

WEB PAGE URL:

Fall term, 1997

**PSY 202
MIND AND SOCIETY
150 Columbia
3:00-3:50 MWF**

In this class, we will be asking the question, "Why do people do the things they do?" Have you ever wondered about any of the following questions?:

Why do people hurt each other?

Why are some people crazy? And just what is 'crazy', anyway?

Why do some people abuse their children? Their wives?

Why do people seem to get more aggressive when they drive?

Why do some people go into psychotherapy? And just what does it do for them?

If you have wondered about any of these questions, or other questions about human nature and human behavior, this course should be an interesting one for you.

We will cover the broad subject areas of stress and health, child psychology, personality, social psychology, and abnormal psychology. We will examine how the field of psychology tries to answer questions like the ones above and, in the process, come to a greater understanding of ourselves and others.

TEXTBOOK: Zimbardo, P. And R.J. Gerrig. Psychology and Life. HarperCollins, 14th edition.

Study Guide available (at the bookstore) and recommended.

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LECTURES: The lecture section of this class will meet 3:00 to 3:50 on MWF. Lectures will sometimes cover material that is covered in the book, but in greater depth and detail. At other times, lectures will cover material not in the book, and you will be responsible for this material on quizzes.

EXAMS AND GRADING: You can earn a possible **225** points in this class, broken down the following way:

Two midterm exams	50 points each x 2 = 100
Final exam (not comprehensive)	50 points
Weekly quiz (in discussion sections)	7 points each x 8 = 56
[The total of your quiz scores may be substituted for your lowest midterm score.]	
WWW experiments (see below)	5 points each x 2 = 10
	9 points for Eliza = 9

All exams will be multiple choice and machine scored.

The number of points required for each grade will be no higher (and may be lower) than the following:

- A = Above 200 points**
- B = 180 - 199 points**
- C = 160 - 179 points**
- D = 140 - 159 points**

MAKE-UP POLICY: Since the sum of your quiz scores may be substituted for your lowest midterm score, no make up exams will be given.

RESEARCH REQUIREMENT: There is a research requirement for this class. There are two options for completing this requirement:

1. Participating in the Human Subject Pool and getting experience as a subject in an actual psychology experiment.
2. Writing a short paper on an interesting experiment that has been done and that you find in the library.

DISCUSSION SECTIONS: Discussion sections meet weekly except for the first week and the week of Thanksgiving. The discussion sections are designed to help you understand the applications of the materials covered in the readings and lectures and to take quizzes. We also hope that they will be fun, and a chance for you to get to know people as you become more familiar with the topics.

WWW ACTIVITIES: There will be three WWW activities for this class which will be related to material discussed in lecture.

Assignment 1: Coping with Stress. 5 POINTS

Go to <http://www.2h.com/Tests/personality.phtml> and take the Coping with Stress Inventory. Print out 2 copies of the results (one for you to keep). Turn in the 2nd copy with a short paragraph listing your highest and your lowest subscore, along with 2 of the most useful suggestions in the printout.

DUE MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

Assignment 2. Personality testing. 5 POINTS

Go to <http://www.2h.com/Tests/personality.phtml> take two of the personality tests on that page, the Kiersey Temperament Sorter and the Quickest Personality Test around. Print out 2 copies of the results and turn one copy in by Monday, October 27. Keep the other copy with you in lectures for that week to refer to. For the Kiersey Temperament Sorter, you should have results consisting of 4 letters (e.g., INFP), and for the Quickest Personality you should have a short personality description.

DUE MONDAY, OCTOBER 27

Assignment 3: Visit the computer therapist, Eliza, at <http://www.planetary.net/robots/eliza.html>, and write a shore summary of your visit. **9 POINTS** (More information forthcoming and on the course web page).

DUE MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READINGS, AND EXAMS:

You should have the reading for the week done before the week begins.

Week	Reading and Topic
September 29	Chapter 13 Stress and Health No discussion sections
October 6	Chapter 5 Cognitive Aspects of Life Span Development
October 13	Chapter 6 Social Aspects of Life Span Development

MIDTERM I ON OCTOBER 17

October 20	Chapter 14 Understanding Human Personality
October 27	Chapter 15 Assessing Individual Differences
November 3	Chapter 16, (part 1), pp. 584 - 604 The power of the situation

MIDTERM II ON NOVEMBER 8

November 10	Chapter 16 (part 2), pp. 604 - 625. Constructing Social Reality
November 17	Chapter 17 (part 1), pp. 627 - 648. Psychological Disorders
November 24	Chapter 17, (part 2), pp. 648 - 667. Psychological Disorders No discussion sections
December 1	Chapter 18 Therapies for Personal Change

Final exam on Tuesday, December 9 at 3:15!!!!