

# Introduction to Psychology – Spring 2014

Prerequisites: no

Instructor: Michele Amicarelli

Office: AUCA Main Building, room 209

Office hours: by previous appointment

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Class schedule: Tuesday, Thursday 12.45>14.00

## Course description

This course provides a wide overview on the main approaches and findings of the psychological science about mental processes and human behaviour. Topics such as perception, attention, remembering, forgetting, language, thinking, intelligence, emotion, learning, personality, child cognitive development, and social psychology will be analysed and discussed. Research methods utilised in psychology and psychotherapies for mental disorders will be outlined as well. Finally, the forensic psychology and a relatively recent discipline – the positive psychology – will be briefly introduced.

## Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to understand the foundations of mental processes and human behaviour, as well as the psychological research methods and the basics of therapies for psychological disorders.

## Course materials

- Westen, D. (1995). *Psychology: Mind, Brain, & Culture*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Power point presentations.

- Video presentations.

### **Teaching methods**

Frontal classes through power point and video presentations.

### **Course requirements**

- 1) Attendance (10%).
- 2) Mid-term exam (45%).
- 3) Final exam (45%).

Students are expected to come to class prepared on the topics explained in the previous classes, as questions concerning those will be asked during the current class. Inability to answer such questions will affect the final grade.

### **Grading scale**

A	91-100%
A-	86-90%
B+	80-85%
B	75-79%
B-	70-74%
C+	65-69%
C	61-64%
C-	56-60%
D+	51-55%
D	46-50%
D-	41-45%
F	0-40%

## Student conduct

The Code of Conduct of AUCA is regarded as the major set of requirements to student academic and personal behaviour (available at [http://auca.kg/en/registrar\\_code\\_conduct/](http://auca.kg/en/registrar_code_conduct/)).

Violations of conduct rules will result in the instructor reporting about those and lowering the final grade.

## Policies

Late arrival/early leaving to and from class without a proper excuse will be regarded as missing the entire session. Please be in class on time.

Missing more than 5 classes will affect the attendance rate.

Food, cell phones, laptops, tablet computers, and other mobile devices are NOT allowed during the class session.

Chatting with classmates is forbidden during the class session.

N. B.: this syllabus is subject to change at discretion of the instructor in the view of unforeseen circumstances.

## Course programme

Week	Topic
1	Introduction to psychology; approaches to psychology; biological foundations of thought and behaviour.
2	Perception; attention.
3	Remembering; forgetting.
4	Language; thinking.
5	Intelligence; emotion – 1 <sup>st</sup> part.
6	Emotion – 2 <sup>nd</sup> part; learning – 1 <sup>st</sup> part.
7	Learning – 2 <sup>nd</sup> part; learning – 3 <sup>rd</sup> part.

8	Personality – 1 <sup>st</sup> part; personality – 2 <sup>nd</sup> part.
9	MIDTERM EXAM  Child development – 1 <sup>st</sup> part; child development – 2 <sup>nd</sup> part.
10	Child development – 3 <sup>rd</sup> part; psychopathology and psychotherapies – 1 <sup>st</sup> part (psychodynamics, psychoanalysis).
11	Psychopathology and psychotherapies – 2 <sup>nd</sup> part (humanistic); psychopathology and psychotherapies – 3 <sup>rd</sup> part (Cognitive-Behavioural Therapy).
12	Psychopathology and psychotherapies – 4 <sup>th</sup> part (hypnotherapies); social psychology – 1 <sup>st</sup> part.
13	Social psychology – 2 <sup>nd</sup> part; social psychology – 3 <sup>rd</sup> part.
14	Research methods – 1 <sup>st</sup> part; research methods – 2 <sup>nd</sup> part.
15	Forensic psychology; positive psychology.
16	FINAL EXAM