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## 1.0 Course Description

Course section/name: PSY 1013-009, Introduction to Psychology  
Meeting Time: MW 5:30 PM to 6:45 PM  
Meeting Location: HSS 2.01.36  
Prerequisites: None, this is an introductory course  
Blackboard: <http://bb.utsa.edu>

## 2.0 Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is to provide students an opportunity to learn about the field of psychology. Psychology is the scientific study of behavior in humans and other species. This course will cover:

- History of psychology
- Methods in psychological research
- Evolution and behavior
- Brain and behavior
- Learning and memory
- Human cognition and artificial intelligence
- Personality
- Social psychology
- Abnormal/Clinical psychology

## 3.0 Instructor Information

Professor: Dr. Ray Lopez  
Office Location: HSS 4.04.22  
Voice mail: 210.460.0246  
Email: [ray.lopez@utsa.edu](mailto:ray.lopez@utsa.edu)  
Office Hours: Wednesday after class or by appointment if desired  
Facebook: Join *Dr. Lopez' Students Group*  
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/drlopezgroup/>

About your professor: Dr. Lopez is an adjunct professor (i.e., part-time) in the psychology department at UTSA. Dr. Lopez earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from The University of Texas, and master of science and doctoral degree in experimental physiological psychology from UT Arlington. He is the Chief Technology and Innovation Officer for the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. Prior to working at HACU, Dr. Lopez was a lead system engineer at USAA, a managing consultant with IBM Global Services, a consultant with EDS, and technology director for a couple of dotcoms. While working for these companies, Dr. Lopez worked on a very wide variety of projects with many different clients in the public and private sectors. Prior to working in information technology, Dr. Lopez was a research scientist in the pharmacology department at UTHSCSA. He is happily married and has two great kids.

## 4.0 Textbooks

**Required Text:** Nairne, J. (2009). *Psychology, 5 ed.* Wadsworth Publishers, Boston.  
**Recommended Text:** *Study Guide for Psychology, 5 ed.*

## 5.0 Exam Policies

### 5.1 Number of Exams:

There are a total of four exams to be given during the semester. Three of these exams will be given during the regular semester. A Final Exam will be given during the final exam time period for this course. All exams are mandatory, you must take all four of them. If you do not show up for any exam, you will receive a grade of zero for that exam and that grade will be used to compute your final grade.

### 5.2 Exam Types:

All four exams will consist of 65 multiple choice questions. Unless otherwise noted, the questions will cover all pages of each chapter that was lectured on since the previous exam. No cumulative exams will be given in this course.

### 5.3 Final Exam:

The final exam will be given during the designated final exam time for this course. See the course calendar below. The final exam is NOT cumulative and will be just like the exams administered during the semester. **The final exam is MANDATORY.** If you do NOT show up for the final exam, you will receive a grade of zero for that exam and that grade will be used to compute your final grade.

### 5.4 Materials for each exam

For each exam, bring a pair of number "2" pencils and a Scantron Sheet Form 882.

### 5.5 "Make Up" Exams

No make up exams will be given. If you miss an exam you will receive a zero for that exam, and that grade will be the lowest grade dropped before calculating your course grade. See "Grading Policy" below.

Dates for the tests are already provided in this syllabus so please make note of these dates. If you foresee a scheduling problem (such as university-sanctioned reasons, medical operation, religious holy day), notify the professor as soon as possible with **the latest of A WEEK BEFORE the WEEK OF THE SCHEDULED EXAM.** Students are responsible for notifying the instructor. Professional documentation should be turned in as early as possible BEFORE the scheduled exam. A rescheduled test date for these university-sanctioned reasons is not given if notification of missing the exam is made DURING OR AFTER its scheduled week and time.

### 5.6 Posting of exam grades

Grades for the exams will be posted in Blackboard.

## 5.7 Procedures for administering each exam

Although very few students actually cheat on exams, it is the responsibility of a professor to initiate precautions during the test session to insure that NO students have unfair access to test-relevant information. Some students do not like these precautionary rules because it seems to suggest (unintentionally) that the professor does not trust them at a personal level. However, an increasing number of students understand and appreciate the need for such general precautions as a way to insure overall fairness in the testing procedure and equitable treatment across students. Given this understanding, all students in this class are expected to comply with the following procedure during an exam:

1. All students MUST show their UTSA ID if/when he/she is asked to show it.
2. If possible, students on each row should leave at least one seat vacant between themselves.
3. Caps, hoods, scarves, or any head-and-face clothing article should NOT be worn during the test period. If you must wear a head covering for religious or medical reasons, just make sure your eyes are visible at all times.
4. ALL personal belongings (e.g., purses, backpacks, briefcase) should be stored UNDER the student's seat and/or desk.
5. ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES should be DEACTIVATED and REMOVED from the desk top. They should be stored away such that there is NO easy access to them during the exam. Do not use an electronic device to store your exam number. Any student found using any electronic device during an exam, for any reason, will receive a grade of zero for that exam.
6. NO other paper besides those required for the exam should be on or around the student's desk during the exam.
7. Students should take reasonable steps to COVER their answers on the scantron sheet and other exam sheets.
8. NO student should communicate (verbally or nonverbally) with another student once the exams are passed out.
9. **NO student will be permitted to leave the classroom FOR ANY REASON during the test period. (A written excuse about a medical condition should be given to the professor PRIOR to the WEEK OF THE EXAM).**
10. Any student arriving LATE for an exam will be allowed to take the exam, but only if NO OTHER STUDENTS HAVE COMPLETED THE EXAM OR EXITED THE LECTURE HALL. If you arrive late and someone has already walked out the doors before you arrived, you will receive a grade of zero for that exam.
11. Students should sign their names on all exam materials, answer sheets, and the COVER PAGE.

These rules will be listed on every exam as a reminder.

## 6.0 Grading Policy

### 6.1 Calculation of final grade average

If you **do not miss taking any exams**, your final grade for this course will be calculated by averaging the two highest grades from the first three exams, along with the grade you earn on the final. Thus, the lowest grade you earn FROM THE FIRST THREE EXAMS will be DROPPED.

If you **do miss taking one of the first three exams**, your final grade for this course will be calculated by averaging the zero grade and the highest grade from the first three exams, along with the grade you earn on the final. Note that the zero grade you earn on a missed exam will NOT be dropped.

Note that the **Final Exam grade will NOT be dropped**. Even if you miss the Final Exam, that zero will be used to calculate your final grade average.

### 6.2 Assigning of letter grade based on final grade average

Once your final grade average is calculated it will be used to assign a letter grade according to the following chart:

Final Grade Average	Final Letter Grade
=> 90	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
< 60	F

### 6.3 Example grade calculation

Let's say that a student named Chuck U. Farley has earned the following grades on the first three exams:

- Exam 1: 78
- Exam 2: 60 (Chuck's lowest grade)
- Exam 3: 97

Then Chuck takes the Final Exam, and makes a 91.

Chuck's lowest grade from his first 3 exams is a 60 (on Exam 2). So that grade would be dropped, then the other two grades plus the Final Exam grade would be averaged together to calculate Chuck's final grade average:

$$(78 + 97 + 91) / 3 = 88.67$$

A final grade average of 88.67 would give Chuck U. Farley a "B" grade for the course.

## **6.4 Extra Credit Policy**

There is no extra credit available for this course. Please don't ask.

## **6.5 Earning Research Credits**

If you do not earn the required number of research credits during the semester you will receive a grade of INCOMPLETE for the course. See the section below.

## **7.0 Mandatory Participation in Experiments**

### **7.1 Overview**

As introductory psychology students, you get to take part in a long-standing academic tradition, that of being a subject in psychological research studies. The Department of Psychology at UTSA has a very robust research program, and these researchers use the introductory psychology student pool as a source for research subjects. These studies provide students an invaluable opportunity to understand first-hand some of the different types of psychological research that they will be learning about in this course.

### **7.2 Research studies**

The studies themselves cover a broad range of areas. Typically, each study will require you to spend 15-30 minutes either in a lab at UTSA or online, and you will be filling out questionnaires or doing other activities associated with the experiment. There are no medical procedures or similar manipulations involved, and you will be briefed on the details of the experiment following your participation.

### **7.3 Earning Research Credits**

To satisfy the requirement of research participation for this course, each student must earn a certain number of research credits during the course of the semester. Details on how to earn credits, how many to earn, and how those credits are tracked appear on the yellow hand-out sheet accompanying this syllabus.

Participation in these studies is mandatory. If you do not earn the required number of research credits before the end of the semester, you will receive an incomplete grade for the course, and then you'll have to satisfy the research requirement during the next long semester.

## **8.0 Attendance Policy**

### **8.1 Overview**

Attendance will only be taken at the beginning of the semester, and again right before

the census date.

Dr. Lopez reserves the right to take attendance during any lecture session, and may use these random attendance checks to award extra credit on the final course grade.

Note that your professors do have pictures of you in ASAP, and do recognize you if you come to class regularly and participate in the discussions. This type of dedicated attendance can usually work wonders on your grade.

## **8.2 Arriving late and leaving early**

If you must arrive late to class or leave early, please 1) Let Dr. Lopez know ahead of time, and 2) do NOT sit up front and disrupt the class when you arrive or leave.

## **9.0 Lecture Policy**

### **9.1 Lecture slides**

All lecture slides are posted online at the Blackboard site for this course (PDF format).

### **9.2 Policy during lectures**

Students who continually disrupt the class by engaging in horseplay or disruptive lecture-irrelevant conversations will be given two verbal warnings to stop. After the second warning, if the students continue with the disruptive behavior, they will be asked to leave the classroom. A petition will be submitted to the Dean's office to drop the disruptive students from the class roster after they have been asked to leave the room. Those dropped from the roster will receive a grade of "F". A student who enrolls at the University is charged with the obligation to conduct himself/herself in a manner compatible with the University's function as an educational institution. Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. To assure all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, students are prohibited from engaging in any form of distraction.

### **9.3 Other key rules during lectures**

1. Electronic devices are allowed during the class lectures ONLY if they are used to take down lecture notes and are inaudible.
2. If you are going to use electronic devices for lecture-note taking, you should **SIT TOWARD THE FRONT OF THE CLASS**. There should be **NO** web-surfing or any other Internet-related activity that is not associated with the class. **Failure to comply with this rule will result in your losing your privilege to use your device for note taking.**
3. **Cell phones**, other text messaging devices, music/video players are **NOT allowed**. Please turn them off.
4. Absolutely, NO TEXT MESSAGING, Facebooking, instant messaging, emailing, or

tweeting during class.

5. If you are expecting an important call for whatever reason, put your cell phone in vibrate mode and step outside of the class to take the call.
6. Recorders (of any kind) are absolutely **not** allowed in class. This rule includes any VOICE MEMO capabilities in any electronic device. **TURN IT OFF.**

## 10.0 Student Instructor (SI) Sessions

This course has an assigned Student Instructor (SI). This person is a student who has taken the course, and is charged with providing extra study sessions to aid students in understanding the materials. This is a great resource and you are encouraged to participate in the study sessions. In addition, the SI will answer questions online in the Blackboard forums.

## 11.0 Disabled Student Services

### 11.1 Overview

Instructional support services are available to students with documented disabilities through the **Office of Disabled Student Services (DSS)**, MS 2.03.18. Contact 458-4157 to make arrangements to access these services. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Notify the course instructor of your requested use of DSS **ASAP**. A letter from DSS should be given to the instructor for documentation.

### 11.2 Legal definitions

“Disability” refers to physical **AND/OR** mental, emotional, psychological dysfunction. Do **NOT** be embarrassed about seeking assistance with DSS. DSS is set up specifically to help students.

“Documented” means that the disability must be backed by some professional verification, such as medical doctor, psychiatrist, therapist, counselor, etc. Verification must be in writing. DSS requires it. “Documentation” does **NOT** mean a note from one’s mother, spouse, minister, etc.

## 12.0 Academic Dishonesty

### 12.1 UTSA Policy

UTSA Roadrunner Creed and Honor code are available at the following links. You are required to read these documents and understand the fact that the University takes academic dishonesty very seriously.

Creed: <http://www.utsa.edu/about/creed>

Honor Code: <http://www.utsa.edu/about/creed/honorcode.html>



## **12.2 Course Policy**

Dr. Lopez does not deal gently with those who cheat on his exams. If you cheat on any of Dr. Lopez' exams, you will suffer mightily.

## **13.0 Dropping the course**

Please check the semester calendar on ASAP to determine when the course drop deadline is. It is not possible to drop the class after the deadline has passed.

## **14.0 Summary of Policies and Expectations**

- 1. Learn. Be open-minded. If you make mistakes, remember that mistakes do not make you. Keep trying and doing. It's one of the best ways to learn. Work hard.**
2. Don't leave class early unless you've already informed the professor you need to do so.
3. Don't lie, cheat, or plagiarize. This code of honor includes reporting anyone you know is cheating.
4. Show up for class and at least act like you are interested.
5. Don't whine or give excuses. Stop acting like a child (NO temper tantrums). Act like a **responsible** adult. Conduct yourself appropriately.
6. Respect and be courteous to your classmates.

## 15.0 Course Calendar

Date	Day	Topic	Reading
24 Aug	W	Introduction to course	NA
29 Aug	M	Introduction to psychology	Ch. 1
31 Aug	W	“	“
5 Sep	M	Tools of psychological research	Ch. 2
7 Sep	W	“	“
12 Sep	M	Biological processes	Ch. 3
14 Sep	W	“	“
<b>19 Sep</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Exam 1: Ch's 1, 2, 3</b>	
21 Sep	W	Human development	Ch. 4
26 Sep	M	“	“
28 Sep	W	Sensation and perception	Ch. 5
3 Oct	M	Consciousness	Ch. 6
5 Oct	W	Learning from experience	Ch. 7
10 Oct	M	“	“
<b>12 Oct</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>Exam 2: Ch's 4, 5, 6, 7</b>	
17 Oct	M	Memory	Ch. 8
19 Oct	W	Language and thought	Ch. 9
24 Oct	M	“	“
26 Oct	W	Intelligence	Ch. 10
31 Oct	M	No class!	NA
2 Nov	W	Motivation and emotion	Ch. 11
7 Nov	M	Personality	Ch. 12
9 Nov	W	“	“
<b>14 Nov</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Exam 3: Ch's 8, 9, 10, 11, 12</b>	
16 Nov	W	Social psychology	Ch. 13
21 Nov	M	“	“
23 Nov	W	Psychological disorders	Ch. 14
28 Nov	M	“	“
30 Nov	W	Therapy	Ch. 15
5 Dec	M	“	“
7 Dec	W	Stress and health	Ch. 16
<b>12 Dec</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Final Exam: Ch's 13, 14, 15, 16</b>	

In case of inclement weather call 458-SNOW to see if classes are meeting.