





2. variability and continuity of behavior and mental processes within and across species
3. free will versus determinism
4. subjective versus objective observations
5. the interaction of mind and body

Students will be able to enumerate evidence underlying beliefs about behavior—

- a. Recognize major perspectives of psychology (e.g., behavioral, biological, cognitive, evolutionary, humanistic, psychodynamic, and sociocultural).
  1. Compare and contrast major perspectives
  2. Describe advantages and limitations of major theoretical perspectives
- b. Recognize different research methods used by psychologists.
  1. Describe how various research designs address different types of questions and hypotheses
  2. Articulate strengths and limitations of various research designs
  3. Distinguish the nature of designs that permit causal inferences from those that do not

Students will demonstrate an influence of psychological principles on their behavior, specifically study strategies

- a. Demonstrate self-regulation in setting and achieving goals  
Regular and spaced study sessions in the form of recall practice quizzes
- b. Assess your own performance accurately  
Use feedback from quizzes and study plan to realistically assess own knowledge

Students will write short essays with concise clear statements that directly address an issue (*essays not required this semester*)

- a. Demonstrate professional writing conventions (e.g., grammar, audience awareness, formality) appropriate to purpose and context. This should be apparent in all of your written work and communications with the instructor including email.

#### Assessment of Learning

Grades will be based ~80% on Exams that cover several chapters, ~10% on Quizzes over the media assignments, and ~10% on chapter exams. Knowledge of the material in the textbook and online material as well as successful completion of assignments will be demonstrated by correctly answering multiple choice questions about the content of the textbook and the application of concepts.

## Pacing For This Course & Planning For Exams

You may work ahead of the scheduled course deadlines that appear in the course calendar in MyPsychLab, but you may not fall behind. You may work ahead to accommodate exams in other classes or a complicated life/work schedule, or you may work ahead because you wish to complete the entire course in a few weeks.

Late exams are accepted, but each day late reduces the score by 20 percentage points. Late assignments and chapter exams entail a 33% penalty for every day late. *All assignments and exams are listed in the calendar in MyPsychLab.*

If you must take an exam late because of a death in your family or your own illness, you will not be penalized if you document your reason. *prepare early*

## Excused absences

Absences will be reflected in missed or late exams or assignments or failure to turn in a pop quiz or in-class assignment. If you miss 2 or more weeks of classwork, or two exams, as a result of *excused*

circumstances, you are allowed to retake an exam, the second score will be the one recorded and the first score is automatically erased.

Review Questions. All exams except the first one include review questions from previous chapters. These usually involve critical thinking and the scientific approach to studying behavior. A quick review should help you answer these and the frequent reviews will help you when it comes time to study for the Final exam. Reviewing is important to consolidate your long-term memory.

**Course Pretest and Posttest:** I want to know how much you learn in this course. Accordingly, there will be a Course Pretest given the first week of the course. Be sure to answer the separate question about whether you have ever had another course in psychology, either in high school or in college. These will not affect your grade in this course but will help us evaluate how well the course is working.

## Grading Scale\*

A = 92.5 - 100%

A- = 90 - 92.49%

B+ = 87.5 - 89.99%

B = 82.5 - 87.49%

B- = 80 - 82.49%

C+ = 77.5 - 79.99%

C = 72.5 - 77.49%

C- = 70 - 72.49%

D+ = 67.5 - 69.99%

D = 62.5 - 67.49%

D- = 60 - 62.49%

F = 59.9% and below

W - if you withdraw from the course after the end of the drop period.

IN - Incomplete grades are only assigned in extraordinary circumstances beyond the student's control and only if the student has completed at least 10 exams with a passing grade. Under no circumstances will a student be allowed to retake an entire course in order to complete this course.

Not Attending - Failure to do assignments and take exams will be reported to the registrar and such non-attendance may affect your financial aid.

\*The percentage is determined by dividing your total points by the total points possible on assignments and exams; assignments and chapter exams are totaled and given a weight of 10% each, exams are totaled and given a weight of 80%.

## Topics for class discussion

If you have questions or comments about human or animal behavior that we are studying, please email me and I will answer either in class or by email. In class, I want to cover not only topics that I think students find difficult, but also topics that you have questions or doubts about. Please submit your suggestions for class discussion by 10 am on Monday before the class meets. [Anyone can submit topics, but you may be specifically assigned that task in class.](#)

If you still have questions about how this course works after reading the syllabus carefully, please email me so I can clarify it. If you need technical help with Blackboard, contact the

help desk at Learning Ventures. If you have trouble logging in to MyPsychLab, let me know and also contact the Support service at MyPsychLab-Mastering. Such problems are almost always due to Browser settings so follow the instructions carefully.

Who is this invisible instructor? To learn more about me, go to my [web page](#). There you will find lists of scientific publications about my research (there are some surprises there--how many of your other instructors have done experiments with elephants, cows, pigs, and bats!)? I have a few interests outside teaching: I love to garden (my favorite plants are beans), and I am a Master Gardener. I have a flock of lovely hens. I recently took a Distance Learning course from OSU so I am much better at seeing courses from a student's point of view. I have achieved a life goal—to become a grandmother (three times). I am also a black belt in Shaolin Kempo Karate although I don't practice as much as I used to.

You may now be ready to take the first test in this course. Take the Course Pretest immediately and answer the question about Prior Psychology Courses. These will not affect your grade but they will show me how much you learn in this course and how much you already know about psychology. . . . and remember to be a little skeptical.