

Introduction to Psychology
PSY 105
ID: 01877

Spring 2010

Instructor: Elena Kim, MA

Office: Main Building of AUK, 230

Office phone: 663309 (*239)

Email: kim_el@mail.auca.kg, psy@mail.auca.kg

Course language: English

Classes: Lectures Tue 12:45-14:00; Seminars Monday 12:45-14:00.

Consultations: by appointment

Prerequisites: none

Number of credits: 3

Course Status: required

Required textbook: John Santrock (2000). Psychology. McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. 6th edition.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to give students a broad overview of many of the topics of interest in contemporary psychology. Students will explore various areas within psychology, including biological, cognitive, developmental, social, personality and clinical psychology, and how these diverse areas can be integrated. Students will also discuss the history of psychology as a science, the kinds of methodologies used in psychological research and the issue of scientific ethics as it applies to this research. Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- understand and apply the Scientific Method to examine human behavior;
- understand how biological, cultural, and environmental factors influence human behavior;
- understand the different theories of personality;
- demonstrate a basic understanding of psychological disorders and current thinking about underlying causes and treatments;
- understand how an individual's behavior can change once placed in a group; and,
- understand and successfully use basic psychological terms and concepts.

COURSE STRUCTURE: Each week of the course will be topical. Second class each week will be a lecture, video or guest lecture. First class each week will be an interactive class consisting of each using different methods of learning and discussion. Students will be expected to have read materials before the class. It is VERY important that students complete the reading for each day on the course schedule BEFORE they come to class that day. The most important goal for the class is for you to have fun while learning lots about psychology. But to do this, students will have to stay on top of the reading.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. EXAMS: There will be **2 exams**, midterm and final and a number of **pop quizzes** which will be administered **unannounced**. The format of the exams will be multiple choice and short answers. Exams will **not** be cumulative and cover both the assigned chapters in your text and material discussed in lectures. **MAKE UP** for exams are possible. Extra credit can be earned throughout the course after an individual consultation with instructor.

2. INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATIONS

During the semester, each of the students will do one 15 minutes presentation followed by a facilitated discussion. The goal of facilitation is to provide students with experience of how to lead discussion, engage people in discussion, keep people's attention on the topic at hand, and provide quick and compelling answers to questions. The students should on the one hand, learn not to dominate a discussion and, on the other hand, not let the discussion fall into chaos. In the beginning of the semester I will pass around all the topics that we are going to cover during semester and you will have to choose one topic that you would like to facilitate. In order to get a good grade, you should read the relevant to you chapter at least one week prior your facilitation date, come up with at least 5 questions you would like to address

during the seminar, find additional material concerning your topic and arrange a consultation with the instructor at least two days before your facilitation.

3. GROUP RESEARCH PROJECT

During the semester students will be assigned to groups to conduct a small psychological research. The groups will identify research topic, formulate hypothesis, collect data, draw conclusions and present their findings to class. The goal of this exercise is to provide students with a first-hand experience of doing research in psychology. Students in groups will decide on a topic of study and a research method. The groups will be required to do the following:

- learn about the assigned topic of study
- learn about the method they have chosen
- learn about academic research within the area of chosen topic
- formulate hypothesis
- formulate research question
- identify instruments
- collect data
- analyze data
- report results in class

Students will be expected to present their research during class. The grades for this activity will be comprised of familiarity with the research method, familiarity with research on the topic, hypothesis, instruments, process of collecting and analyzing data and reporting the results in class. Total 15 % of the total grade.

4. ARTICLE REPORTS IN JIGSAW FORMAT

During the semester, each of the students will work on 10 important studies in psychology in jigsaw exercise. This activity will aim at familiarizing students with key psychological studies. Students will be expected to acquaint themselves with a particular research, prepare a handout and teach this material to a group of fellow students. Each of the ten jigsaws activities will be graded based on the hand-out (1 point each), and how well the group does on the quiz related to the material the student taught (1 point each). Total 20% of grade.

5. ATTENDANCE

Attendance for this class is mandatory. In the beginning of each class, I'll take attendance. If you come late to class, you can be present but I will consider this day as missing. Above all, I do not like when students go back and forth during the class. It distracts my attention. Please, do not do that. Try to solve all your problems before the class. I am not going to regard a person as being present in class if she/he left the classroom for more than 15 minutes. The class will be held twice a week. I will be willing to devote the first 10-20 minutes of the class to all the questions that you had while reading your home work assignment. It is very important to read the material before class. Students who attend all the classes will receive 10% bonus credit.

6. ISSUES OF GRADING

If you feel that the evaluation of your work was not fair or you noticed some scoring mistakes in your grade, you should bring these issues to my attention immediately! If your demands are reasonable, I will remedy my mistakes. After all, social psychological research demonstrates that all people are susceptible to mistakes and biases. I promise, there will be a no-risk situation for you – I will not penalize anyone who takes the time to highlight instances where you or someone else were treated unfairly.

There will always be someone who thinks that he/she was “tricked” by an exam question. If you feel that way, you should write a statement arguing your position. Your argument should include citation from the book (page numbers, dates) or other reasonable sources. Submit your comments no later than 1 week after the exam.

7. CHEATING POLICY

If I notice that you have submitted someone else's work and presented it as your own, copied your answers from other exam papers or plagiarized from a published article, I will assign you an F in the course and inform the administration about this issue regardless of your performance in other portions of the course. I will hate to do that, but there will be no exceptions to this rule.

7. GRADING SYSTEM

1. Midterm exam	20%
2. Final exam	20%
3. Quizzes	15%
4. Presentation	10%
5. Group research project	15%
6. Jigsaw assignments	20%
7. Bonus	10%
TOTAL	100%

GRADING SYSTEM

95-100%	A		74-77 %	C	
90-94 %	A-		70-73 %	C-	
88-89 %	B+		68 - 69 %	D+	
84-87 %	B		64 - 67 %	D	
80-83 %	B-		60- 63 %	D-	
78-79 %	C+		0-59 %	F	

Grade "X" will be administered in cases when students miss 10 classes without a satisfactory and well – witnessed reasons.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Week	Topic	Readings
Week 1	Introduction to the course requirements	
	What Is Psychology?	Chapter 1:
Week 2	Psychology's Scientific Methods	Chapter 2:
Week 3	Biological Foundations and Neuroscience	Chapter 3:
Week 4	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 4:
Week 5	States of Consciousness	Chapter 5:
Week 6	Learning	Chapter 6:
Week 7	Memory	Chapter 7
Week 8	Midterm exam	
Week 10	Thinking and Language	Chapter 8:
Week 11	Intelligence	
Week 12	Human Development	Chapter 10:
Week 13	Motivation and Emotion	Chapter 11:
Week 14	Personality	Chapter 12:
Week 15	Abnormal Psychology and Therapies	Chapter 16:
Week 16	Social Psychology	Chapter 17
	Final exam	