

Syllabus
History and Systems of Psychology (PSY 310)
Summer 2021
May 24 - July 30

Instructors:

David L. Miller, PhD, joined by co-instructor Kat Quina, PhD

Contact Information: Please select Kathryn Quina for *all* class-related email. Either of us can be available virtually (chat or video) by appointment.

Prerequisites: PSY 113, General Psychology, or equivalent.

This course is designated a Letters course for students enrolling before Fall 2016. The three skills you should strengthen in this course are: reading complex texts, writing effectively, and information literacy. See more at http://www.uri.edu/facsen/gen_app/skills.html

Catalog Description:

Origins of psychological inquiry and theories of psychology. Transformations of theories and methods of inquiry through the history of our culture including contemporary systems and models of psychological functioning.

Course Goals:

You have mostly likely heard of some of the major figures, studies, and theories associated with psychology's sub-fields (Freud, social psychology, the Stanford prison studies, neuropsychology, and so on). Psychology covers a vast terrain of ideas and methods, so connections can be difficult to see, giving the impression that psychology is a disjointed collection of interesting facts and disputed theories.

This course offers a framework to organize and integrate your knowledge, giving you a deeper understanding of the discipline. After a brief trek through the first two millennia of philosophers who thought about how our minds work, the course will focus on 19th and 20th century ideas and individuals who shaped today's research, theory, and practice in psychology. By tracing the philosophical and scientific ideas that laid the groundwork for psychology's emergence and influenced its major schools of thought, we hope you will be better prepared to:

- 1) Recognize recurring themes utilized to explain human thought, experience and behavior from the early philosophers to contemporary psychology theories;
- 2) Make connections between these themes and the kinds of theories, research methodologies, and applications one is more likely to use to understand psychological processes.
- 3) Use these early views to interpret and evaluate contemporary ideas about behavior.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Identify themes, questions, and approaches that have appeared across time and disciplines, and their relationship to contemporary psychology;
2. Recognize the interaction between the historical and sociocultural context and the theories, research and practices we call psychology;
3. Identify the major systems, schools, people, and studies that have had an impact on contemporary psychology;
4. Describe psychology as a profession, with its own infrastructure as well as its own political, professional, and sociocultural biases.

Required Text: Woody, W. D., & Viney, W. (2017). *A History of Psychology: The Emergence of Science and Applications, 6th ed.* New York and London: Routledge, ISBN 978-1138683716. Available in e-book and hardcover rental as well as at the bookstore. *You will be required to complete work based on the entire textbook.*

Class Format:

This is an online class, and may be very different from your past experience. Treat our Brightspace site as if it were your classroom for the semester. We will not meet in person, but we have a structured schedule. You can ask questions of your instructor, provide feedback, and share ideas and resources with your classmates – but you must ultimately turn in your own independent work.

The course is divided into nine units, with due dates indicated in the course schedule – note those are the dates you must turn in your work in order to be successful and receive full credit for the assignment. You can work ahead of schedule and at your own pace, but we you should follow the order of assignments in the schedule. You will need to check into the class site regularly, as there may be 2-3 items due during the week. **You are responsible for making sure your work is turned in correctly and on time; otherwise you will lose points.**

Course Expectations:

Your grades will be based on several kinds of work, designed to help you think critically about the “big issues” of psychology while demonstrating learning through different modes. Reading your textbook (from cover to cover!) is essential to completing assignments and passing quizzes. However, the course will extend beyond the textbook, with explanatory slideshows and mini-lectures, additional readings and resources, and exercises designed to help you understand and apply the ideas you are reading about.

There are no major exams, although there is a final essay. You may use your text and web resources for every type of work. However, you should do so in a thoughtful and timely manner; otherwise you lose points for being late or not doing the easiest assignments!

At the beginning of each unit, check the overview page for the work due for that unit and the schedule for the due dates. Read all items and make sure you understand them (this may require you to look up some words in the glossary of your text). If you have any questions, ask your instructor right away! Then, as you do your reading, you should make notes for your unit activities and major assignments. See *How to Take the Quizzes* for further information on keeping effective notes to improve your quiz performance.

Some activities may require you to locate and incorporate supplemental material, available on the web. Be sure to accurately cite that material along with your notes, and as always, be very aware of plagiarism!

Throughout the course we will post time-sensitive or need-to-know information for all students in “Announcements;” on occasion we will also send you a personalized message through the class site email or instant messaging. We also provide feedback through the grading functions. Check these areas regularly; you are responsible for *all* posted information.

You have a “grace” option to skip one quiz, one unit activity, and one opinion poll, within parameters given below. If you do all activities within a type (eg, all quizzes), we will drop your lowest grade.

Types of Assignments:

Quick Quizzes: These short (20 item) quizzes will help you review the major points in the text chapters. Quizzes are open book, but they can be taken *only once*; they must be completed *within* one hour. Quizzes must be taken by the due date to receive full credit. See the “*How to take the Quizzes*” section under “Syllabus, Schedule, and other information.”

Quizzes are 32% of your grade. Quiz 1 is required for a grade in the course. You may skip one quiz from Units 2-9, or if you complete all of the quizzes we will drop your lowest grade. You *cannot* skip both the Quiz and the Activity within the same unit. Your quiz point total toward your final grade is the sum of your 8 best quiz scores (including Unit 1) divided by 5.

Unit Activities: In lieu of formal exams, you will be asked to complete an activity for each unit. The format of these activities will vary. The first activity will be a web-based scavenger hunt. For some units you will be expected to post an activity in a public forum for others to read and comment; for others you will develop a well-documented written response to an essay question, to be submitted directly to your instructor through the “Assignments” area. Guidelines / rubrics for each activity and instructions for submitting them will be presented in the unit overviews.

Unit activities are worth a total of 48% of your grade. Unit 1 is worth 4 points; Units 2-8 are worth 6 points each; and the final essay is worth 8 points. You must complete the final essay to get a grade in the course. You may skip one Activity from Units 2-8, or if you do all of them we will drop your lowest grade. You *cannot* skip both the Activity and the Quiz within the same Unit. Each activity point is 1% of your final grade.

Exercises: Every unit has at least one discussion post or opinion to engage you with the material and foster dialog among class members, for a total of 11 assignments. Some weeks we will ask you to answer a simple question (eg, “Who Am I?” in Unit 1) or to take a brief quiz to consolidate knowledge (eg, “Quiz on Syllabus” in Unit 1). Other weeks we will ask you to take a position relating to that unit’s topic, and ask you to support your opinion with a short explanation. In addition, we will ask you to participate in exercises designed to help you apply the assigned readings. The results will usually be public so you can see where you stand *vis a vis* your classmates. On some activities, we will *also* ask you to comment on other students’ posts for full credit.

You may skip *one* exercise for *one* of the units from Unit 2-9. In total, these exercises are worth 20% of your grade, and each is worth 2 points toward your final grade. To calculate your participation score, add up your best 10 scores. Please note that while the points do not seem to be significant on any one activity, they quickly add up!

Communication: At any time, you may ask questions by sending us an email to Kathryn Quina. Please note that we have had some problems with the in-class email so if we do not respond within 48 hours send an email directly to kquina@uri.edu.

Adjustments and Extra Credit: If you are the first to find a significant error in the class, you may earn 1 point towards your final grade. If opportunities for extra credit arise they will be announced. *There is no guarantee that extra credit opportunities will be available.*

Calculation of Grades:

- 32% Eight (of nine) Unit Quizzes. You may skip or drop lowest grade from Units 2-9; Quiz 1 is required for a grade in the course.
- 48% Eight (of nine) Unit Activities. You may skip or drop lowest grade from Units 2-8; Unit 9 final essay activity is required for a grade in the course.
- 20% Exercises. You may skip or drop lowest grade from *one* of these assignments from Units 2-9.

Grades will be assigned on the following scale:

A = 93-100%	B = 83-86%	C = 73-76%	D = 60-66%
A- = 90-92%	B- = 80-82%	C- = 70-72%	
B+ = 87-89%	C+ = 77-79%	D+ = 67-69%	F = 59 or below

Accommodations: Any student with a documented disability should contact us as early in the semester as possible so that we may arrange reasonable accommodations. As part of this process, please be in touch with the Office of Student Life, Memorial Union.

Writing Skills: *Writing effectively is a key requirement of this course.* Anyone wishing assistance with writing or grammar should contact the Academic Enhancement Center (visit uri.edu/aec or call the AEC's main number at 401-874-2367). Writing consultants are ready and willing to help you in this or any course; they will suggest where you need to make changes to structure or to polish your work, but you are responsible for the final product.

Academic Honesty: **Any plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the assignment, and possibly for the course along with a report to your dean. This includes copying information from websites.** Changing a word here or there is still plagiarism; your writing must be substantially your own. Quotes taken from other sources must be placed within quotation marks (or indented, for longer quotes), and you must provide the page number and list the full citation in references. You are welcome to discuss your ideas with others in class but may not work together on your written products. Please review the URI plagiarism guidelines at <http://uri.libguides.com/content.php?pid=57687>.

Complete, Correct, and Timely Submission of Assignments: Pay special attention to the due dates in the Schedule. We realize that extenuating circumstances arise during the semester that prevent you from turning working on time, but since you have a period of time for each assignment, we expect you to plan ahead for most circumstances. In case of extended illness or family emergency, please be prepared to provide documentation. Otherwise you will lose points for lateness.

We strongly advise writing longer exercises in a separate file, where you can save your work frequently. Attachments must be in txt, rtf, Word, or Pages labeled “Lastname_UnitX” (where X is the unit number). It is your responsibility to double-check all work you turn in, to ensure it is complete and accurate; this includes files you have attached. You can do this by going into your posted work or assignment list and reviewing what you submitted, including opening the file, before the due date. *If not corrected by the submission date, we will treat an empty or corrupted file as late work.*

Getting Started:

Spend some time getting to know the course: Look over the left-side menu bar and locate all the instructions, forums, etc. However, do NOT click on any quiz until you have read the associated chapters and readings and are prepared to focus up to an hour on it — you get only one try!

Go to the Unit 1 link and review information and assignments, and make sure you understand each one; then complete the tasks in a timely fashion. **Failure to do so by the end of the Unit 1 due date may result in being *dropped* from the course; you may still be responsible for tuition and fees.**