

PSY 2150: INTRODUCTION TO BIOLOGICAL AND COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

4 CREDITS, WINTER 2018

MWF 9:20 – 10:27 AM, SOUTH FOUNDATION HALL 167

Instructor: Francisco (Pako) Arcediano, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: 213B Pryale House - Monday and Wednesday, 12:00-1:00 pm, and by appointment.

Course Description. Survey of the processes of perception, attention, learning, memory and thinking, including physiological factors underlying these processes.

This course was previously numbered as PSY 215.

This course was formerly titled "Introduction to Basic Psychological Processes". Students who took PSY 215 under that title may not repeat it except for grade improvement.

Course Prerequisites: PSY 1000 (previously PSY 100) with a grade of 2.0 or higher.

Supporting Course Material.

- No textbook is required.
- Lecture notes will be posted in Moodle.
- Additional readings may be provided by the instructor through Moodle.
- iClicker (<https://www1.iclicker.com/students>) You can purchase a remote (iClicker+; iClicker2), or use the REEF app. Each student must have their own iClicker by *January 12th*. We will register the iClicker student remotes in class on that day. You can get a used iClicker remote as long as (1) you are the only one using it for this course, (2) you register it following the instructions, (3) and you have it with you for every lecture. If you get the app, it is your responsibility to ensure you can connect to the internet every class. The iClickers will be used to collect grade-bearing information (in class pop-up quizzes) and for in-class demonstrations.

Course Procedures: Lectures and discussion.

Course Objectives: In this course you should gain the following:

- Acquire a better understanding of psychology as a science;
- Demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in basic psychological processes;
- Understand and apply basic mental processes to other areas of psychology and everyday situations;
- Respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Explain why psychology is a science;
- Describe and understand mental processes and behavior empirically;
- Interpret mental processes and behavior at an appropriate level of complexity;
- Explain different research methods used by psychologists and how they address different types of questions and hypotheses;
- Use critical thinking effectively: Recognize and defend against common fallacies in thinking.

Grades.

Exams. There will be 4 exams over the course of the semester. Each of these exams will consist of a combination of multiple-choice questions, matching questions, true/false questions, and/or short answer questions. Students will need to bring a #2 pencil and an eraser on exam days. Each exam will be graded on a scale of 0 – 100 points. The answer key will be provided by the instructor.

Quizzes. There will be unannounced, short iClicker quizzes throughout the semester. These quizzes will be based on the material covered on the previous lecture and/or the reading assignment for the current lecture. The quiz format may be multiple choice, true/false, or matching. If you keep up with the lecture notes and attend class regularly, you

should have no problem doing well in these quizzes.

Grading of quiz points. Each correct answer will be worth 1 point. The quiz points you obtain throughout the course will be added and scaled to 125 points at the end of the semester to obtain a total quiz points score (capped at 100 points), which will then replace the grade of your lowest-grade exam (except for Exam 4). The replacement will only happen if your quiz points are greater than your lowest exam score. That is, replacement will only happen if it benefits your grade.

Make-up exams and quizzes will be given only if circumstances outside of the student's control exist, can be documented, and are discussed with the instructor 24 hours prior to the exam or quiz. Students are required to take all make-ups within one week of the missed work (unless there are extenuating circumstances; e.g., illness that prevents you from attending school). To maintain the integrity of the testing and grading processes for all students, students taking make-up exams after the in-class exams may receive an alternative exam, including exams that consist only of essay questions. If you have not made arrangements for your make-up within one week, you will receive a grade of zero points for that particular exam. Students are encouraged to discuss their circumstances with the instructor as soon as possible, enabling appropriate and ethical make-up arrangements. See course schedule for tentative exam dates.

Grade Calculation: The final grade will be determined by adding the points obtained in the four exams. Remember that the quiz points will come to substitute for the grade of Exam1, Exam2, or Exam3 if the quiz grade is higher than any of those exam grades. In the event that a student accrues more than 100 points in quizzes, the grade will be capped at 100 points. At the end of the semester, you will be graded on a 0-100% scale. This %grade will then be transformed to the official OU grading scale (0.0-4.0). Percentage conversions to OU grades are presented in the table below.

% grade	OU Grade
100	4
99	4
98	3.9
97	3.9
96	3.8
95	3.8
94	3.8
93	3.7
92	3.7
91	3.6
90	3.6
89	3.5
88	3.4
87	3.4

% grade	OU Grade
86	3.3
85	3.3
84	3.2
83	3.2
82	3.1
81	3.1
80	3
79	2.9
78	2.8
77	2.7
76	2.6
75	2.5
74	2.4
73	2.3

% grade	OU Grade
72	2.2
71	2.1
70	2
69	1.9
68	1.8
67	1.7
66	1.6
65	1.5
64	1.4
63	1.3
62	1.2
61	1.1
60	1
≤59	0

Policies, Guidelines, and Recommendations.

Special Considerations. A student with a documented learning or physical disability must contact the Office of Disability Support Services, 103A North Foundation Hall, (248) 370-3266, and inform the professor of special needs during first week of classes. For more information, visit <http://www.oakland.edu/dss>

Policy on Academic Misconduct. The University's regulations that relate to academic misconduct will be fully enforced. Any student suspected of cheating and/or plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students and, thereafter, to the Academic Conduct Committee for adjudication. Anyone found guilty of academic misconduct in this course may receive a course grade of 0.0, in addition to any penalty assigned by the Academic Conduct Committee. Students found guilty of academic misconduct by the Academic Conduct Committee may face suspension or permanent dismissal. The full policy on academic misconduct can be found in the General Information section of the Undergraduate Catalog.

Departmental Policy for Resolution of Student Academic-Related Concerns. The student has an obligation to attempt to resolve all academic-related concerns with the instructor. If a suitable solution cannot be reached, then the student should consult the Department of Psychology Procedure for the Resolution of Student Academic-Related Concerns at <https://www.oakland.edu/Assets/Oakland/psychology/files-and-documents/Undergrad-Advising/Resolution%20of%20Student%20Concerns-04-2017-approved%20full%20doc.pdf>."

Excused Absence Policy. University excused absences applies to participation as an athlete, manager or student trainer in NCAA intercollegiate competitions, or participation as a representative of Oakland University at academic events and artistic performances approved by the Provost or designee. For the OU excused absence policy, see <http://wwwp.oakland.edu/provost/policies-and-procedures/>.

Faculty Feedback. As a student in this class, you may receive “Faculty Feedback” in your OU e-mail if your professor identifies areas of concern that may impede your success in the class. Faculty Feedback typically occurs during weeks 2-5 of the Fall and Winter terms, but may also be given later in the semester and more than once a semester. A “Faculty Feedback” e-mail will specify the area(s) of concern and recommend action(s) you should take. Please remember to check your OU email account regularly as that is where it will appear.

Audio Recording Policy. Students who wish to audio-record lectures may request permission to do so. These recordings may only be used for the purpose of personal study. Students may not share these recordings with other individuals without the consent of the professor. At the conclusion of the semester, students may request permission to keep these recordings if needed, otherwise it is expected that all audio-recordings will be deleted from all electronic recording and storage devices.

Veteran Support Services. The office of Veteran Support Services (VSS) is responsible for giving support services to more than 300 veterans, service members, and dependents of veterans. VSS is staffed with personnel who are veterans and current or former students. Any student veteran or dependent of a veteran requiring assistance with navigating the Veterans Administration, understanding service-related benefits, or requires referrals to campus and community resources should contact one of the Veterans Liaisons by visiting 116 North Foundation Hall, or phoning 248-370-2010. <http://wwwp.oakland.edu/veterans/>

Oakland University Drop Policies. The University add/drop dates can be found on the website for the Office of the Registrar (<http://www.oakland.edu/registrar>). It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of course drop deadlines.

Classroom Conduct. Oakland University students are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with the University’s standards of academic integrity and honesty. Please review Oakland Student Code of Conduct (<https://wwwp.oakland.edu/deanofstudents/>). Try to get to class on time. If you must be late, sit close to the door. If you must leave early, do so quietly, and sit close to the door to not disrupt the class. Please, mute or turn your cell phone off before class, and try to resist the temptation to chat with your classmates during the lecture. Performing activities unrelated to the class during the class period is not acceptable. Class disruptions will not be tolerated. Students who are disruptive to the class will be asked to leave the classroom. You are encouraged to ask questions and challenge the instructor. The instructor might stop a discussion (however interesting it may be) if it turns lengthy and takes excessive class time (in the unlikely event that this happens, please continue the discussion with the instructor and interested students after class!).

Class Attendance. Attendance is strongly encouraged. Poor attendance is rarely associated with good grades. Throughout the course, there will be unannounced short quizzes that can greatly improve your grade, and videos and demonstrations that will help you to better understand the topics discussed in class. Quiz points can replace the grade of your lowest-grade exam (except for Exam 4), and they will prepare you for many of the questions in the exams. Announcements are made at the beginning of class, so students who arrive late will miss important announcements.

Make-up Exams. Expected excuses need to be discussed with the instructor at least 24 hours before the date scheduled for the exam. Unexpected absences due to major life events require immediate notification to the instructor and proof of reason for the absence. Students who must be absent from class due to University representation events (e.g., athletics, performances) are also subject to these policies (see the OU Excused Absence Policy; <http://wwwp.oakland.edu/provost/policies-and-procedures/>). Students are required to take all make-up exams within one week of the missed exam (unless there are extenuating circumstances; e.g., illness that prevents you from attending school). To maintain the integrity of the testing and grading processes for all students, students taking make-up exams after the in-class exams may receive an alternative exam, including exams that consist only of essay questions.

Moodle. Class materials will be distributed through Moodle. Please, take the time to become familiar and learn how to

use Moodle. You can access Moodle from the OU main site by clicking “Moodle” on the top banner. If you do not know how to use Moodle, from the Moodle login page you can click “Help” and use the tutorials presented by the IT department (Mozilla Firefox is the recommended browser for Moodle).

E-mail policy: I would greatly appreciate if every time you send me an email you make sure to add [PSY 2150] at the beginning of the Subject field, and to identify yourself with your first and last name either in the body of the message or with your signature at the end of it.

Winter 2018 Important Dates (all deadlines posted in the Oakland University Academic Calendar, including add and drop dates): <http://wwwp.oakland.edu/registrar/important-dates/>

Tentative Course Schedule.

Exam 1:

Introduction (*January 3*)
Historical Background (*January 5, 8, 10*)
Biological Basis of Behavior (*January 10, 12*)
Methodology (*January 12, 17, 19*)
Perception (*January 19, 22, 24, 26*)
Attention (*January 26, 29, 31*)

Exam 1: February 2

Exam 2:

Mental Imagery (*January 31; February 5, 7*)
Representation of Knowledge (*February 7, 9, 12*)
Learning (*February 12, 14, 16, 26, 28; March 2, 7*)

Exam 2: March 9

Exam 3:

Memory (*March 7, 12, 14, 16, 19*)
Problem Solving (*March 19, 21, 23*)
Expertise (*March 23, 26, 28*)

Exam 3: March 30

Exam 4:

Reasoning and Decision Making (*March 28, April 2, 4, 6, 9, 11*)
Language (*April 11, 13*)
Stages of Cognitive Development (*April 16*)

Exam 4 (Final Exam): Wednesday, April 25 (8:00 – 11:00 AM)