

**PSYCHOLOGY 105z
FOUNDATIONS OF CONTEMPORARY PSYCHOLOGY**

**WINTER SESSION
2023 SYLLABUS**

Course Information

January 10 – January 25, 2023
Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Room: TBA

Professor

Dr. Steven Stemler
steven.stemler@wesleyan.edu
Judd Hall, Room 216
Office Hours by appointment

Reading Material

Relevant materials will be available on Moodle

Textbook

Myers, D.G., & DeWall, C. N. (2020). *Psychology (13th Ed.)*. New York: Worth Publishers. ISBN: 1319132103

Course Description

Psychology is a branch of science that explores cognition, behavior, and emotion. Psychologists explore topics as diverse as how the brain works at the neural level, how we develop cognitively and socially over time, individual differences in personality and intelligence, how our behavior is influenced by others and social contexts, how and why psychopathologies develop and how they can be treated, and how people can live lives of fulfillment. This introductory course will focus on both contemporary findings and classic studies that serve as the foundation of contemporary psychology. In the process, you will become acquainted with the methods used to study psychological phenomena.

Course Communication

Moodle

On the Moodle site for this course, you will be able to find a copy of the syllabus, lecture notes, and other supplementary resources that will help you to gain a further appreciation of the course content. All lecture notes will be posted to the site immediately after class. You can reach the website at <http://moodle.wesleyan.edu>. You will be prompted for your WesId and Password and from there you can access course materials. You can also access the Moodle site from your portfolio.

e-mail

All students are expected to check their Wesleyan University e-mail account regularly (e.g., at least every other day) for updates regarding the course. Important announcements/amendments to the syllabus may be made via e-mail. Students are responsible for reading all communications regarding the course that are sent through e-mail.

Pear Deck

To facilitate an interactive environment, I will sometimes be using Pear Deck. At the beginning of class sessions when we use this technology, you will see a sign-in code that will allow you to follow the lecture on your own computer or mobile device and respond in real time to questions that are posed during class.

Course Objectives

1. To serve as an introduction to the basic concepts and theories, both foundational and recent, of a variety of sub-specialty areas in psychology including: neuroscience, perception, learning, memory, language development, personality, motivation, intelligence, psychological disorders/treatment, and social psychology.
2. To illustrate the variety of different research methods used in the study of psychology.
3. To gain some insight into how/why you and those around you think, feel and behave.
4. To develop and practice critical thinking skills.
5. To explore a variety of perspectives on the human condition, and to foster a respect for points of view that differ from your own.
6. To instill an interest in and enthusiasm for the field of psychology and an appreciation for the ways in which the theories and research of psychology can inform and illuminate other facets of your life.

Course Requirements and Grading

The grading is broken down in the following way:

Creativity Challenge Assessment #1	25%
Creativity Challenge Assessment #2	25%
Creativity Challenge Assessment #3	25%
Final Exam	25%

Grading Scale

A+	96.7 – 100	C+	76.7 – 79.9
A	93.4 – 96.6	C	73.4 – 76.6
A-	90.0 – 93.3	C-	70.0 – 73.3
B+	86.7 – 89.9	D+	66.7 – 69.9
B	83.4 – 86.6	D	63.4 – 66.6
B-	80.0 – 83.3	D-	60.0 – 63.3
		F	0.0 – 59.9

**Note: If you are taking the course CR/U you need to achieve a minimum score of 60*

Creativity Challenge Assessments: There will be three in-class assessments that will require you to draw on material from the week before and come up with a 10-15 minute presentation to the class that expands on that material. It could be an integration of concepts discussed or a deep-dive into one particular area. The presentation could take any form you like; it does not have to be a powerpoint lecture. You can ask the class to engage in an experiment, do a role play, listen to a particular song, watch a movie clip, you can explain the results of a new study, or anything that you can dream up really. Feel free to be creative! The key is that your activity must enhance our understanding of the material studied in the previous week. You will be graded on the extent to which you succeed in enhancing our understanding of the material.

Final Exam: The form of the final exam will be announced as the time draws near. The purpose of the final exam will be for you to demonstrate your cumulative knowledge gained throughout the course. As such, it will involve an integration of different topics we have discussed.

Course Schedule

MTG	DAY	Dates	Topic	Relevant Reading*
01	T	01/10	Introduction, Methods, and Domains	Chapter 1
			Sensation and Perception	Chapter 6
02	W	01/11	States of Consciousness	Chapter 3
			Memory	Chapter 8
03	TH	01/12	Learning	Chapter 7
			Language and Thought	Chapter 9
04	F	01/13	Creativity Challenge Assessment #1	
			Intelligence	Chapter 10
05	M	01/16	Personality	Chapter 14
			Psychopathology	Chapter 15
06	T	01/17	Biological Psychology	Chapter 2
			Treatment	Chapter 16
07	W	01/18	Creativity Challenge Assessment #2	
			Motivation and Emotion	Chapter 11
08	TH	01/19	Social Development	Chapter 5
			Cultural Psychology	Moodle supplement
09	F	01/20	Social Psychology	Chapter 13
			Social Psychology and Ethics	Chapter 13
10	M	01/23	Creativity Challenge Assessment #3	
			Stress, Coping, and Flourishing	Chapter 12
11	W	01/25	FINAL EXAMINATION	

The readings listed are those that are associated with the lectures and can be done after the lecture has been delivered. There is no expectation that you will have read the material prior to the lecture.

Be sure to check Moodle regularly to see if new readings have been posted.

Students with Disabilities

Wesleyan University is committed to ensuring that all qualified students with disabilities are afforded an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from its programs and services. To receive accommodations, a student must have a documented disability as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and provide documentation of the disability. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact Disability Resources as soon as possible. If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact Dean Patey in Disability Resources, located in North College, Room 021, or call 860-685-5581 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations.

Syllabus Information Disclaimer

I reserve the right to change any information contained in this document, when necessary, with adequate notice given to the student. Notice shall be given in the classroom during class or via e-mail notification. No other notice is required. It is the students' responsibility to keep up with any changes, modifications, adjustments or amendments that are made to this document.