

Psychology 150: Principles of Human Behavior #13970, Spring 2007

Class Location & Times: SH342, M W F 8:00 AM – 8:50 AM

Instructor:	Nancy A. Blum, Ph.D.												
Contact Info:	nancy.blum@csun.edu, (818) 996-7579, www.csun.edu/~drnancyb												
Office:	Sierra Hall 396												
Office hours:	Wednesday 4:00-5:00 PM, ext. 2827 (ext. 7149 only during my office hours)												
Required Text:	Bernstein, D. A., & Nash, P. W. (2008). <i>Essentials of Psychology</i> (4th ed.). Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Company.												
Course Description:	This course is designed to give students an understanding and appreciation of the scientific approach to human behavior, thought, and action, and to provide the basic conceptual framework for studying the cognitive, emotional, and social aspects of human activity.												
Use of this Course:	This course is a lower division undergraduate class that fulfills the General Education Section D, Social Sciences requirement. It is required of all psychology majors.												
Course Objectives:	The primary objective of this course is to provide an overview of major areas of psychology including physiological, learning, cognitive, motivation, developmental, health, personality, clinical, and social psychology.												
Course Requirements:	<p>Students are expected to attend all classes, participate in class discussion and experiential exercises, and complete all reading assignments prior to each meeting. Brief out-of-class assignments and written assignments may be required, as may class presentations. No extra credit assignments will be accepted.</p> <p>The Psychology Department requires all students in PSY 150 courses to participate in experimental research studies for a total of 2.5 hours or 10 credits (15 minutes = 1 credit). This participation is designed to teach about the experimental research process and provide a service to researchers conducting scientific experiments at this university. Students will receive an incomplete for the course if this obligation is not met.</p> <p>Students are expected to check the course website (see above) regularly for communication from the instructor, e.g., announcements, test scores, study guides, handouts including in-class activities. Students are expected to download and print out handouts for the specified class meeting, and bring the handout to class.</p> <p>To create an atmosphere of mutual respect, please arrive at class early, remain seated for the entire class, and leave on time, as chronic tardiness, walking around, and leaving early are disruptive to classroom instruction. Please turn off all cell phones and pagers before entering the classroom. Avoid chatting, instant messaging, and text messaging. If you are unable to attend class due to illness or emergency, please consult with other students regarding the class materials missed. It is not necessary to contact me if you must miss a class. However, more than 2 unexcused absences will result in a lowered grade.</p>												
Evaluation:	All exams will be entirely objective (all multiple choice). Mid-term exams will be 45-min long. The final exam will be 115 minutes long and will cover new material as well as cumulative material covered on previous tests.												
<i>Evaluation method by percentage of the total grade:</i>													
<table border="1"><tr><td>Class attendance and knowledge, respectful in-class behavior, and participation in discussions and activities</td><td>15%</td></tr><tr><td>Outside class activity (participation in research study)</td><td>10%</td></tr><tr><td>Mid-term exam # 1</td><td>15%</td></tr><tr><td>Mid-term exam # 2</td><td>15%</td></tr><tr><td>Mid-term exam #3</td><td>15%</td></tr><tr><td>Final exam</td><td>30%</td></tr></table>		Class attendance and knowledge, respectful in-class behavior, and participation in discussions and activities	15%	Outside class activity (participation in research study)	10%	Mid-term exam # 1	15%	Mid-term exam # 2	15%	Mid-term exam #3	15%	Final exam	30%
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Evaluation (continued): Grades for each test will be assigned on a curve. Specifically, the student(s) with the fewest incorrect answers (e.g., 4 wrong answers) will receive a perfect score (e.g., 25 out of 25 points). Their number of mistakes becomes a bonus for the rest of the class. For example, if another student has 6 wrong answers, with the 4 bonus points, it counts as only 2 wrong answers ($6 - 4 = 2$) or 23 out of 25 points. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing in any form, you will receive a failing grade for the course and be reported to the university for appropriate disciplinary action.

The instructor will be no more stringent than the following overall percentages in assigning final course grades:

93.0% to 100.0%	A	73.0% to 76.99%	C
90.0% to 92.99%	A-	70.0% to 72.99%	C-
87.0% to 89.99%	B+	67.0% to 69.99%	D+
83.0% to 86.99%	B	63.0% to 66.99%	D
80.0% to 82.99%	B-	60.0% to 62.99%	D-
77.0% to 79.99%	C+	<60.0%	F

Tentative Course Calendar

Monday		Wednesday		Friday	
Jan 29	Ch 1 Introduction to the Science of Psychology	Jan 31	Ch 1 (continued)	Feb 2	Ch 1 (continued)
Feb 5	Ch 2 Biology and Behavior	Feb 7	Ch 2 (continued)	Feb 9	Ch 2 (continued)
Feb 12	Ch 3 Sensation and Perception	Feb 14	Ch 3 (continued)	Feb 16	Ch 3 (continued)
Feb 19	Ch 4 Consciousness	Feb 21	Ch 4 (continued)	Feb 23	Exam #1 (Chapters 1 through 4)
Feb 26	Ch 5 Learning	Feb 28	Ch 5 (continued)	Mar 2	Ch 5 (continued)
Mar 5	Ch 6 Memory	Mar 7	Ch 6 (continued)	Mar 9	Ch 6 (continued)
Mar 12	Ch 7 Thought, Language, & Intelligence	Mar 14	Ch 7 (continued)	Mar 16	Ch 7 (continued)
Mar 19	Ch 8 Motivation & Emotion	Mar 21	Ch 8 (continued)	Mar 23	Video TBA
Mar 26	Ch 8 (continued)	Mar 28	Exam #2 (Chapters 5 through 8)	Mar 30	<i>Cesar Chavez Holiday No class</i>
Apr 2	<i>Spring recess</i>	Apr 4	<i>Spring recess</i>	Apr 6	<i>Spring recess</i>
Apr 9	Ch 9 Human Development	Apr 11	Ch 9 (continued)	Apr 13	Ch 9 (continued)
Apr 16	Ch 10 Health, Stress, & Coping	Apr 18	Ch 10 (continued)	Apr 20	Ch 10 (continued) / Ch 11 Personality
Apr 23	Ch 11 (continued)	Apr 25	Ch 11 (continued)	Apr 27	Exam #3 (Chapters 9-11)
Apr 30	Ch 12 Psychological Disorders	May 2	Ch 12 (continued)	May 4	Ch 12 (continued)
May 7	Ch 13 Treatment of Psychological Disorders	May 9	Ch 13 (continued)	May 11	Ch 13 (continued)
May 14	Ch 14 Social Psychology	May 16	Ch 14 (continued)	May 18	Ch 14 (continued)
May 21	<i>Good luck studying for the final!</i>	May 23	8:00 AM to 10:00 AM Final Exam		<i>Have a great summer!</i>

Additional Course Policies

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities must register with the Center on Disabilities and complete a services agreement each semester. Staff within the Center will verify the existence of a disability based on the documentation provided and approve accommodations. Students who are approved for testing taking accommodations must provide the instructor with a proctor form signed by a counselor in the Center on Disabilities prior to making testing arrangements. The Center on Disabilities is located in Bayramian Hall, room 110. Staff can be reached at (818) 677-2684.

Make-up Exams: Make-up exams are discouraged! They will be given only when a student is ill or is facing some serious emergency. Written verification is required. In those instances when a make-up exam is necessary, it is the student's responsibility to 1) contact the instructor immediately (call 818-996-7579) and **prior** to the regularly scheduled exam to request the make-up exam; and 2) schedule a make-up exam as soon as the problem has passed. Make-up exams are administered by the Psychology Department only during one two-hour period each week. Students are expected to alter their class or work schedule to take the make-up exam. The final exam must be taken with the class at the scheduled time during finals week (see the Policy on Incompletes).

Policy on Incompletes: Permission to take an "incomplete" must be received by the instructor before semester grades are due. A special form is required; and it is the student's responsibility to obtain one (available in the Administration Building), fill it out, and turn it in to the instructor. An "incomplete" should be requested only for serious or emergency reasons such as illness on the day of the final exam. A missing final exam is expected to be made up in a short period of time — within a few weeks of the beginning of the next semester — unless extremely unusual circumstances prevail. Please note: If an exam is missing, and an authorized incomplete has not been requested, the instructor will assign a grade of "U" (unauthorized incomplete). The grade eventually and automatically reverts to an "F."