

Fontbonne University Course Syllabus  
**Introduction to Psychology**  
PSY 100 — Fall 2019 — 3 credit hours

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**Class time and location:**

Mon & Wed 12:30-1:45pm

**Room: AB 206**

Important Dates:

Sept 1: Last day to add/drop course, change from credit to audit

Oct 18: Last day to withdraw from course, change between credit and pass/fail

**Professor:** Dr. Jason Finley

*email:* [jfinley@fontbonne.edu](mailto:jfinley@fontbonne.edu)

*phone:* (314)-719-3610

*office:* East Building 310A

*office hours:* Mon 2-3:30pm & Wed 3:30-5pm

Also by appointment (just email me and we'll schedule a time to meet)

**Website:** [fontbonne.schoology.com](http://fontbonne.schoology.com)

powerpoints, assignments, handouts, etc. will be posted on here.

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**Required course text:**

Myers, D. G., & DeWall, C. N. (2018). *Psychology, 12<sup>th</sup> edition*. Worth Publishers. ISBN-13: 978-1319050627 (LaunchPad add-on *not* required)

Note: 11<sup>th</sup> edition is probably fine.

**Course Description:**

A general introduction to the discipline of psychology. The course examines the historical and theoretical foundations of modern psychology and surveys the various topical areas that use scientific methodology to study and explain human behavior and mental processes. Topics considered include biological foundations, sensation and perception, motivation and emotion, human development, personality, social psychology, psychological disorders, and therapy.

Psychology is the science of mind and behavior. It is a vast ongoing many-faceted endeavor. We won't be able to cover everything in depth. But the good news is that for topics you find particularly interesting, there are further specific courses you could take. And I'm always happy to chat more in office hours and point you in the direction of more knowledge and questions.

**Goals and Objectives:**

The learning activities, assignments, and exams in this course assess your mastery of these learning outcomes:

- **Knowledge Base of Psychology**  
You will gain familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and overarching themes in psychology.
- **Scientific Inquiry and Critical Thinking**  
Psychology is a science, and science is a way of knowing. What you'll learn in this class is not only the best of our knowledge so far, but how we have come by that knowledge (i.e., scientific research methods), and how we can continue to expand it. I want to help you learn to think both critically and creatively, to move beyond intuitions and "common sense" (which is a phrase you should learn to deeply mistrust), to think like a scientist about mind and behavior.
- **Application of Psychology**  
Anything you will ever do in your life will involve human beings (at the very least, yourself). This class will give you insight into the variety of factors that influence how humans think and behave. You will see how principles of psychology apply to everyday life.

Note that my job is to *help* you learn, not *force* you to learn. Learning requires time and effort. I am here to help you, but you need to also take responsibility for your own learning.

**General Education Requirements (GER):**

This course meets General Education requirements for the Social and Behavioral Sciences in the State of Missouri and at Fontbonne University. As such, the following institutional competencies for social and behavioral sciences, higher order thinking, and managing information must also be met in this course. The learning activities, assignments, and exams in this course assess your mastery of the following specific learning outcomes:

1. Students will develop and communicate hypothetical explanations for individual human behavior within the large-scale historical and social context.
2. Students will draw on the social sciences to evaluate contemporary problems.
3. Students will develop the ability to distinguish among opinions, facts, and inferences, will identify underlying or implicit assumptions, make informed judgments, and solve problems by applying evaluative standards.
4. Students will analyze and synthesize information from a variety of sources and perspectives and apply the results to resolving complex situations and problems.
5. Students will use electronic tools for research and evaluation, to access and/or generate information from a variety of sources, including the most contemporary

- technological information services and evaluate information for currency, usefulness, truthfulness, and accuracy.
6. Students will create electronic documents to present information clearly and concisely, using contemporary technologies.

**Overview of what you need to do for this course:**

- Attend class.
- Participate in research studies.
- Do the assigned reading from the textbook.
  - *When should you do the reading?* Either before class or soon after, or both!, whatever works best for you.
- Do the online quizzes for each textbook chapter.
- Do the written assignments and turn them in on time.
- Take the exams.
- Ask me for help when you don't understand something.

**Classroom Etiquette/Logistics:**

- Please be mentally present. I will strive to not be boring.
- Please do your part to *minimize distraction*. Silence your cell phone, no texting. Computers (muted) are okay for note-taking and other course-related activities, *not* for YouTube, Facebook, etc. SRSLY.
- **Put your phone away and keep it away.**

**DO NOT USE YOUR PHONE DURING CLASS.**

**I can totally see you doing it and will call you out.**

- No antimatter in class; trust me on this.
- **Ask questions!** Seriously! Speak up whenever you have questions, don't understand something, have answers, have ideas, etc. Asking questions is a sign of WISDOM, and it's also a great way to learn.

**Evaluation:**

Your grade in this course will be based on:

Attendance/Participation	4%
Written Assignments 3 assignments worth 6% each	18%
Online Chapter Quizzes	22%
Exams 4 exams worth 14% each	56%
Total:	100%

Final letter grades will be based on the following scale:

92.5	≤	A	≤	100
89.5	≤	A-	<	92.5
87.5	≤	B+	<	89.5
82.5	≤	B	<	87.5
79.5	≤	B-	<	82.5
77.5	≤	C+	<	79.5
72.5	≤	C	<	77.5
69.5	≤	C-	<	72.5
59.5	≤	D	<	69.5
0	≤	F	<	59.5

**Attendance (4%):**

In order to learn, you've got to show up to class, and participate in any activities we do that day. If you miss a class, it's your responsibility to get notes from another student, and come to my office hours if you need help understanding anything you missed. Attendance will be taken at every class. Here's how attendance figures into your grade: Every class you attend (not counting exam days) will earn you 0.2% toward your final grade, up to a maximum of 4%. Oh, also you have to be awake and participate in activities or it doesn't count!

**Written Assignments (18%):**

There will be three written assignments, each worth 6% of your grade. The assignments will be posted on the course website, and I will announce in class when each is available. Writing quality matters! Specific instructions, page limits, and grading criteria will be given on each assignment. Assignments must be turned in via the course website by **11:59pm on the due date given in the schedule**. Late assignments will be accepted for half credit up to one week after the due date.

**Online Chapter Quizzes (22%):**

For each of the 16 chapters there will be a short multiple-choice quiz for you to complete on the course website. Each quiz must be ***completed by 11:59pm on the last day that we cover that chapter in class*** (see schedule below). There is no time limit for the quizzes, as long as you submit your answers before the deadline. You can use the book and your notes on the quizzes, but you must work individually. You can re-do the quizzes later to help you study for the exams, but only your first attempt will count for credit.

Each quiz is worth up to 2% of your grade. So, for example, if there are 5 questions on a quiz and you get 4 correct, that earns you 1.6% toward your grade. The maximum credit you can accrue from the quizzes is 22%. Quizzes completed late will earn half credit if completed before Exam 4.

Every time you retrieve information from your memory, you strengthen that memory. This is known as the “testing effect” or “retrieval practice effect.” So the quizzes serve to boost your learning, as well as rewarding you for keeping up with the reading. Also, they’re good practice for the exams.

**Exams (56%):**

There will be four in-class exams, each worth 14% of your grade. Exams will consist of multiple choice questions. Exams will be non-cumulative. Each exam will cover 4 chapters from the book, as well as any corresponding material we have covered in lecture.

Make-up policy: If you are absent for an exam, you will get a score of 0. If illness or other extraordinary circumstances beyond your control will prevent you from being present for an exam, you must notify me **BEFORE THE EXAM** in order to be considered for a make-up exam. Make-up exams will be given and scheduled at my discretion, and may be different from the regular exams given in class.

**Hypothetical bonus assignment (?%):**

I reserve the right to *potentially* offer a bonus assignment. Any such assignment would be equally available to all students, and would be worth 3% at most.

***Basic Wellness Needs***

Your physical, mental and emotional health is important and can affect your performance in this class. Fontbonne University provides many services to help students, including counseling, health services, food and housing assistance, and emergency funds. If a service is not available on our campus, you may benefit from a referral to a provider

in the greater community. If you are facing such challenges and believe it may affect your performance in this course, I encourage you to seek assistance in the Student Affairs office on the first floor of Medaille Hall, adjacent to the AMC lobby, or you can call that office at (314) 889-1411. Their hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. If you are comfortable doing so, you also may contact me. I will offer any assistance that I can and help you connect with the appropriate resource.

### ***Academic Integrity/Honesty***

Seriously, DON'T CHEAT. I take academic honesty very seriously, and you should too. **DO NOT COPY OR PARAPHRASE TEXT FROM ANOTHER STUDENT OR THE INTERNET. DO NOT CHEAT ON EXAMS.**

According to its mission, Fontbonne University is committed to graduating students who are prepared to think critically, to act ethically, and to assume responsibility as citizens and leaders. Fontbonne University expects the highest standards of integrity from its students. Violations of academic integrity have a broad impact on the University and will result in University review and action.

A violation of academic integrity includes, but is not limited to, any act of cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, and dissimulation and any act of aiding and abetting academic dishonesty. The Fontbonne statement on academic integrity may be found in the catalog, in *The Griffin Scratch Student Handbook*, and in Policy Manual VI, Section 6.1.11.

Engaging in any of the above academic dishonesty will result in the student receiving a score of zero on the exam/assignment/quiz and being reported to the Office of Academic Affairs. More than one offense will result in an automatic F grade.

### ***Nondiscrimination***

Fontbonne University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by applicable law. If you have concerns that you or someone else has been discriminated against, it is your right to bring those concerns to the attention of the University's Title IX coordinator, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, Medaille Hall 85-99, (314) 889-1416 the Director of Human Resources, Ryan Hall 103, (314) 889-1493. Other types of concerns (i.e., concerns of an academic nature) should be discussed directly with your instructor and can also be brought to the attention of your instructor's Department Chair. Additional information on Fontbonne's policy of nondiscrimination is available in the catalog, in *The Griffin Scratch Student Handbook*, and in Policy Manual II, Section 2.1.2.

### ***Accommodation of Students with Disabilities***

Fontbonne University offers accommodations to students with documented physical, visual, hearing, learning, or psychiatric disabilities. Any Fontbonne student is eligible for special services or accommodations if: 1) The student self-identifies that he or she has a disability and needs accommodation; 2) The student provides appropriate and verifiable documentation of the disability; and 3) The student provides notification in a timely fashion. For academic accommodations, contact the Academic and Disabilities Resources Coordinator at (314) 719-3627. Ryan Hall 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
<http://www.fontbonne.edu/academics/academic-services-support/>

**Note also: free tutoring for any student**

### ***Writing Support Services***

The Kinkel Center provides free writing support to all students at Fontbonne University. Trained writing specialists are available to assist you at any stage in the writing process, from brainstorming and organizing ideas, to polishing a final draft. Each appointment is an hour and tailored to meet the expressed needs of you, the client. The goal is to have a substantive conversation about your project where we can collaboratively develop some usable strategies, techniques, and principles that can be applied to future projects in your collegiate and professional life. The instructions for making an appointment are on the [Kinkel Center page](#). Appointments are held in Ryan 304. For off campus students, sessions can be conducted electronically. To request an electronic appointment, send a message to [writing@fontbonne.edu](mailto:writing@fontbonne.edu) All writing support inquiries can be directed to Matt Nelson, the Academic Writing Support Coordinator, at [mnelson@fontbonne.edu](mailto:mnelson@fontbonne.edu).

### ***Subject-to-Change Clause:***

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to accommodate instructional and/or student needs. It is the student's responsibility to keep aware of such changes.

**Course Content Schedule:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading Chapter</b>	<b>Quiz Due 11:59pm</b>	<b>Assignment Due 11:59pm</b>
Mon Aug 26	Psych. Science, Critical Thinking	1+		
Wed Aug 28	Psych. Science, Critical Thinking	1+	Ch. 1	
Mon Sept 2	<b>NO CLASS, LABOR DAY</b>			
Wed Sept 4	Biology of Mind	2		
Mon Sept 9	Biology of Mind	2	Ch. 2	
Wed Sept 11	Consciousness	3	Ch. 3	
Mon Sept 16	Nature, Nurture, & Diversity	4	Ch. 4	
Wed Sept 18	<b>EXAM 1 (chapters 1-4)</b>			
Mon Sept 23	Developmental Psychology	5		
Wed Sept 25	Developmental Psychology	5	Ch. 5	
Mon Sept 30	Sensation & Perception	6		#1
Wed Oct 2	Sensation & Perception	6	Ch. 6	
Mon Oct 7	Learning (changes in behavior)	7		
Wed Oct 9	Learning, Memory	7,8	Ch. 7	
Mon Oct 14	Memory (encode, retrieve info)	8	Ch. 8	
Wed Oct 16	<b>EXAM 2 (chapters 5-8)</b>			

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading Chapter</b>	<b>Quiz Due 11:59pm</b>	<b>Assignment Due 11:59pm</b>
Mon Oct 21	<b>NO CLASS, FALL BREAK</b>			
Wed Oct 23	Thinking & Language	9		#2
Mon Oct 28	Thinking & Language	9	Ch. 9	
Wed Oct 30	Intelligence	10	Ch. 10	
Mon Nov 4	Motivation (hunger & sex)	11	Ch. 11	
Wed Nov 6	Emotions, Stress, & Health	12	Ch. 12	
Mon Nov 11	<b>EXAM 3 (chapters 9-12)</b>			
Wed Nov 13	Social Psychology	13		
Mon Nov 18	Social Psychology	13	Ch. 13	
Wed Nov 20	Personality	14		
Mon Nov 25	Personality	14	Ch. 14	
Wed Nov 27	<b>NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING</b>			
Mon Dec 2	Psychological Disorders	15	Ch. 15	#3
Wed Dec 4	Treatment	16	Ch. 16	
Mon Dec 9, 12:30- 2:20pm	<b>Exam 4 (chapters 13-16)</b>			