

MIDSTATE COLLEGE
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PSY 140 - Introduction to Psychology

Credit Hours: 4 quarter hours

Method of Delivery: ONLINE

Course description: (IAI S6 900)

Approved for Transfer by the Illinois Articulation Initiative

This is a class on the fundamentals of human psychology. Using a scientific approach to the study of human behavior, this course examines and integrates physiological, intra psychic and social/behavioral perspectives on human thought and behavior. Major units include: biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, motivation, learning and memory, life span and aging issues, personality, and social psychology.

Prerequisite: None

Text(s) & Manual(s): Psychology - Modules for Active Learning, (13th Edition, 2015)

Author(s): Coon and Mitterer

Publisher: Cengage Learning

Materials needed for this course: Minimum system requirements for eLearning

Topics: Major psychological theories, biology of the brain, aging and life span, memory, cognition, IQ, child development, sexual development, and personality

Learning Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Define psychology and explain how the focus of psychology is different from that of other social and biological sciences.
2. Describe the major features of the scientific method and explain the steps and key considerations in scientific research.
3. Define basic psychological terminology and explain important features of major psychological concepts and theories.
4. Describe how biological, psychological, and social factors affect human behavior.
5. Describe how culture, gender, and other groups' identities influence self-awareness and interactions between people.
6. Formulate an understanding that human behavior and the study of psychology has changed over the years.
7. Analyze current psychological trends, discoveries, and research.

Midstate Plagiarism Policy:

Plagiarism is using another person's words, either by paraphrase or direct quotation, without giving credit to the author(s). Plagiarism can also consist of cutting and pasting material from electronic sources by submitting all or a portion of work for assignment credit. This includes papers, computer programs, music, sculptures, paintings,

photographs, etc. authored by another person without explicitly citing the original source(s). These actions violate the trust and honesty expected in academic work. Plagiarism is strictly against the academic policy of Midstate College. Its seriousness requires a measured, forceful response which includes consequences for inappropriate and/or no citation.

In courses containing writing assignments, the College promotes the use of an electronic resource which compares the student's writing against previously submitted papers, journals, periodicals, books, and web pages. Students and instructors can use this service to reduce the incidence of plagiarism. This electronic resource has been found to conform to legal requirements for fair use and student confidentiality. It is able to provide a report to the student indicating the parts of the assignment that match.

Student Success:

The Office of Student Success is available to students seeking tutoring for individual classes or who need assistance with writing assignments. Information is also available on test taking techniques, how to take notes, developing good study skills, etc. Contact Student Success (309) 692-4092 (phone); studentsuccess@midstate.edu (email).

Instructor Information:

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Participation Requirements/Policies and Procedures:

1. This is not an arranged class. Besides doing individual text readings, text questions, and assigned projects, each student will be involved with group questions/discussions that you will answer in the Discussion Forums. These are assigned through the weekly schedules.
2. Every week there will be many opportunities to log on with regards to turning in assignments, providing weekly feedback, engaging in group discussions, and reading any updated weekly assignments. Always review everything in the weekly folders to get further details on projects and assignments.
3. All assignments are expected to be turned in on time. This is important with an eLearning course because it encourages group cohesiveness. For this class, the eLearning week is Monday, noon – Monday, 8am. Therefore, all assignments given for a particular week will be due by 8:00am the following Monday (except for the last week). This does not mean you have to wait until Day seven to turn in completed assignments. I encourage you to turn them in as completed. If there are problems, I expect to hear from you prior to the due date.
4. **Work from weeks 1-6 will not be accepted after midterm, for any reason, even for late points. During weeks 1-6 and weeks 7-11 work will be taken**

late up to one week past their due date if you have contacted me....however, late points will be applied.

5. Group discussion points can only be earned during the week the discussion is posted. Students receive partial points (15/25) for one original complete posting. Students receive the remaining points for thoughtful feedback given to at least one other class member. Writing “ditto”, “I agree with you”, or “good point” will not count as “thoughtful feedback”. No make-ups are allowed. Additionally, proper spelling and grammar is expected. Points may be taken off if there are excessive mistakes.
6. Once an assignment is submitted to the drop box that is what your final grade for that assignment will be based on. I will not accept other parts to a given assignment through email once it is submitted to the weekly folder drop box. Please review assignment guidelines carefully and submit all of it at one time to the correct drop boxes.

Methods of evaluating student performance: Your grades from each assignment go directly into the grade book in Joule when submitted to the appropriate drop box. Please review grades by going into the gradebook for this class.

Examinations: There will be one final exam at the end of the course.

Midstate Grading scale (same as instructors):

- 90-100 A
- 80-89 B
- 70-79 C
- 60-69 D
- 0-59 F

Points by Assignment Breakdown

Week 1 Intro (5 points each)	5
Term Journals (5 points each)	80
Text Questions (25 points each)	400
Weekly Summaries (5 points each)	50
Group Discussions (25 points each, WK11 30 points)	130
Article Summaries (100 points each)	200
Final Exam (140 points each)	140
Total Points	1005

Project Information:

Article Summaries:

Select 2 articles pertaining to current aspects of psychology. You will be using one article per article summary, not 2 for each summary. These cannot be fiction. Suggested sources include: **Psychology Today**, Time, Newsweek, Chicago Tribune, Journal Star, US News and World Report. I suggest using **Psychology Today**, either from our library or online, for the best selection of credible articles. If you do utilize an article from the Internet, please make sure it is the original work, not a summary of an article or a blog. Choose articles not less than 1 ½ pages that are written by credible people (doctors/scientists) and backed up by research.

2-2(1/2) pages total. **The paper will be double-spaced, contain 12 size letters, and use Times New Roman font style, with one inch margins.** Article summaries MUST be done using Word.

The summary should include the cited source. 60% should be a basic overview of what the article was about. Remember to quote if necessary and cite correctly.

The other 40% should be your analysis or reflection. This would include things like your thoughts and feelings, why you chose this article, what touched you personally, would you recommend it to a friend, what questions it left you with, and do you think it seems credible? Make sure to include the analysis part of your report - **this is a substantial part of your points**.

Weekly Summaries:

A weekly summary consists of simple paragraphs summarizing your experience with this class, discussions, text material, etc. It is my way of getting feedback from you each week to see what you enjoy most, what you are having trouble with, and/or are learning the most. This is not meant to be time consuming or lengthy in nature.

2-3 well-developed paragraphs is appropriate and required. Let me know what areas of the class you learned most from, which topics were most helpful to you, anything you are struggling with, and/or anything you found particularly interesting. Personal comments are always welcomed as well. Please complete these each week in the appropriate drop box. Please use correct grammar, punctuation and spelling. **Use 12 size letters, Word, Times New Roman font style and double space or points will be deducted.**

WEEK 1:

Topics – major theories, scientific method

Objectives

Define psychology and explain how the focus of psychology is different from that of other social and biological sciences.

Describe the major features of the scientific method and explain the steps and key considerations in scientific research.

Define basic psychological terminology and explain important features of major psychological concepts and theories.

Formulate an understanding that human behavior and the study of psychology has changed over the years.

Assignments

Read everything and print relevant information for your continued review.

Read modules 2-5.

Complete the pre-test. The pre-test must be completed by day 7. While this exam does **not** count towards your final grade it must be completed as part of the class requirements.

Introduce yourself in the discussion forum. - Autobiography

Text Questions

Modules 2-5 - Refer to the Weekly folder for text questions. Complete in the Assignments Drop Box. **Be thorough in your answers.** This shows the instructor you understand the material. Further comments are posted in the Week 1 folder.

Term Journals

Write out terminology from the chapters. See the Week 1 folder for instructions. Write out the terms associated with the text questions, given in the Weekly folder. Complete your definitions in the Assignments Drop Box.

WEEK 2:

Topics – biology of the brain

Objectives

Describe how biological, psychological, and social factors affect human behavior.

Describe how culture, gender, and other groups' identities influence self-awareness and interactions between people.

Assignments

Read Modules 7-10 from the text.

Text Questions

Modules 7-10 - Refer to the Weekly folder for text questions. Complete your answers in the Assignments Drop Box. **Be thorough.** This shows the instructor you understand the material.

Term Journals

Write out terminology from the chapters. Write out the terms associated with the text questions. Modules 7-10 - Complete your definitions and post to the Assignments Drop Box.

Weekly Summary

Have you achieved the objectives for the week? Do you have any concerns about the materials or the course? How well do you think you are doing this week? Complete this assignment in the Assignments Drop Box, so that it will be between just you and your instructor.

WEEK 3:

Topics – child development, life span issues

Objectives

Define basic psychological terminology and explain important features of major psychological concepts and theories.

Describe how biological, psychological, and social factors affect human behavior.

Describe how culture, gender, and other groups' identities influence self-awareness and interactions between people.

Assignments

Read Modules 12-15 from the text.

Text Questions

Modules 12-15 - Refer to the Weekly folder for text questions. Complete your answers in the Assignments Drop Box.

Term Journals

Write out terminology from the chapters. Write out the terms associated with the text questions. Modules 12-15 - Complete your definitions and post to the Assignments Drop Box.

Group Discussion

Communicate with fellow classmates in the Discussion Forum. Discuss: "How do you feel about daycare for children? Why? What personal experiences have you had with daycare? Did they change your mind either for or against daycare? Finally, what do the author's state about daycare?" Don't forget to give others feedback. You cannot get full discussion points with an original posting only.

Weekly Summary

Have you achieved the objectives for the week? Do you have any concerns about the materials or the course? How well do you think you are doing this week? Complete this assignment in the Assignments Drop Box, so that it will be between just you and your instructor.

WEEK 4:

Topics – sensation, perception, sleep cycles, drugs

Objectives

Define basic psychological terminology and explain important features of major psychological concepts and theories.

Describe how biological, psychological, and social factors affect human behavior.

Describe how culture, gender, and other groups' identities influence self-awareness and interactions between people.

Analyze current psychological trends, discoveries, and research.

Assignments

Read Modules 17-22 and then Modules 23-25 from the text.

Text Questions

Refer to the Weekly folder for text questions. Complete your answers in the Assignments Drop Box.

Term Journals

Write out terminology from the chapters. Write out the terms associated with the text questions. Complete your definitions and post to the Assignments Drop Box.

Projects

Article Summary #1 is due – due in the Assignments Drop Box as an attachment only. *Provisions for later submission of this first summary ONLY are explained in the weekly folder.*

Weekly Summary

Have you achieved the objectives for the week? Do you have any concerns about the materials or the course? How well do you think you are doing this week?

WEEK 5:

Topics – conditioning and punishment

Objectives

Describe how biological, psychological, and social factors affect human behavior.

Assignments

Read Modules 27-30 from the text.

Text Questions

Refer to the Weekly folder for text questions.

Term Journals

Write out terminology from the chapter. Write out the terms associated with the text questions.

Group Discussion

Discuss: "Do you feel that there is a negative stigma associated with mental health issues? Do your personal views differ from the general view of society? Why? Do you think someone would be treated differently if people knew they had a mental illness? Are things changing?" Remember - give feedback to others comments. Please post your responses to Discussion Forum.

Weekly Summary

Have you achieved the objectives for the week? Do you have any concerns about the materials or the course? How well do you think you are doing this week?

WEEK 6:

Topics – memory, cognition and IQ

Objectives

Describe how biological, psychological, and social factors affect human behavior. Formulate and understanding that human behavior and the study of psychology has changed over the years.

Assignments

Read Modules 32-35 and then Modules 37-40 from the text.

Text Questions

Complete text questions.

Term Journals

Write out terminology from the chapters. Write out the terms associated with the text questions.

Weekly Summary

Have you achieved the objectives for the week? Do you have any concerns about the materials or the course? How well do you think you are doing this week?

WEEK 7:

Topics - motivation

Objectives

Describe how biological, psychological, and social factors affect human behavior.

Describe how culture, gender, and other groups' identities influence self-awareness and interactions between people.

Formulate and understanding that human behavior and the study of psychology has changed over the years.

Analyze current psychological trends, discoveries, and research.

Assignments

Read Modules 42-44 from the text.

Text Questions

Complete text questions

Term Journals

Write out terminology from the chapter. Write out the terms associated with the text questions.

Group Discussion

Please discuss with your classmates what memory techniques you use for school, test taking, etc. Next, what are the best suggestions, in your opinion, that the authors talk about in the text (see memory modules).

Projects

Article summary #2 is due.

Weekly Summary

Have you achieved the objectives for the week? Do you have any concerns about the materials or the course? How well do you think you are doing this week?

WEEK 8:

Topics – gender/sexuality and personality

Objectives

Describe how biological, psychological, and social factors affect human behavior.

Describe how culture, gender, and other groups' identities influence self-awareness and interactions between people.

Assignments

Read Modules 46-49 and then Modules 50-53 from the text.

Text Questions

Complete text questions

Term Journals

Write out terminology from the chapters. Write out the terms associated with the text questions.

Weekly Summary

Have you achieved the objectives for the week? Do you have any concerns about the materials or the course? How well do you think you are doing this week?

WEEK 9

Topics – health and stress

Objectives

Describe how biological, psychological, and social factors affect human behavior.

Describe how culture, gender, and other groups' identities influence self-awareness and interactions between people.

Analyze current psychological trends, discoveries, and research.

Assignments

Read Modules 55-59 from the text.

Text Questions

Refer to the weekly folder for text questions.

Term Journals

Write out terminology from the chapter. Write out the terms associated with the text questions.

Group Discussion

Does stress affect you mentally, physically, or both? How can you tell when you get stressed? What techniques, if any, do you use for coping? What do the authors recommend?

Weekly Summary

Have you achieved the objectives for the week? Do you have any concerns about the materials or the course? How well do you think you are doing this week? Post this assignment to the Assignments box and label it as Weekly Summary 9, so that it will be between just you and your instructor.

WEEK 10:

Topics – disorders and therapies

Objectives

Define basic psychological terminology and explain important features of major psychological concepts and theories.

Explain how biological, psychological, and social factors can affect behavior.

Assignments

Read Modules 60-63 and then Modules 65-69 from the text.

Text Questions

Complete text questions

Term Journals

Write out terminology from the chapters. Write out the terms associated with the text questions.

Projects

Complete the eLearning instructor evaluation sent through email by the school.

Weekly Summary

Have you achieved the objectives for the week? Do you have any concerns about the materials or the course? How well do you think you are doing this week?

WEEK 11:

Topics – social psychology and business/industry

Objectives

Define psychology and explain how the focus of psychology is different from that of other social and biological sciences.

Describe how culture, gender, and other groups' identities influence self-awareness and interactions between people.

Formulate and understanding that human behavior and the study of psychology has changed over the years.

Assignments

Read Modules 70-73 and then Modules 75-77 from the text.

Text Questions

Complete text questions

Term Journals

Write out terminology from the chapters. Write out the terms associated with the text questions.

Group Discussion

Discuss what you enjoyed most about the class, what you found most interesting, and what was the most important thing you learned from this quarter? Please answer all three questions. Remember - give each other feedback.

Weekly Summary

Have you achieved the objectives for the week? Do you have any concerns about the materials or the course? How well do you think you are doing this week? **This is your last one!!**

Run off study guide and study for Final Exam

WEEK 12:

Assignments

Final examination – must be taken by Day Five, Friday, 8am, of this week, week 12!!! No exceptions – please plan accordingly.