INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

PSYCHOLOGY 150–A
FALL 2011

SYLLABUS (MYWOFFORD)
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RMSC 231C

Goals
• Knowledge base of psychology
• Research methods
• Critical thinking
• Applications of psychology
• Values of psychology

SYLLABUS

Grading
• Exams (3) each worth 15% of final grade
• Cumulative final worth 20% of final grade
• Laboratory assignments (3) each worth 10% of final grade
• Oral presentation worth 5%

Calendar
• Exam 1 October 3 – Chaps 1+2, 3, 6, 5 (Neuroscience)
• Exam 2 November 4 – Chaps 4, 7, 8, 9 (Cognitive)
• Exam 3 December 2 – Chaps 12, 13, 14 (Social/Clinical)
• Cumulative Final - December 12 (9-12) plus Chapter 16

“Do’s” and “Don’ts”

Expectations

How to be successful in the class.
True or False?

1. People usually fall in love with someone very different from themselves.
2. Some people dream at night; others seldom dream.
3. Most people would refuse to obey an authority who told them to hurt an innocent person.
4. People with one eye still see in 3D
5. Most Moms are depressed for a time after their children grow up and leave home.
6. Advertisers cannot shape our buying habits through subliminal messages.
7. The amount of information that can be stored in human memory is unlimited.
8. Babies are born with a certain temperament. The tendency exists before they even learn things from the environment.
9. If you need help, the more people around the better off you are.
10. The most common form of schizophrenia is split personality.
11. If you are truly innocent of a crime, you have nothing to fear from taking a lie-detector test.
12. In humans, the part of the brain that corresponds to the mouth is larger than the part that corresponds to the leg.

What is psychology?

- **Definition:**
  - **Scientific** study of behavior and mind
  - Greek “psyche” = “soul” or “mind”
  - Greek “logos” = study or investigation

- What do psychologists study?
- Topics?

Major areas of psychology

- Biological
- Behavioral/Learning
- Cognitive
- Social/Personality
- Clinical

- What area(s)/topic(s) are you interested in?
Areas of Psychology

- http://www.apa.org/about/division.html
- There are 54 divisions in American Psychological Association (APA)

What Do Psychologists Do?

- **Clinical psychology**
  - Majority of psychologists
  - Apply psychological theory to mental and physical problems
  - Diagnosis and treatment
  - Counseling psychology
  - Clinical psychology
  - Psychiatry
- **Applied psychology**
  - Not involved with psychological disorders
  - Apply psychological knowledge in the real world
  - Industrial-Organizational psychology
  - School psychology
  - Human factors psychology

What Do Psychologists Do?

- **Research psychology**
  - Conduct experiments to learn about behavior and the mind
  - Work mainly in research and educational settings
  - Biopsychology
  - Cognitive psychology
  - Developmental psychology
What do psychologists do?

- Careers in psychology brochure on APA
  - http://www.apa.org/students/student1.html

- Check out Wofford’s Psychology department home page to see what faculty do!
  - http://www.wofford.edu/psychology/

- Look at course catalog to see psychology courses offered and what is required for psychology major
  - http://www.wofford.edu/psychology/content.aspx?id=4120

Where psychologists work

- University/other
- Other educational setting
- Government
- Nonprofit
- Private business
- Self-employed

Careers in psychology brochure: http://www.apa.org/students/student1.html