

General Psychology II (in English)

Instructor:	Dr. Elena Molchanova, MD
Office:	AUCA; Psychology Department
Office hours:	Mon. 9.25; Wednesday 9.25; 10.50
Meeting times:	Monday 13.00-14.20 and Wednesday 13.00-14.30
Credit hours:	3
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Required textbook:	John W. Santrock (2000). <i>Psychology</i> . McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. 6 th addition.
Additional sources:	1. N. R. Carlson (1990). <i>Psychology: the Science of Behavior</i> . – 3 rd addition. 2. <i>Psychology</i> . Annual editions 02/03. Connecticut: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin or any textbook available in our library (please, see http://www.library.auca.kg)

You will find all necessary materials via on-line (www.e-courses.auca.kg) and I hope you've already known the registration procedure.

Course Description

In General Psychology course II you will acquire not only some basic knowledge of this broad discipline, but also will learn some necessary principles about psychological research design, psychological experiments. Basic points of abnormal and social psychology will be also interesting for future professionals. You will be exposed to a variety of topics starting from biological foundations of human behavior. And, of course, this course will provide a background for more advanced courses of Psychology Department.

Objectives:

1. To gain understanding of the main psychological concepts;
2. To learn how to observe, understand and predict human behaviour;
3. To understand the benefits and limitations of modern psychological concepts
4. To become familiar with the use of psychological tests and modern classification systems of mental disorders;
5. To learn how to integrate information from various sources in order to more fully describe personality and behavioural patterns.
7. To learn how to report assessment information from a variety of perspectives.

Course Policies

Deadlines. Deadlines are firm. Extensions for assignments and/or exams will only be granted in cases of extenuating circumstances. All work must be completed by the end of the course.

Disruptive Behaviour. The classroom is a special environment in which students and faculty come together to promote learning and growth. It is essential to this learning environment that respect for the right of others seeking to learn, respect for the professionalism of the instructor, and the general goals of academic freedom are maintained. Student behaviour that disrupts the classroom will not be tolerated. Disruptive behaviour includes speech and behaviour that are clearly disrespectful of either the instructor or other students. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, physically or verbally abusive behaviour, interruptions of the instructor or other students, failure to adhere to the instructor's rules or instructions, vulgar or obscene language, clear disregard by the student of the instructor's lecture (such as reading a newspaper or writing personal notes to other classmates), slurs and other forms of intimidation. Student conduct which disrupts the learning process will not be tolerated, and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from the classroom.

Cheating and Plagiarism. Academic dishonesty in any form (e.g., cheating, plagiarism, lying) will result in an 'F' for the course.

Cheating is the actual or attempted practice of fraudulent or deceptive acts for the purpose of improving one's grade or obtaining course credit; such acts also include assisting another student to do so. Typically, such acts occur in relation to examinations. However, it is the intent of this definition that the term 'cheating' not be limited to examination situations only, but that it include any and all actions by a student that are intended to gain an unearned academic advantage by fraudulent or deceptive means.

Plagiarism is the act of presenting the ideas, words, or other intellectual property of another as one's own. The use of other people's work must be properly acknowledged and referenced in all written material. The use of material without acknowledgment is an offence. Bear in mind that allowing another to copy one's work is an academic offence just as is copying from someone else. Furthermore, submitting the same paper for two courses without arrangement is also an academic offence.

Cell Phones. It is always disturbing when cell phones and beepers go off during the class. You are supposed to turn them off before every class. If I hear any noise from the cell phone or the beeper during the class, you will be asked to leave the class without permission to come back. You can take your belongings only after the class. If you are waiting an emergency call, you should warn me before the class.

Course evaluation criteria:

1. Exams

There will be four regular exams during the semester and one final cumulative exam. The exams will be based on lectures and readings, and will likely vary in format (i.e., mostly multiple choice, some short answer, maybe an essay question or two, etc.). There will be **no make up quizzes** in this class, and missed quizzes will be counted as a zero.

2. Presentations in class

You know this usual assignment and it is worth 20 points in this course. Please, choose the topic of your presentation during the first two weeks of your regular classes.

3. Final project.

During the first part of the semester you will have to decide what topic from both introduction to psychology courses you would like to explore. Take one area that you think needs more work and design a study to answer those questions that were not addressed before. Your paper should have the following:

- a) a brief outline of the area in question;
- b) what you think the problem is (what needs to be done?); and
- c) how you would address this issue in your research?
- d) what will you manipulate and what will you measure?
- e) What are you hoping to find?

You will have to give me information about the design of your experiment and to compose the first draft of your paper I will encourage you to cite not only American researchers, but also the authors from former Soviet Union. Detailed description of the paper is in the table below.

Final Project Requirements

Part of the paper	Length	Description	Number of points
Introduction	1 page	Research topic, literature background, definition of the main terms, research question, hypothesis	10 points
Method	1 page	Main characteristics of participants, description of the used method, procedure	10 points
Results	1-2 pages	Description of the results, information about hypothesis (was supported or not)	10points
Discussion	1-2 pages	Positive and negative points of the research, future research	10 points
References	1 page	Description of all sources used in the paper	5 points
Figures and tables	Optional	Demonstration of results or other relevant parts in the form of figure or table	5 points
Appendix	Optional	Demonstration of the questionnaire, interview, etc.	5 points
		Total	50 points

Grading Policy

There will be a precise algorithm of how the grade will be calculated (look at course evaluation criteria). Taking into account that many of us are susceptible to Above Average Effect (overly positive view of the self), many people in the class will feel that they deserve a higher grade because you are so “close” to it. Do not ask me to change the grade. I am not going to do that. I will give everybody the grade in accordance with the grading system. I do not want to make any decisions based on my personal attitude to you.

If you feel that the evaluation of your work was not fair or you noticed some scoring mistakes in your grade, you should bring these issues to my attention immediately!!! If your demands are reasonable, I will remedy my mistakes. After all, social psychological research demonstrates that all people are susceptible to mistakes and biases. I promise, there will be a no-risk situation for you - I will not penalize anyone who takes the time to highlight instances where you or someone else was treated unfairly.

I would also like to remind you about the policy concerning the X grade. It will be given only in exceptional cases such as sickness and real family problems.

Grades will be assigned on the basis of the above mentioned criteria. Course grades will be calculated as a percentage, by the number of points earned in the class divided by the maximum number then multiplied by 100. Course grades will then be assigned as follows:

- A = 97-100 %
- A- = 90 –96 %
- B+ = 85 – 89%
- B = 80-84%
- B- = 75-79%
- C+ = 69 – 74%
- C = 60 – 68%
- C- = 50 – 59%
- D = 45 – 49%

F = less than 44%

Grades will be rounded up to the nearest whole number in order to determine the assignment of course grades. For example, if a student receives an 89.51% in the course, then they will receive an 'A-' for this course. If the student receives an 89.49% in the course, then this constitutes a 'B+' for the course.

No exceptions will be made with this grading policy.

Class Schedule - Also available in: www.e-courses.auca.kg

(This schedule is a subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances)

week	Topic
1	Solving organizational problems. Learning: operant conditioning. Scientific methods in psychology. Basic steps of conducting psychological research
2	Thinking and problem solving
3	Language
4	Introduction to psychometrics; intelligence tests
5	Personality (introduction)
6	Biological roots of personality. Temperament
7	Organization of brain. Split brain and split brain behaviors.
8	Health, stress and coping
9	Spring brake (no classes)
10	Stress tolerance and stress management programs
11	Martin Seligman and learning helplessness theory. Theoretical and therapeutic approaches
12	Cognitive development. Introduction to developmental psychology
13	Introduction to social psychology
14	Concept of the "abnormal behavior" in psychology. Modern classifications of mental disorders
15	Introduction to counseling: basic concepts
16	Presentations of final projects' results.