



Introduction to Psychology - Syllabus

Introduction to Psychology, PSYC 121, Spring 2024

Instructor	Evan McCracken, PhD, MLS
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Course Meeting Days and Time	Monday & Wednesday: 2-3:15pm
Required Experiential Learning Dates	Friday, February 23 rd (London: Freud Museum)
Office Hours	Monday: 9-1:00pm, Tuesday: 10-12:00pm, Wednesday: 9-1:00pm

Catalog Description:

Surveys major areas of psychology including human development, emotion, learning, memory, intelligence, personality, abnormal behavior, and psychotherapy. Focuses on historical development, research findings, clinical applications, and contemporary issues. Delineates the value of the different areas of psychology to other professions (e.g., medicine, law, business, education). Also, psychological theory and findings are at times placed into a more personal perspective that may relate to the student's own life.

Credit Hour Policy Statement:

Standard lecture:

This class meets the federal credit hour policy of 1 hour of class with an expected 2 hours of additional student work outside of class each week for approximately 15 weeks for each hour of credit, or a total of 45-75 total hours for each credit.

Course Learning Objectives:

By the end of this course, the student should:

- Have an appreciation and understanding for the **science** of psychology and the scientific method,
- Have a general understanding of various sub disciplines in the field of psychology and their applications to social environments,
- Acquire improved critical thinking and writing skills,
- Be able recognize applications and subsequently apply your acquired knowledge of psychology to various other academic disciplines and life experiences,

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Methods of Instructions:

This course is primarily a lecture course, although there will be some discussion. Class preparation includes completing all readings prior to class and making notes that will prepare you to discuss the main points, theories, methods, and/or empirical findings from all readings. You should also be prepared to discuss the implications of readings for law, policy, and future psychological research.

Textbooks and Required Reading:

We will be using an open-access Introduction to Psychology textbook, which you can access here (provided PowerPoints are a supplement to the text):

<https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/48>

Course Schedule:

Introduction to Psychology (PSYC 121)
Evan McCracken
Tentative Course Readings

NOTE: READINGS ARE TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE!!

Week	Date	Topic & Reading
1	M 1/15	Course overview, subfields of psychology
	W 1/17	Introducing Psychology (Ch 1)
2	M 1/22	Psychological Science (Ch. 2)
	W 1/24	
3	M 1/29	Brains, Bodies, and Behavior (Ch. 3)
	W 1/31	
4	M 2/5	Sensing and Perceiving (Ch. 4)
	W 2/7	
5	M 2/12	Exam 1
	W 2/14	States of Consciousness (Ch. 5)
6	M 2/19	States of Consciousness (Ch. 5) & Growing and Developing (Ch. 6)
	W 2/21	Growing and Developing (Ch. 6)
7	M 2/26	Learning (Ch. 7)
	W 2/28	
8	M 3/4	Mid Term Break
	W 3/6	
9	M 3/11	Remembering and Judging (Ch. 8)



	W	3/13	
10	M	3/18	Intelligence and Language (Ch. 9)
	W	3/20	Exam 2
11	M	3/25	Emotions and Motivations (Ch. 10)
	W	3/27	Personality (Ch. 11)
12	M	4/1	Personality (Ch. 11)
	W	4/3	Defining Psychological Disorders (Ch. 12) – REACTION PAPER DUE
13	M	4/8	Defining Psychological Disorders (Ch. 12)
	W	4/10	Treating Psychological Disorders (Ch. 13)
14	M	4/15	Treating Psychological Disorders (Ch. 13)
	W	4/17	Psychology in our Social Lives (Ch. 14)
15	M	4/22	Psychology in our Social Lives (Ch. 14)
	W	4/24	Exam 3 TBD

Grading Criteria:

GRADING: Grading will be according to a 100-percentage scale: 93 - 100 = A, 90 - 92 = A-, 87 - 89 = B+, 83 - 86 = B, 80 - 82 = B-, 77 - 79 = C+, 73 - 76 = C, 70 - 72 = C-, 67 - 69 = D+, 60 - 66 = D, > 60 = F. You will always know exactly where you stand because there is no “curve” and you can calculate your own grade whenever you want by using the formula below. Normal rounding rules apply. Grades will be calculated from the following sources:

1. THREE EXAMS = 72% (24% each)

There are 50 multiple-choice questions on all exams. There will be 3 in-class exams on **any** material from lectures, films, discussion section, readings from the text, etc. In addition, there will be a fourth, cumulative exam during the normal university finals week. **You are required to take only 3 of the 4 exams.** If you take all three exams and are satisfied with your scores, you may skip the final exam. If you missed any one of the first three tests, or want to try to replace your lowest score with a better score, you may take the final exam. I will automatically take the best of your 4 scores. Because the final will cover the entire class, it's in your best interest to take the first three tests. Important: Because you are required to take only 3 exams, **THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP EXAMS.** If you have an undocumented absence for **any reason** (are ill, injured, or away) during one of the first three exams, that zero will be your drop score, and you'll simply take the final exam to replace it. No exceptions will be made to this policy. If you miss 2 exams, a zero gets averaged in for a test score and you will probably fail.



2. REACTION PAPERS = 22%

You will have opportunities to write one reaction paper. Handouts explaining this assignment in detail will be posted on Blackboard. Note: No late papers will be accepted, so plan ahead. Papers can be handed in before the deadlines, but not after. The due date is listed below in the syllabus.

3. Blackboard SHORT QUIZZES/MINUTE PAPERS = 6%

To help give you an idea of how you are doing throughout this course and to encourage participation, there will be a total of 8 quizzes/minute papers.

QUIZZES: The short quizzes will be designed to test your knowledge of the course material and they will be similar to the types of questions you will see on the exams.

MINUTE PAPERS: You will write a brief paragraph about a topic-relevant issue. That is, you will respond to a thought question, requiring no special preparation beyond reading that week's chapter. The purpose of these papers is two-fold. First, these papers will give you an opportunity to think and write about the course material. Minute papers will be graded on an effort-basis. This means you need to put forth effort when writing your minute papers. There is no "minimum" length - that said, do I really think you will be able to complete a minute paper with a couple sentences? No. Give these some thought.

Like any other course requirement, these quizzes/minute papers will be factored into your final course grade. Specifically, if you complete 7 of the 8 quizzes/minute papers, you will receive a full 6% toward your grade. This is like receiving an A for 6% of your total grade, which can really help your average. **BUT: If you complete fewer than 7, you will get only .5% per quiz/minute paper.** So, for example, if you do only 6 out of the 8 quizzes/minute papers, you will get only 3%, not 6%.

USE THIS EXAMPLE TO CALCULATE YOUR FINAL GRADE:

<u>Assignment/Total Possible %</u>		<u>Pat's Example Grades</u>
	<u>% Pat got</u>	
1. Exams =	72%	Pat got 80 on Test 1, 70 on Test 2, 83 on Test 3, and 60 on Test 4 (Pat dropped Test 4): $[(80 + 70 + 83)/3]$
X .72 =		55.92
2. Reaction Paper =	22%	Pat got an 81% on the paper: $81 \times .22 = 17.82$
3. Quiz/Minute Papers =	6%	Pat did only 6: $6 \times .5 = 3.00$
		Grade = 76.74% = C



Pat's final is "C." Think about this - she had nearly all B's. If she had done all quizzes/minute papers, Pat would have gotten a 79.86, which rounds up to "B-." Papers, quizzes, and minute papers can bring up test grades.

Withdrawal and Attendance policies:

Harlaxton College expects regular class attendance by all students. Students are considered sufficiently mature to appreciate the necessity of regular and punctual attendance, to accept this personal responsibility and to accept the consequences of failure to attend. When absences occur due to emergency or medical reasons, students are expected to notify their instructors of the absence prior to class or to seek the assistance of the College nurse or a member of the Student Experience Team for help in notifying instructors.

Instructors have the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons upon review of appropriate documentation and professional recommendation supporting such a request. In the event of long-term illness, reasonable accommodations will be made to allow a student to complete a course. In these cases, the Dean will need to approve the long term nature of the accommodation.

The Dean of Harlaxton College has the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons.

Each instructor is expected to maintain an attendance policy in keeping with the nature of the Harlaxton program and may consider it in evaluating performance in their courses.

Policy Governing Unexcused Absences:

Harlaxton College operates an attendance policy that is binding on all faculty and students. The number of unexcused absences that are allowed before incurring a penalty is related to the number of times a class meets each week. For courses which meet three times a week, students are allowed a maximum of three unexcused absences during the semester without attracting penalty points. For courses meeting twice a week two such absences are permitted, and for courses meeting once a week a single absence is allowed. Additional unexcused absences will attract a grade penalty.

The penalty for unexcused absences will be a full-letter grade deduction.

Policy Governing Excused Absences.

- Excused absences are not given to facilitate student travel independent of College-sponsored travel.
- Students may be permitted to miss class because of participation in academic field trips.
- Instructors must co-ordinate and confirm academic fieldtrips with the Dean, prior to the commencement of the Semester to ensure their inclusion in the Semester timetable.
- Where authorization for an academic fieldtrip is requested after the commencement of the semester, the request must be submitted to the Dean.



The following information is required:

- Purpose and brief description of the official Harlaxton event or academic fieldtrip.
- Dates, location, and times (as applicable).
- Alphabetical list of students involved [Last Name/First Name] along with their student identification number.

If approval is granted:

- Instructors affected will be notified at least one week prior to the class period during which absence is anticipated, or as soon as possible.
- Missed class time due to student participation is to be considered an excused absence.
- The grade of a student may not be lowered in any class due to excused absences.
- It is the student's responsibility - to take the initiative by consulting with their instructors before the absence occurs, and - to do what is required by the instructor to make up all missed assignments and/or examinations.
- Instructors are required to assist students in these occasional situations of excused absences.

Honor Code:

All students at the University of Evansville agree to the University honor code: *I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid, nor will I tolerate an environment that condones the use of unauthorized aid.*

AI may be used only with prior permission or direction by the instructor.

- All work submitted in this course must be your own.
- The use of generative AI composition tools, such as those offered by ChatGPT, Google Bard etc. is prohibited in this course except for specific assignments and subject to the instructor's guidelines.
- Work generated by such tools without proper attribution is plagiarism and, thereby, a breach of the University's Plagiarism and Academic Honesty policy.

Disability Policy:

It is the policy and practice of the University of Evansville to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Students should contact Disability Services within the Office of Counseling Services by calling 812-488-2663 to seek services or accommodations for disabilities. Written notification to faculty from Disability Services is required for academic accommodations.

The University of Evansville Disability Services office will share the request for academic accommodations with the Academic Support team at Harlaxton College. Staff members at



Harlaxton will meet individually with students to discuss needs and provide additional information related to examinations or other assessments.

Students from partner institutions should provide the appropriate letter of accommodation from their institution to the Academic Support team at Harlaxton College.



Non-Discrimination Statement

The University of Evansville expects all members of its community to treat each other with respect and civility. Harassing behaviors directed towards any member of our community will not be tolerated. As part of its commitment to non-discrimination, the University specifically prohibits harassment based on any other characteristics set forth in its nondiscrimination statement as follows: including race, color, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, creed or religion, national origin, age, disability, veteran status and all federally protected groups/classes. Any form of harassment undermines the mission of the University and negatively impacts the University community as a whole.

Prohibited Conduct and Confidentiality

The University of Evansville is committed to fostering an atmosphere free from harassment and discrimination. This commitment includes identifying problems that may lead to sexual harassment and misconduct, as well as other forms of harassment and discrimination, by creating an atmosphere in which the entire University community is sensitive to preventing prohibited conduct. Additionally, the University is committed to providing support and resources to individuals who have experienced prohibited conduct. This commitment includes effectively responding when a student, visitor, guest or program participant is the victim of prohibited conduct.

All campus employees, students, and guests are required to abide by the Title IX and Other Sexual Harassment and Misconduct Policy, the Harassment and Discrimination Policy, and the Consensual Sexual or Romantic Relationships Between Employees and Students Policy. Violation of these policies could result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion for students and termination for employees.

Faculty members at the University of Evansville are considered “Responsible Employees” under the applicable federal guidelines and the University’s policies. This means that I am unable to offer you confidentiality if you report any incidence of prohibited conduct to me as defined by Title IX statute. If I am made aware of a violation, I am required to report any known information to the Office of Institutional Equity.

You may choose to report the violation yourself the following ways:

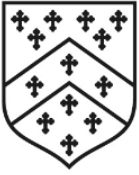
Email: · Annie Sills, Assistant Director of Institutional Equity and Title IX Coordinator:

cs175@evansville.edu ·

Keith Gehlhausen, Executive Director of HR and Institutional Equity: kg77@evansville.edu ·

Title IX: titleix@evansville.edu

Phone: 812-288-5261



Online: <https://www.evansville.edu/safety/report.cfm>

You may also choose to speak with a Confidential Resource. Confidential Resources are required to maintain confidentiality and cannot report violations to the Office of Institutional Equity:

University of Evansville

- Counseling Services: counselingservices@evansville.edu, 812-488-2633
- Health Center Professionals: healthcenter@evansville.edu, 812-488-2033
- University Chaplain: chaplain@evansville.edu, 812-488-5262

Harlaxton College

- College Nurse: Lesley Selby, RGN, +44 01476 403027, lseyby@harlaxton.ac.uk
- Counselling Services: counselling@harlaxton.ac.uk