processes by which individuals make personal and group decisions and evaluations of opinions, outcomes, or human behavior. Students are also expected to assess ethical perspectives in individual and societal decisions.

Course Overview.

The field of psychology aims to explain the complexities of human behavior and cognition. This course is an overview of major topics in modern psychology - the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. As a prerequisite for courses in the discipline of psychology, the goal of this course is to provide a general introduction to the breadth of psychological study and the diverse areas it encompasses. Emphasis is on psychology as a science, with an eye towards developing a strong foundation in its general tenets, concepts, and theories. Students are required to engage in the course via interactive activities during class, assignments submitted through the course site, in-person quizzes and exams, and participation as subjects in psychological research studies or writing a paper on psychological research articles.
REQUIRED TEXTBOOK.


*Note: DO NOT* purchase the package for the ONLINE section as it is a different access code!

COURSE GOALS.

By taking this course students will be able to:

- Define and describe core psychological concepts and processes.
- Understand the scientific nature of psychology and its central research and statistical concepts.
- Differentiate among the major theoretical perspectives in psychology.
- Critically evaluate theories and empirical findings across subfields of psychology.
- Apply theoretical concepts and terms to real life situations/scenarios.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS.

Students are expected to attend class regularly and to read the corresponding chapters in the textbook before coming to class. In class, students are expected to contribute to a productive learning environment and participate in class discussions. Please refrain from disruptive behavior – silence phones and computers and be respectful of fellow classmates.

Students are also expected to check their email regularly (at least once a day) for announcements and to check Canvas and the Course Schedule on a regular basis for information regarding course assignments. Extensions, makeup work, and extra credit will not be offered – Do not wait until the last minute to prepare for exams/quizzes and to complete course material.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

If you are a student with a disability and would like to request disability-related accommodations, it is your responsibility to contact the Disability Resource Center as early in the semester as possible. The Disability Resource Center is located in 001 Building 0020 (Reid Hall). Their phone number is 352-392-8565. The DRC will provide you with documentation, which you must provide to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. If you have a documented disability you must email the instructor (hkamin88@ufl.edu) the appropriate paperwork by January 22nd. Requests received after this date are unable be accommodated.

ATTENDANCE.

Attendance is expected but not mandatory. HOWEVER, there will 4 activities throughout the semester that will be completed **ONLY in class**. These will NOT be announced beforehand. If you are not in class for any reason on the day an activity is completed, you will receive a 0 on that assignment. **Students will be able to drop one of these in-class activities at the end of the semester.**
**Email Communication.**

- **Step 1:** Before emailing, please check to see if the answer to your question has been posted on Canvas or is contained in course material such as the syllabus. Questions directly addressed in the syllabus or on Canvas will be answered with an email directing you to those resources.

- **Step 2:** Include PSY2012 in the subject line of any email sent to the Instructor. Emails without PSY2012 may be treated as junk mail by spam filters or not responded to in a timely fashion.

- **Step 3:** End your message by including your FULL name so that you can be clearly identified. Only emails that are properly addressed and easily identifiable (i.e., are signed with a first and last name) will receive a response. This is to protect your privacy and FERPA-protected information. It is NOT necessary to include your UF ID in emails.

- **Step 4:** If your email requires extenuating material as evidence (i.e., a doctor’s note for illness), be sure to attach those in your initial message to avoid sending extraneous emails back and forth. Please follow the regulations of the university ([http://shcc.ufl.edu/forms-records/excuse-notes/](http://shcc.ufl.edu/forms-records/excuse-notes)) when sending.

- **Step 5:** Proofread your email so that your question or concern can be understood and receive the assistance you need. Emails containing excessive grammatical/spelling errors or abbreviations (e.g., C U L8R) are not acceptable.

- **Step 6:** All emails will be responded to within 24 hours, excluding weekends and holidays. Please allow at least 24 hours for a response before emailing again.

**Grades.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>267 &amp; Above</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>261-266</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250-260</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>238-249</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>230-237</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>221-229</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>209-220</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>201-208</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>192-200</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>180-191</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>172-179</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>171 &amp; Below</td>
<td>E (Fail)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Course Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graded Item</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last exam</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Quests (30 pts each)*</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature assignment</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TedTalk assignment</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 In-class activities*</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research experience</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total points available</td>
<td>290</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes 1 dropped grade.

Final grades will be based on the sum of the total number of earned points. Grades will NOT be rounded.
LATE WORK AND MISSED ASSIGNMENTS.

NO MAKE-UPS WILL BE GIVEN ON ANY MATERIAL FOR THIS COURSE AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. The only exceptions (for certain assignments) are for university-excused absences with adequate documentation. **Excused absences include:** documented illness; death in the immediate family and other documented crises; call to active military duty or jury duty; religious holy days; and official University activities. This documentation should be provided at least **a week before** the course material is due. Without this documentation (or documentation received after this date), missed exams will receive a score of zero. Documentation for unexpected occurrences (e.g., doctor’s note) must be emailed to the instructor ([hkamin88@ufl.edu](mailto:hkamin88@ufl.edu)) **as soon as possible.** Make-ups need to be completed no later than a week after the material was due (including weekends and holidays). Extra credit will **NOT** be provided under any circumstances.

More information about the UF grading policy can be found at: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx)

**Religious Observances.**

Please check your calendars against the [Course Schedule.](#) Any student having a conflict in the schedule or feeling that they will be disadvantaged by missing a class due to religious observance should contact the Instructor as soon as possible so that necessary arrangements can be made.

**Athletic or Extracurricular Activities.**

Students who participate in athletic or extracurricular activities are permitted **12 scholastic day absences** per semester without. Students who have been warned for absences or unsatisfactory work should not incur additional absences, even if they have not been absent 12 scholastic days. It is the student’s responsibility to maintain satisfactory academic performance and attendance.

**Policy for Disputing a Grade.**

You will have **one week** (including weekends and holidays) after any course grade has been posted to dispute your grade. **Disputes will NOT be accepted after that date.** The exception will be the last exam; no disputes will be accepted because there is not enough time to complete disputes and turn in grades. Scantrons can be viewed during Instructor office hours or by appointment. When submitting disputes, please follow the format below; disputes not in this format may not be accepted.

**Dispute Process:** When disputing a grade you will need to **write a paragraph explaining the dispute.** For exams/quests, write out the specific question(s) on the assessment you are disputing along with an explanation as to why you feel your answer is correct. For the individual assignments, refer to the specific sections where you lost points and explain why you feel your assignment merits a higher score in those areas. This paragraph should include references to material in the text (WITH PAGE NUMBERS) or lecture for each question or assignment you are disputing. Email this information to the Instructor’s e-mail ([hkamin88@ufl.edu](mailto:hkamin88@ufl.edu)) with an appropriate heading for the assessment/assignment you are disputing.
ASSESSMENTS.

Assessments in the course will consist of 4 non-cumulative multiple-choice quizzes/tests (“Quests”) taken during class hours, as well as a midterm and non-cumulative last exam. Dates for all assessments are listed in the Course Schedule at the end of this syllabus. All content presented in class (not just what is written on slides) and the readings from the textbook listed below are examinable material. If you feel confused or uncertain about any course material, it is your responsibility to let me know so that I can clarify that for you. This can be done in class and/or by coming to office hours.

There are no makeup exams, extra credit, or catch-up projects to compensate for poor performance on assessments. Contact me as soon as possible for extra assistance if you discover you are having trouble in the course. I will gladly reserve time to meet with you after class or at a scheduled time.

Note:

1. You must bring a #2 pencil and your Gator 1 ID card to each exam.
2. Mark your form code on your Scantron sheet and write your name on your test sheet.
3. After finishing the exam, you must hand in the test questions and answer sheet. BOTH must be returned immediately after the exam or you will receive a score of 0 for that exam.
4. All assessments are closed book and closed notes. Use of cellphones or computers is strictly forbidden - Students caught using their phone/computer during an exam will receive an automatic 0. Students are expected to abide by all other standards of the university Honor Code.

COURSEWORK.

EXAMS.

There will be 2 multiple-choice exams (midterm and last exam) during the semester. Both exams will be held on a specific date and time ONLY (see Course Schedule). The midterm and last exam will cover the first and second halves of the semester, respectively.

- **Midterm Exam.** The midterm will consist of 70 questions and you will have 70 minutes to complete. This exam is held on an assigned day and time OUTSIDE of normal class hours. Because the mid-term is an assembly exam, it takes priority over normal class times and other exams. If you have an approved conflict to this exam (i.e., another ASSEMBLY exam, approved university event), you need to contact the instructor by March 9th.

- **Last Exam.** The last exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions and you will have 50 minutes to complete. The exam will be taken during class on the last day of the semester.

QUESTS.

There will be 4 in-class quests throughout the semester (see Course Schedule). Each quest will consist of 30 multiple choice questions, and only include material covered since the previous quest. Your lowest quest grade will be dropped; thus, only 3 quests will be included in your final grade.

Quests are designed to test your understanding of course material to date and to prepare you for the larger midterm and last exam. These will cover material found in both the course text and lectures.
ASSIGNMENTS.
The course will include 4 in-class activities plus 2 individual assignments completed at home and submitted via the course site.

- **In-class Activities.** These will vary in format, but will all require a knowledge of the course content and that you have read the chapter material due that day. They will not be announced beforehand and, **if you are absent on the day the activity is completed in class, you will receive a 0.** One in-class activity will be dropped at the end of the semester.

  **Note:** For these assignments, do not include your name -- **ONLY INCLUDE YOUR COURSE CODE. If you do not use your course code, use an incorrect course code, or include your name, you will receive a 0 for that activity.**

- **Individual Assignments.** Instructions for the assignments will be found under the ‘Assignments’ tab on Canvas. The assignments should be submitted online through Canvas by 11:59pm on the due date (see Course Schedule), and will be open for submission for 2 weeks. Students should read all instructions carefully before submitting assignments. Keep in mind that collaboration on these assignments is NOT acceptable and any student doing so will be found in violation of the university Honor Code.

  **Note:** **Late assignments will not be accepted.** In anticipation of technical difficulties, make sure to turn in assignments early. If you experience technical difficulties, you need to contact the UF Help Desk and email me the incident number. Extensions or make-ups will ONLY be given for students based on **unavoidable** technical difficulties (i.e., the Canvas site is down).

EXPERIMENTAL PARTICIPATION.

There is a Psychology Department requirement that all students enrolled in PSY 2012 participate in research experience. The deadlines for this requirement are posted on Canvas. Completion of this requirement affects your course grade based on the amount of research credits you earn. For more information, please go to: [http://www.psych.ufl.edu/files/undergrad/PSY2012Research.pdf](http://www.psych.ufl.edu/files/undergrad/PSY2012Research.pdf).

- **Option 1:** You need to earn **8 credits** in total (at least 1 credit through in-person studies). When you complete the research experience by completing 8 credits of research, you will receive 20 points added to your PSY2012 grade. If you do NOT complete the full number of credits by the deadline, you will receive points at a rate of 2.5 points per credit completed.

- **Option 2:** This is a paper assignment. Students who are **under 18 years old** MUST sign up for this option. Rules, details, and the deadline to declare this option are found in the Research Requirement document on Canvas.

COURSE CODES.

Your course Code is a four digit number that you will make and submit the first week of class. This course code allows for anonymous and fair grading from the TAs. Students failing to use their course
code, who use an incorrect course code, or who include their name/UF ID will receive a 0 on assignments that require a course code. Please record your course code in a secure location and pay attention to assignment requirements.

**Honor Code.**

I am not willing to give a passing grade to students who do not abide by the UF honor code. Any student who cheats or helps another student cheat will receive an E (Fail) in this class. When students enroll at the university, they commit themselves to the standard drafted and enacted by students.

**Preamble:** In adopting this honor code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the university community. Students who enroll at the university commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the honor code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the honor code is bound by honor to take corrective action. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon community acceptance and enforcement of the honor code.

**Honor Pledge:** We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

It should be clear that academic dishonesty, such as cheating, is NOT tolerated at the University of Florida. Cheating is defined in the University Handbook, and it is the student’s responsibility to be familiar with its many forms (including plagiarism). If there is a suspected academic honesty violation, the Student Honor Code Procedures will be followed. Visit the UF Dean of Students Office website for more information on Student Honor Code Policies and Procedures: [https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr).

**Online Evaluation Process.**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at [https://evaluations.ufl.edu](https://evaluations.ufl.edu). Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at [https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/](https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/).

************************************************************************

The contents of this syllabus may be changed during the semester. If changes are made to this syllabus they will be announced in class and on Canvas. It is your responsibility to come to class and to check for announcement of any changes online.

************************************************************************