

**PSYC 100: Introduction to Psychology**  
**Course Syllabus**  
**Winter 2022**  
**M, W, F: 2:40pm – 3:50pm**

| <u>Instructor</u>  | <u>Office</u> | <u>Phone</u> | <u>Google Classroom Code</u> |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| Chris Dabbs, Ph.D. |               |              |                              |

**Time & Place:**

LECTURE: 6th period (2:40-3:50), MWF, room E-117 SMC (Umbeck Science-Mathematics Center; pronounced “smack”).

LAB: Thursdays, 2nd (A), 3rd (B), 5th (C), or 6th (D) period, room as assigned.

**Student hours:** I host virtual drop-in hours via Zoom on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00am – 11:00am. These are optional times for you to come ask any course-related questions you may have! [Click here](#) for the Zoom link to student hours.

**Email:** Email will be the form of communication that I will use most and will respond to quickest. My email hours are 9:00am to 6:00pm, Monday-Friday. I will try to respond to your emails within 24 hours, unless I am otherwise unable. If email is sent outside of my email hours, response times may vary. **Please check your email daily.**

**Tutoring:** We have two attached tutors to this course, who are available Tuesdays, Wednesday, and Thursdays from 7:00pm – 9:00pm in the Red Room SMC (A201-202). You can book appointments on the [CTL website](#) or by emailing the tutors:

**Description of course** from the Knox College Office of the Registrar Course Catalog:

*PSYC 100 – Introduction to Psychology*

*1 credit*

An introduction to the scientific study of how biological, mental, and environmental factors influence behavior and experience. The laboratory provides hands-on application of course content.

**The Textbook for the course:**

Introduction to Psychology (12th edition) by James W. Kalat  
(ISBN: 978-0-357-37272-2 (regular student edition); 978-0-357-37279-1 (loose leaf edition))

**Using the 10th or 11th edition of this book is also acceptable.**

## **Course Goals and Learning Objectives**

Welcome to Psychology 100! I am so excited to go on this journey with you all into the world of psychological science. Many of you are here for a variety of reasons: maybe you're thinking about being a psychology major or minor, maybe you're interested in psych, or maybe you're just here for the science credit! Regardless of your reasons for being here, I hope this class is a good experience for you all. There are several goals that I have for this course.

A primary goal of mine this term is to help you think more critically about the world around you. I want you to become a more sophisticated observer of human behavior and to learn to think about the world scientifically: through data and evidence. In working towards these goals, we'll discuss the limits to intuition and learn to question authority, even the authority of science! In your life, you have been, and will continue to be, inundated with outrageous and unrealistic claims about health products, physical capabilities, politics, and other phenomena. At the end of the day, I hope that this course helps you become more healthily and effectively skeptical in your evaluation of claims and quality of evidence.

In addition to our informal goals, every course that you take is designed to help you acquire formal knowledge and skills. The course will help you achieve the following psychology department learning goals:

1. Effectively and ethically apply the scientific method to studying the mind, the brain, and behavior.
2. Understand the basic theoretical approaches and classic empirical findings of psychology.
3. Effectively communicate with clear, grammatically correct writing.

Your progress toward the learning goals will be assessed by written lab reports and exams based upon textbook readings and other information presented in the class.

## **Grading**

Your grade will be based upon the average percentage score of your FOUR best exam scores and your SIX highest lab report scores. In other words, I will drop your lowest exam score and your TWO lowest lab report scores. I will be translating lab report grades into scores that will get averaged in with the exam scores, and collectively the six lab reports will carry the same weight as two exams.

Here are the grade cutoffs: A = 93%; A- = 90%; B+ = 88%; B = 83%; B- = 80%; C+ = 78%; C = 73%; C- = 70%; D+ = 68%; D = 63%; D- = 60%; F < 60%.

## Assignments

### The Exams

- There will be five exams, and I will be dropping your lowest score. Each exam in this course weighs 16.6% of your final grade (for a total exam weight of 66.7%).
- All exams will be multiple choice.
- You will take each exam online on a laptop, tablet, phone, or desktop computer in the computer lab via Google Classroom.
- To help you get used to how it all works, I will ease you into the exams by having the first two exams be shorter and cover less material than the later exams.
- Exams are closed-book, open-note. Be sure to study in advance!

You *must* take each exam in the Science-Math Center during the regular class period, except the final, which will be determined by the final exam schedule. I will take roll before each exam, and if you are not present, you cannot take the exam. **You cannot communicate or collaborate with other students while you are taking an exam—I will consider this to be an Honor Code Violation.** You will receive instant feedback after the exam regarding your score and what the correct answers were for the questions you got wrong.

The exams will be based primarily on the textbook readings and labs, but I will also include information from my class lectures that may not be in the textbook.

### The Labs

Every Thursday you will attend a laboratory section led by an upper-class student. You must attend the lab section for which you are registered. During each session, you will engage in a brief demonstration or experiment. The experiment will provide the data needed to write up the lab report for that week, and it will be due on the following Thursday. There will be eight lab experiments. All reports will be typed, double spaced, and written in the appropriate format. The quality of your writing WILL be a contributing factor in the grade that you receive.

While the length and format will differ a bit from week to week, the average report will only be about two or three pages in length.

Lab reports will not be accepted late.\* If you do not hand in a report on the Thursday that it is due, you will receive a score of zero, so be sure to pay close attention to the date on which each report is due. Each lab report will be graded on a ten-point scale. Each lab report weighs 5.5% of your final grade, for a total lab weight of 33.3%). That means all of your labs are the same weight as two exam scores! I will drop your TWO LOWEST LAB REPORT GRADES so that only six lab grades will be figured into your final grade in the course.

### *How will you submit the lab reports?*

There are four lab assistants who are helping me to manage the labs for this class. Each one of these individuals is a successful upper-level psychology student. They will be helping me manage and grade the lab exercises and reports. *You will submit a paper copy of your lab report directly to the TA to whom you have been assigned.* To figure out who your Lab TA is, check the

PSYC 100L lab section that you are enrolled in and find your teaching assistant's name and email address below:

Psyc 100L (Section A, 2nd period; SMC A205) -  
 Psyc 100L (Section B, 3rd period; SMC A206) -  
 Psyc 100L (Section C, 5th period; SMC A205) -  
 Psyc 100L (Section D, 6th period; SMC A206) -

### **Participation in Psychological Research (extra credit opportunity)**

By participating in research projects being conducted in our department, you can earn bonus points (extra credit). You are free to participate in as many studies as you like, and you will earn one point for each half-hour of research that is an online survey and two points for each half hour of research that requires showing up at a laboratory. However, no one will earn more than 8 points through research participation. If you volunteer to participate in an experiment and fail to show up, you will no longer be eligible to participate in research for extra credit.

When such opportunities arise, I will forward a link to studies for you to participate in.

### **Class Schedule**

| <b>Date</b>   | <b>Topics</b>                                     | <b>Lab</b>                                 | <b>Readings</b>   |
|---|---|--|---|
| Wednesday, 01/04                                      | First Day of Class;<br>Introduction to the Course | –  | –   |
| <b>Thursday, 01/05</b>                                |   | <b>Lab Sections Meet and Get Organized</b> |   |
| Friday, 01/06   | Introduction to the Field of Psychology           |  | Chapter 1   |
| Monday, 01/09   | Scientific Methods in Psychology                  |  | Chapter 2, unit 1   |
| Wednesday, 01/11                                      | Scientific Methods in Psychology                  |  | Chapter 2, unit 2   |
| <b>Thursday, 01/12</b>                                |   | <b>LAB #1</b>                              | <a href="#">Drawing Conclusions from Experimental Data: A Mirror Drawing Experiment</a>   |
| <b>Friday, 01/13</b>                                  |   | <b>EXAM #1</b>                             | <b>Chapters 1 &amp; 2</b>   |
| Monday, 01/16<br>Altered class period:<br>3:10 - 3:55 | Exam Housekeeping                                 |  |   |
| Wednesday, 01/18                                      | No class  |  |   |
| <b>Thursday, 01/19</b>                                | <b>Brain Function</b>                             | <b>LAB #2</b>                              | - <a href="#">Click HERE</a> to access the website where you will conduct this experiment |

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|                  |  |                          | - <a href="#">Click HERE</a> to download the instructions for this lab.  |
| Friday, 01/20    | Biological Psychology  |                          | Chapter 3, unit 1+2  |
| Monday, 01/23    | Biological Psychology  |                          | Chapter 3, unit 3+4  |
| Wednesday, 01/25 | Biological Psychology  | EXAM #2                  | Chapter 3  |
| Thursday, 01/26  | Operant Conditioning   | LAB #3                   | <a href="#">App Lab</a>  |
| Friday, 01/27    | Learning: Operant & Classical Conditioning   |                          | Chapter 6, unit 1  |
| Monday, 01/30    | Learning: Operant & Classical Conditioning   |                          | Chapter 6, unit 2+3  |
| Wednesday, 02/01 | Intro to Cognitive Psychology & Perception   |                          | Module 4.3 (pp. 121-135)   |
| Thursday, 02/02  | <a href="#">Click HERE FIRST</a> for a brief video introduction to the Stroop Effect | LAB #4                   | -Click <a href="#">HERE</a> to download the instructions for conducting this lab experiment (the Stroop Effect)<br>-Click <a href="#">HERE</a> to access the website needed to conduct this lab exercise.                              |
| Friday, 02/03    | Memory   |                          | Chapter 7  |
| Monday, 02/06    | Memory   |                          | Chapter 7  |
| Wednesday, 02/08 |  | No class–Day of Dialogue |  |
| Thursday, 02/09  | Cued versus Free Recall in Memory Retrieval  | LAB #5                   | -Click <a href="#">HERE</a> for the lab experiment instructions<br>- Click <a href="#">HERE</a> to access the website where the online lab will take place (make sure that the "caps lock" key is not on when you do this experiment!) |

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| Friday, 02/10    |   | EXAM #3   | Chapters 6 & 7; & pp. 121-135   |
| Monday, 02/13    | Consciousness   |   | Chapter 10  |
| Wednesday, 02/15 | Social Psychology   |   | Chapter 13  |
| Thursday, 02/16  |   | LAB #6  | <a href="#">Nonverbal Communication</a>   |
| Friday, 02/17    | Emotion   |   | Chapter 12  |
| Monday, 02/20    | Emotion   |   | Chapter 12  |
| Wednesday, 02/22 | Flex day; no class<br>Personality   | Watch <a href="#">Measuring Personality</a> then <a href="#">Personality Disorders</a> and submit the Google Classroom assignment | Chapter 14  |
| Thursday, 02/23  | Click <a href="#">HERE FIRST</a> for more background information about the Dark Triad personality traits. | LAB #7  | -Click <a href="#">HERE</a> to download the instructions for conducting this lab exercise.<br>-Click <a href="#">HERE</a> to access the website where you will fill out the Dark Triad Personality Scale.         |
| Friday, 02/24    | Flex day; no class  | <a href="#">Watch interview with Dyshae</a>   | Chapter 14  |
| Monday, 02/27    |   | EXAM #4   | Chapters 10 & 13  |
| Wednesday, 03/01 | Psychopathology: Disorders & Treatment  |   | Chapter 15  |
| Thursday, 03/02  | A Case Study in Schizophrenia   | LAB #8  | -Click <a href="#">HERE</a> to download the instructions for conducting this lab exercise (A Case Study of Schizophrenia)<br>-Click <a href="#">HERE</a> to access the video needed to conduct this lab exercise. |
| Friday, 03/03    | Psychopathology: Disorders & Treatment  |   | Chapter 15  |

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| Monday, 03/06  | Psychopathology:<br>Disorders &<br>Treatment |            | Chapter 15          |
| Exam will be open on<br>Friday, 03/10 from<br>9:00AM - 10:00PM |  | Final Exam | Chapters 12, 14, 15 |