

**PSYCHOLOGY 101**  
***Introduction to Psychology as a Social Science***  
***Fall 2003***

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Course Instructors (4 or 5):  
Will be selected by Fall 2003

**WELCOME!**

We're pleased to be a part of your first journey into the world of psychology. For many of you, this is also your first venture into a social science core course. We hope that you will find that the way you will be learning in this course is a satisfying alternative to traditional methods of instruction.

PSY 101 at the University of Nevada is different from any other course you have ever taken (or probably ever will). Rather than have weekly lectures, smaller discussion groups are offered. You will take your quizzes online in the Learning Lab – where you will receive immediate online grading and feedback. Proctoring is offered following these quizzes for feedback or additional help. In addition to the proctored quizzes, there is one traditional unit exam and one cumulative final. We hope you enjoy the nontraditional structure of the course and provide feedback so that we may constantly improve our system. If you do not feel that this type of self-paced system is right for you, please know that PSY 101 is taught using the traditional lecture method during the summer semester.

The PSY 101 teaching staff includes:

- Course Director: Plans, manages, modifies, and evaluates the course, and basically does whatever it takes to ensure that learning is always taking place.
- Assistant to the Director: Provides assistance to the Director regarding course development and management of the system. Responds to students' questions and concerns associated with their records and technology related issues (e.g., problems with Webct, scheduler system, etc.).
- Lab Coordinator: Manages the lab and resolves issues and concerns in the Learning Lab.
- Course Instructors: Conduct group discussions related to the assigned chapters, monitor and update all student course records, supervise the proctors, and may serve as a proctor.
- Proctor: An undergraduate student who has been selected for his or her mastery of the course content, maturity of judgment, and interpersonal skills. The proctor will assist you in mastering the course content.
- Lab Manager: assists the Lab Coordinator with management of the daily operations of the Learning Lab.

**Textbook**

Gray (2002). *Psychology (4th ed.)*. New York, NY: Worth Publishers.

**Learning Lab (EJCH 253)**

Lab Hours: **Monday through Thursday: 8:00am - 8:00pm**  
**Friday: 8:00am - 5:00pm**

The Learning Lab is where you will meet with discussion leaders and proctors, and where you will take ALL quizzes and exams (see Course Schedule for quiz and exam dates/times). The lab is located in room 253 on the second floor of Cain Hall (Old Education Building). You must schedule a discussion or quiz appointment on the quiz scheduler to come to the lab and take or attend either of these. You may ONLY call the lab for canceling

appointments and when there are quiz scheduler complications. You **must** present a photo ID to the lab staff in order to take a quiz (i.e., student identification, drivers license, passport, etc.).

### **Accessing the Psychology 101 Website**

Address: <http://webct.unr.edu> (there is no "www")

Username: the last six digits of your R number (indicated on your UNR ID)

Password: your social security number (no spaces, or dashes)

You will establish your username and password with the assistance of a PSY 101 staff member at the orientation. You may access the website from home or school. The PSY 101 website contains a wealth of information designed to help you succeed in the course. It includes study guides for the quizzes, online tutorials and demonstrations, a glossary, the course calendar, your current scores and grades, and much more. You are encouraged to explore the website thoroughly.

## **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Orientation –**

In order to acquire a full understanding of our nontraditional system of instruction, you are required to attend an hour of orientation during the second and third weeks of the semester.

This orientation will include: - attendance and how to access the PSY 101 website (10 pts.)

- establishment of your PSY 101 website account (10 pts.)

- establishment of your web scheduler account (10 pts.)

- completion of a brief set of questions regarding the subject matter for this course (20 pts.)

You need to sign up for the orientation sessions during your scheduled class meetings at the beginning of the semester. The sign up sheet will be handed out during your scheduled class sessions, the first week of the semester. All appointments for quizzes, exams and group discussion sessions will be made by using a web based scheduler program (quiz scheduler) that can be accessed from home or any computer with Netscape or Internet Explorer 4.0 from the PSY 101 homepage.

### **Group Discussions –**

You will be required to attend a specified number of discussion sessions (there are 10 offered, one for each chapter) throughout the semester. Schedule these sessions on the web-based scheduler and come prepared (read the chapter).

You are more than welcome to attend any additional discussion sessions throughout the course of the semester as a studying technique. Each discussion will last one hour. The course instructors will conduct these discussion sessions.

If you wish to work ahead or want additional help, you may schedule one-on-one proctoring sessions that will give you the same credit as a regular discussion group. You must schedule one week prior to the appointment.

### **Writing Assignment –**

You will be required to prepare a 4-page (double-spaced, typed) report. The specific instructions regarding this assignment will be provided during the first week of the Fall semester 2003.

### **CyberRat Assignment**

You will be required to interact with a CyberRat and shape its behavior using operant principles. This assignment will last approximately 4 hours. The specific instructions regarding this assignment will be provided during the first week of the Fall semester 2003.

## **QUIZZES**

### **Chapter Quizzes –**

*Deadlines: Fridays of each week by 5:00p.m.*

Quizzes will contain 15 multiple-choice questions. There will be 10 chapter quizzes. Each quiz is available for one week, during which you may take the quiz multiple times, but only once per day. There is no penalty for retesting and your highest score will be kept for your grade.

To take a quiz:

- Get online (<http://webct.unr.edu>) and schedule a time and date to take the quiz
- Present a school I.D. at the learning lab at your scheduled time (you **must** have your I.D.)
- Leave book bags on shelves located in the testing room

- Plan for 20 minutes to take your quiz (no quizzes will be given within 20 minutes of the lab closing) (plan on 60 minutes for midterm and final exam)
- **You may not take a quiz and exam in the same day**

After the quiz:

- You can discuss the quiz with a proctor when you are done: do not exit the quiz, but allow a proctor to look at any questions you might have. You may then exit the quiz and speak with them outside of the testing area. Note that they will discuss the quiz with you but will not “give” you the correct answer.
- You have the option of retaking the quiz, **once per day**, until the deadline for that specific quiz.
- If you wish to take a quiz ahead of the scheduled week for that quiz, you must obtain a 13 on a given chapter before being allowed to take the quiz for the next chapter.
- After the quiz deadline has passed, you will be able to take the quiz on the next chapter regardless of your score on the previous chapter’s quiz

The Course Schedule contains dates for completing the course requirements, this establishes a minimum pace. You may work ahead if you wish. If you fail to meet the deadlines, you will receive a “zero” for the missed quiz, exam, etc. Exceptions will be made on an individual basis (medical and family emergencies, etc.). It may appear harsh, but based on previous experience the minimum pace is adequate for any student who seriously wishes to engage with the course material.

Again, all quizzes, exams, and group discussion sessions can be scheduled through the website (web scheduler icon). Do not procrastinate! Spots are limited close to deadlines. Make sure to keep your appointment, if you cannot, call and cancel your appointment *one hour* in advance. If you do not cancel, or if you are more than 10 minutes late for your appointment, you will lose one point off your highest quiz score for a given chapter. This contingency may seem harsh, but when you do not cancel or when you arrive late your classmates suffer the consequences.

### **Syllabus Quiz –**

When you come to the lab to take Quiz 1, you will also be required to take the 15-question Syllabus Quiz. The purpose of this quiz is to prompt you to read the syllabus very carefully, ensuring your success in getting organized for this course. *You may only take the Syllabus Quiz once*, so make sure you are prepared for it!

## **EXAMS**

(no discussion groups offered and there are no retakes)

### **Unit Exam –**

The unit exam is similar to traditional midterms and contains 60 multiple-choice items. Unfortunately, due to time and space restrictions, you may not retake a unit exam, nor can you receive proctoring. You take the unit exam in the Learning Lab once you have completed the first five quizzes.

As mentioned earlier, all appointments for exams will be made by using the web based scheduler program that can be accessed from home or any computer with Netscape or Internet Explorer 4.0.

### **Final Exam –**

The final exam will be comprehensive (over all assigned chapters) and will consist of 120 multiple-choice items. It can be taken in the PSY 101 Learning Lab at any time throughout the semester, provided that you have (1) taken all 10 quizzes and the unit exam (2) completed your writing assignment (3) participated in one psychology experiment (research participation), and (4) completed a course evaluation form (located in the PSY 101 Learning Lab.) You may not retake the final exam, nor will you receive proctoring. You sign up for the final exam just as you would unit exams. *If you have followed all this, you will realize that you can pace yourself to finish this course well before the end of the semester!*

### **Sexual Assault Prevention and Counseling Program (SAPAC) Assignment –**

Website: <http://www.scs.unr.edu/~sapac> (also a link on the PSY 101 website)

The Sexual Assault Prevention and Counseling program at UNR has a website where you will learn about sexual assault and how to decrease the likelihood of being sexually assaulted or committing a sexual assault. When you log on to the SAPAC home page, there will be a link for PSY 101 students. From there you will find information on prevention programs. After this section, there will be two links: one for females and one for males. After double clicking on the appropriate link, you will find interactive material on the topic of sexual assault.

When you have completed this module, you will be required to complete a quiz on the material. You **do not** take this quiz in the PSY 101 Learning Lab – you can access it from any computer connected to the World Wide Web (at home, the library, etc.). The SAPAC Quiz is available by following the same “Quizzes” link on the PSY 101 web page that you use to take chapter quizzes.

### EXTRA CREDIT

*You may complete 6 units of extra credit assignments. The specific information regarding the extra credit activities and associated points will be specified during the first week of the Fall semester 2003.*

### Walk-ins

All quizzes and discussion groups will be scheduled through the website (web scheduler icon). Walk-ins will only be permitted Monday through Thursday. People who have scheduled will have first priority and walk-ins will only be allowed if there is an empty space. If you choose to try and walk-in on a Friday, you will be allowed if there is a space, but your name will be recorded and **2 pts. deducted** from your final grade in the class.

The Psychology Department is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with documented physical disabilities or documents learning disabilities. University policy states that it is the responsibility of students with documented disabilities to contact instructors during the first week of each semester to discuss appropriate accommodations to ensure equity in grading, classroom experiences, and outside assignments. The instructor will meet with the student and staff members of the Student Services Center to formulate a written plan for appropriate accommodations, if required.

### COURSE SCHEDULE & DEADLINES

Aug 25– 29	Introduction (required attendance)
Sep 2 – 5	Orientation in Learning Lab (lab opens)
Sep 8 – 12	Orientation in Learning Lab

**OTHER DEADLINES WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE SYLLABUS THAT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF THE FALL SEMESTER 2003.**