

Syllabus: PSY 1213, Introductory Psychology, (4031) Spring 2011

Instructor: Matthew Cole, Ph.D.

Phone:(248) 204-3541 email: mcole@ltu.edu

Office hours: Tues/Thurs 8:30-9:30AM & 1:00-2:00PM Room S236. Office hours will also be conducted via WIMBA Live Classroom by appointment—send email request.

Required text: Carpenter & Huffman, Visualizing Psychology (2nd Ed.). Link to the publisher's website is listed in the Support section of Blackboard.

Course Description: Psychology is the scientific study of brain and behavior. Some of what you will learn may seem like "common sense," or at the very least familiar to you because you will be learning about topics that you can relate to. However, one of the most important things you will learn is that some of what we believe to be "common sense" is not true at all, and that even "common sense" principles should be evaluated scientifically.

You may be entering this course thinking it will be "easy," interesting, and maybe fun. Well you're right about the last two but not the first. An introductory psychology course necessarily covers a great deal of material, and contrary to all of your notions about what psychology is, much of it is challenging. Each of your fourteen weekly modules is actually its own specialty area in psychology, and psychologists will spend their whole working lives on one area. As you will see below in the section on grading, each weekly module will also be graded independently. There is a lot of material to cover and you will get a "taste" of each major area in psychology. Personal values, memories and reflections are an important part of learning about psychology, however, you will learn that understanding the material cannot just be done from a personal perspective. Rather, you must also learn about the material from an empirical point of view. You will have to develop and/or hone your study skills in order to do well in this course--you will need to read study and write every day (yes, every day!).

Also, this course requires that you have regular access to a computer that has internet access. Module 0 will help you hone those skills. Take advantage of the computer help desk when you are having difficulty: (248) 204-2330.

Important Dates: January 21 is the last day to drop this course with a full refund; April 4 is the last day to withdraw from this course.

Course Schedule: This fully online course requires that you complete weekly modules. Each module is scheduled to start on a Wednesday and end on a Tuesday. Each module is comprised of a theory folder and practice folder. Theory folders contain the PowerPoint lecture; practice folders contain assignments. All assignments are due before the next module begins. Assignments that are submitted late will receive a reduction of one letter grade for each week the assignment is late (see the Grading policy below).

Dates	Modules	Topics/Readings	Assignments Due
Jan 10 – Jan 16	Module 1	Chapter 1–Introduction and Research Methods	Assignment M1 Discussion M1
Jan 17– Jan 23	Module 2	Chapter 2 –Neuroscience & Biological Foundations	Assignment M2
Jan 24 – Jan 30	Module 3	Chapter 2 – Neuroscience & Biological Foundations	Assignment M3 Discussion M3

Dates	Modules	Topics/Readings	Assignments Due
Jan 31– Feb 6	Module 4	Chapter 4 – Sensation and Perception	Assignment M4
Feb 7 – Feb 13	Module 5	Chapter 4 – Sensation and Perception	Assignment M5 Discussion M5
Feb 14 – Feb 20	Module 6	Chapter 6 – Learning	Assignment M6
Feb 21 – Feb 27	Module 7	Chapter 7 – Memory	Assignment M7 Discussion M7
Feb 28 – March 6	Module 8	Chapter 9 – Lifespan Development I	Assignment M8 Discussion M8
March 7 – March 13	Module 9	Spring Break	Spring Break
March 14 – March 20	Module 10	Chapter 10 – Lifespan Development II	Assignment M10
March 21 – March 27	Module 11	Chapter 15 – ; ; Social Psychology	Assignment M11 Discussion M11
March 28 – April 3	Module 12	Chapter 13 – n n Clinical Disorders	Assignment M12
April 4 – April 10	Module 13	Chapter 13 – n n Clinical Disorders	Assignment M13 Discussion M13
April 11 – April 17	Module 14	Chapter 14 – Therapy	Assignment M14
April 18 – April 24	Module 15	Chapter 14 – Therapy	Assignment M15 Discussion M15
April 25– May 7	Module 16	Chapters 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15	Cumulative Final Exam

Grading: Your course grade will be determined by the following three categories:

1. Your performance on the 14 Assignments (50 % of your grade).
2. Your performance on the 9 Discussions (30% of your grade).
3. Your performance on the Final Exam (20% of your grade).

Please note how each of the three categories will count towards your grade.

The Assignments are worth a specific number of points unique to that assignment, but will be normalized to 100% and counted equally towards your final grade. For example, Assignment M4 has 33 points, and if you earn 23 points, your final grade for that assignment will be $23/33 \times 100 = 70\% = C$. It is very important that you understand that your final grade is based on your normalized performance on each Assignment. As such, you should not be tempted to discard Assignment M2 for example, which has 10 points—it is still equally counted towards your final grade, and if you do not complete it, you will have earned $0\% = F$ for that assignment.

All Discussion Board assignments are worth 10 points—5 points for your initial post, and 5 points for your follow-up post (i.e, a reply to at least one of your peers, or a general follow-up comment). You must complete all of the discussion board assignments to pass the course.

All PowerPoint assignments and discussion board assignments for a Module are due before the next module begins. Assignments that are submitted late will receive a reduction of one letter grade for each week the assignment is late.

Please note that all the module assignments require that you access the hyperlinks that are embedded in the corresponding PowerPoint lecture. **It is your responsibility to contact me and inform me if you are having difficulty accessing the hyperlink. Providing an answer that you could not access the hyperlink is not acceptable, and you will receive a 0 for the question.**

Class Policies and Expectations: Lawrence Tech plan's to offer you a valuable learning experience, and expects you and the instructor to work together to achieve this goal. Here are some general expectations regarding this course:

- Each student has a LTU email account. If you wish to use a different email address for this course, please change your email address in Blackboard under "Blackboard Tools", then "Personal Information" and send an email to the instructor so he/she can store your address in the email directory.
- Readings, discussion forum participation, and written assignments must be completed according to the class schedule. If business travel will take you away from regular participation, please clear the dates with the instructor in advance
- It is essential that all students actively contribute to the course objectives through their experiences and working knowledge.
- All assignments must be submitted on schedule, via Blackboard, and using Microsoft Office compatible software. If you need to submit an assignment via email, contact the instructor in advance. Late work will be reduced in value.
- Be prepared to log into Blackboard at least once each day. Please focus your online correspondence within the appropriate Blackboard discussion forums so that your colleagues can learn from you.
- At midterm and at the end of the course, you will be invited to participate in a University evaluation of this course. Your feedback is important to the University, to LTU Online, and to the instructors, and we encourage you to participate in the evaluation process.

It is important for you as students to know what to expect from your instructor:

- The instructor will be available to you via e-mail and phone, and will promptly reply to your messages.
- The instructor will be available to you for face-to-face appointments as requested.
- The instructor will maintain the Blackboard web site with current materials, and will resolve any content-related problems promptly as they are reported.

- The instructor will send out a weekly e-mail update to all class members to guide upcoming work and remind you of assignment due dates.
- The instructor will return all assignments to you promptly, and will include individualized comments and suggestions with each assignment.
- The instructor will hold all personal written or verbal communications in confidence. The instructor will not post any of your assignments for viewing by the class without requesting your approval in advance.
- The instructor will treat all members of the class fairly, and will do his/her best to accommodate individual learning styles and special needs.

If any of these points need clarification, or when special circumstances arise that require assistance, please contact the instructor to discuss the matter personally.

Practical Guidelines For Class Load Expectations: A three-credit course generally requires at least nine hours per week of time commitment. Here are some practical guidelines to help schedule your time commitments for this online course:

- You should reserve at least 6 hours per week to read the required textbook chapters and resources, participate in online discussions, review presentation materials, and work through assignments. This effort will total at least 60 hours over the course of the 10-week summer semester.

Academic Honesty Is Required: Please refer to the LTU Academic Honor Code available via the following link: http://www.ltu.edu/currentstudents/honor_code.asp

Plagiarism: The term “plagiarism” includes but is not limited to (a) the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work or creative and/or intellectual property in print, product, or digital media of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; (b) the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers, reports, or other academic materials; or (c) the appropriating, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any other means another person’s work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one’s own work. Plagiarism is unethical, since it deprives the true author of his/her rightful credit and then gives that credit to someone to whom it is not due. Examples include:

- Quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing written material, even a few phrases, without acknowledgment.
- Failing to acknowledge the source of either a major idea or an ordering principle central to one’s own paper.
- Relying on another person’s data, evidence, or critical method without credit or permission.
- Submitting another person’s work as one’s own.
- Using unacknowledged research sources gathered by someone else.
- Copying portions or outcomes of two- or three-dimensional creative property of previously published work.

- Copying items from Internet websites without acknowledgment of the source.

The Lawrence Tech definition of plagiarism as quoted from the honor code is available via the following link: http://www.ltu.edu/currentstudents/honor_code_offenses.asp

Where appropriate, SafeAssign(tm) will check all submitted papers against the internet, a reference library, and all papers previously submitted to SafeAssign. If you have plagiarized, *very bad things will happen*. At best, a 0 on the assignment and resubmission of an alternative assignment. At worst, referral to the Department Chair/Dean and outright failure of the course. Extreme cases of plagiarism may lead to expulsion from the University.