

Introduction to Psychology – Fall 2013

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: no

Instructor: Michele Amicarelli

Office: AUCA Main Building, room 209

Office hours: by previous appointment

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Class schedule: Tuesday, Thursday 12.45 -14.00

Course description

This course provides a wide overview on the main approaches and findings of the psychological science about mental processes and human behaviour. Topics such as perception, attention, remembering, forgetting, language, thinking, intelligence, emotion, learning, personality, child cognitive development, and social psychology will be analysed and discussed. Research methods utilised in psychology and psychotherapies for mental disorders will be outlined as well. Finally, the forensic psychology and a relatively recent discipline – the positive psychology – will be briefly introduced.

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to understand the foundations of mental processes and human behaviour, as well as the psychological research methods and the basics of therapies for psychological disorders.

Course materials

- Kosslyn, S. M., Rosenberg, R. S. (2004). *Introducing Psychology: Brain, Person, Group*, 4th Edition. Pearson Education.
- Westen, D. (1995). *Psychology: Mind, Brain, & Culture*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Power point presentations.

Teaching methods

- 1) Frontal classes through power point presentations.
- 2) Class discussions and activities.

Course requirements

- 1) Attendance (10%).
- 2) Participation to class discussions and activities (15%).
- 3) Written essay (25%).
- 4) Mid-term exam in the form of multiple choice questions (25%).
- 5) Final exam in the form of multiple choice questions (25%).

Grading scale

A	91-100%
A-	86-90%
B+	80-85%
B	75-79%
B-	70-74%
C+	65-69%
C	61-64%

C-	56-60%
D+	51-55%
D	46-50%
D-	41-45%
F	0-40%

Academic dishonesty

Student performance is expected to conform to the AUCA guidelines on academic honesty. The Code of Conduct of AUCA is regarded as the major set of requirements to student academic behaviour (available at http://auca.kg/en/registrar_code_conduct/). Violations of such regulations will result in course failure.

Policies

Late arrival/early leaving to and from class without a proper excuse will be regarded as missing the entire session.

Cell phones and other mobile devices are not allowed during the class session.

Laptops and tablet computers should be used for taking notes only.

Missed or late work will be accepted only if a student provides an official note reasoning a substantive excuse for such a circumstance.

N. B.: this syllabus is subject to change at discretion of the instructor in the view of unforeseen circumstances.

Course programme

Week	Topic
1	Introduction to psychology; approaches to psychology; biological foundations of thought

	and behaviour.
2	Perception; attention.
3	Remembering; forgetting.
4	Language; thinking.
5	Intelligence; emotion – 1 st part.
6	Emotion – 2 nd part; learning – 1 st part.
7	Learning – 2 nd part; learning – 3 rd part.
8	Personality – 1 st part; personality – 2 nd part.
9	MIDTERM EXAM Child development – 1 st part; child development – 2 nd part.
10	Child development – 3 rd part; psychopathology and psychotherapies – 1 st part (psychodynamics, psychoanalysis).
11	Psychopathology and psychotherapies – 2 nd part (humanistic); psychopathology and psychotherapies – 3 rd part (Cognitive-Behavioural Therapy).
12	Psychopathology and psychotherapies – 4 th part (hypnotherapies); social psychology – 1 st part.
13	Social psychology – 2 nd part; social psychology – 3 rd part.
14	Research methods – 1 st part; research methods – 2 nd part.
15	Forensic psychology; positive psychology.
16	FINAL EXAM