

**Introduction to Psychology**  
**PSY 105**  
**ID 01877**

Fall 2013

Instructor: Dr. Makhinur Asanovna Mamatova

Office: AUCA Main Building, room 209

Office Phone: 996-312-663309 (ext. 238)

Office Hours: M., Th. 4:00 pm – 5.30 pm (by previous appointment)

Email: [makhinur@gmail.com](mailto:makhinur@gmail.com)

Credits: 3

Language of instruction: English

Course Status: Gen Ed Elective

Class Schedule: M., Th. 12:45 pm

**Course Description:**

This course will introduce the student to the field of scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. It will primarily focus on biological foundations of behavior, sensation and perception, consciousness, learning, memory, thinking, language, intelligence, motivation and emotion. The nature of personality as well as abnormal development and therapies will be outlined.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to understand basic principles of organization of human behavior as well as mental processes. The student will better understand the role of psychological science in everyday life.

**Teaching and Learning Style:**

The course will be interactive and student-centered. Students will be encouraged to think broadly and deeply about psychology and life.

**Text:**

Santrock, John W. (2000). Psychology, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. McGraw-Hill Inc.

**Course Requirements:**

- 1. Attendance** (30 points) is required. To be in class on time is expected. Late students will NOT be admitted into the class. Please finish up your personal businesses before class begins. Student is expected to be on class during entire class- time with no early leaving. General medical condition, emergency case will not interfere with your attendance rate.
- 2. In-class work** (30 points). Students are expected to do home assignment, come to class prepared, and participate actively in class discussions.
- 3. Argumentative Essay** (35 points): Students are required to write one 6-page argumentative essay. The list of suggested topics is attached below. Deadline to submission is **December 5**. Papers should be submitted electronically.

**Grading Criteria for Essay**

Thesis Statement	7 points
Arguments/Counterarguments (organization, logic and clarity)	7 points

Integration of Material/References	8 points
Analysis and Conclusion	8 points
Format/Literacy	<u>5 points</u> 35 points available

**4. Presentation (35 points):** The student is required to prepare one presentation. See Class Schedule below for presentation topic. This is your right to perform joint presentation. Creativity in performance of original idea is strongly encouraged. Please see the instructor to discuss this assignment in detail.

Grading Criteria for Presentation

Content	7 points
Understanding	7 points
Criticism	8 points
Clarity of statements	5 points
Performance	<u>8 points</u>
	<b>35 points</b>

**5. Final Exam (40 points):** The final will be held on **December 16, at 1:00 pm**. The exam will be multiple choices, true/false, case example. It will cover all factual material of the course.

**Course Grading Scale:**

Attendance	30 points
In-class work	30 points
Argumentative Essay	35 points
Presentation	35 points
Final Exam	40 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>170 points</b>

- A 161 – 170 points
- A- 151 – 160 points
- B+ 140 – 150 points
- B 129– 139 points
- B- 115 – 128 points
- C+ 101 – 114 points
- C 87 – 100 points
- C- 73 – 86 points
- D 59 – 72 points
- F below 59

## Course Themes

**September 2, 5** Introduction to syllabus. What is Psychology? Brief historical overview. Basic trends in Psychology. What do psychologists do?

*pp. 3-31 (hereinafter specified pages of the main text Santrock, John W. (2000). Psychology, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. McGraw-Hill Inc referred.)*

**September 9, 12** Research Methods in Psychology. Biological Foundations and Neuroscience: heredity, natural selection, the human nervous system, the brain.

*pp. 33-63; pp. 65-99*

**September 16, 19** Sensation and Perception. Absolute and Difference Thresholds. Subliminal Perception. Sensibilization and Habituation. Vision. Hearing, Skin Senses, Taste and Smell

*pp. 101-127*

**September 23, 26** Perception: Gestalt Principles of Perception. Illusions. Principles of Social Perception

*pp. 128-147, pp. 552-556, pp. 559-575*

**September 30, October 3,** Consciousness. Altered States of Consciousness. Sleeping and Dreaming.

*pp. 149 - 183*

**October 7, 10** Learning. Reflex. Classical Pavlovian Conditioning. John Watson's Little Albert Experiment. Generalization of a Conditioned Reflex. Operant Conditioning. Skinner's Theory of Reinforcement.

*pp. 185-205*

**October 14, 17** Observational Learning (Modeling). Albert Bandura's Social Learning Theory Memory. Short-Term Memory. Long-Term Memory. Retrieval and Forgetting.

*pp. 207-215; pp. 217- 251*

**October 21, 24** Thinking and Language. Categories of Thinking. Solving Problems. Decision Making. Language Structure. Theories of Language.

*pp. 253-283*

**October 28, 31** Intelligence. IQ tests. The Theory of Multiple Intelligence. Social Intelligence. Mental Retardation. Giftedness. Creativity.

*pp. 285- 317*

**November 4, 7** Motivation. Instincts, need and drives. Abraham Maslow's Theory of Motivation. Sexuality. Psychosexual Dysfunctions.

*pp. 367- 392*

**November 11, 14** Emotion: Biological, Cognitive, and Socio-Cultural Dimension.

*pp.* 393 - 409

**November 18, 21** Personality. Psychodynamic Perspective. Cognitive-Behavioral Perspective. Existential-Humanistic Perspective

*pp.* 411-445

**November 25, 28** Personality. Psychodynamic Perspective. Cognitive-Behavioral Perspective. Existential-Humanistic Perspective (cont.)

*pp.* 447-513

**December 2, 5** Abnormal Development and Therapies

**December 5** **Argumentative Essay Due**

**December 9, 12** Course Review

**December 16, 1:00 pm: Final Exam**

Argumentative Essay Suggested Topics \*

1. Classic Dialogue: Was Stanley Milgram's Study of Obedience Unethical?
2. Should Animals Be Used in Psychological Research?
3. Does Spanking Lead Children to Become More Violent?
4. Does Viewing Television Increase Aggression?
5. Is Love a Mechanism of Evolution?
6. Should Psychology Adopt a Theory of Multiple Intelligences?
7. Do Rewards Facilitate Learning?
8. Does the Internet Have Psychological Benefits?
9. Do Evolutionary and Genetics Factors Determine Our Sexual Behaviors?
10. Is There a Racial Difference in Intelligence?
11. Are Memories of Sex Abuse Always Real?
12. Does Religious Commitment Improve Mental Health?
13. Are Women Violent Toward Their Male Partners?
14. Does Abortion Have Severe Psychological Effects?
15. Is Homosexuality Genetically Determined?

---

\* Brent Slife (2002), *Taking Sides, Clashing Views on Controversial Psychological Issues*, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> editions.