

WEB PAGE URL: <http://www.uoregon.edu/~pbirrell/psy202-98>

THIS WEB PAGE WILL BE UPDATED AND REVISED DURING THE TERM. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHECKING IT AND NOTING THOSE CHANGES REGULARLY!

**PSY 202
MIND AND SOCIETY
180 PLC
2:00-2:50 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?:

What goes on in the mind of a four-year-old?

Why do people do weird things? Are they just born that way?

Why do people hurt or help each other?

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

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.

This course is part of a two-term sequence in introductory psychology. This course covers the broad subject areas of stress and health, child psychology, personality, social psychology, and abnormal psychology. The other course in this sequence (PSY 201) emphasizes learning, perception, memory, and the role of neural structures in psychological processes. 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 Gerrig, R.J. 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 2:00 to 2:50 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:

Two midterm exams	50 points each x 2 = 100
Final exam (partially comprehensive)	70 points
Weekly quiz (in discussion sections)	7 points each x 8 = 56
[The total of your quiz scores <i>may</i> be substituted for your lowest midterm score if the quiz total is higher. If the quiz total is lower than either of the midterms, it will be dropped.]	
Research activities (see below)	10 points each x 3 = 30

All exams will be multiple choice and machine scored.

Because the lowest of your midterm scores can be dropped and your quiz scores substituted, the total number of points you can earn is **200**. The number of points required for each grade will be no higher (and may be lower) than the following:

A = Above 180 points

B = 160-179 points

C = 140-159 points

D = 120-139 points

MAKE-UP POLICY: Because 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 actual psychology experiments.
2. Writing a short paper on an interesting experiment that has been done and that you find in the library. Please see instructor or discussion leader for details.

Failure to complete this requirement results in an incomplete for the course.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with the instructors soon. Please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities send a letter verifying your disability.

DISCUSSION SECTIONS: Discussion sections meet weekly except for the first week of the term and the week of January 19. 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.

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

Assignment 1: PERSONALITY TESTING--10 POINTS

Go to <http://www.2h.com/Tests/personality.phtml>

Take two of the personality tests on that page, the one titled, "Why do you succeed or fail?" and the Quickest Personality Test around. Print out 2 copies of the results and turn one copy in by Monday, February 9. Keep the other copy with you in lectures for that week to refer to.

DUE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9.

Assignment 2: ANALYZING ADS--10 POINTS

Advertisers (knowingly or unknowingly) utilize a number of social psychology principles to influence potential buyers. Find an example of an ad (T.V., radio, print, etc.) that illustrates one (or more) of the following:

- normative influence
- authority influence
- informational influence

Turn in a short paper (1-2 pages) in which you:

1. Describe the ad in such a way that someone who has never seen or heard it would understand the content.
2. Describe how the ad illustrates the form of influence. Relate the strategies used in the ad to research and theories discussed in class and your text.

DUE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23.

Assignment 3: EVALUATION OF PSYCHOLOGY WEB PAGES--10 POINTS

There are many web pages devoted to the subject of psychology. This assignment involves visiting some of these web pages and using critical thinking skills to evaluate them. As we have discussed in class, anyone can put up a web site, and you must be careful evaluating the information they contain.

Choose one of the web sites listed below, or choose one of your own (as long as it concerns psychology). [You might find it interesting to look for a really BAD web site!]

David Baldwin's Trauma Pages--<http://gladstone.uoregon.edu/~dvb/trauma.htm>

Anxiety Disorders--<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/publicat/anxiety.htm>

Depression--<http://www.psycom.net/depression.central.html>

Attachment Research--<http://katsam.psy.sunysb.edu/ewaters/mainmenu.htm>

Baby Learning--<http://www.thelastplanet.com/bblearni.htm>

Society for the Study of Men and Masculinity--<http://web.indstate.edu/spsmm>

International Society for Cross Cultural Psychology--

<http://www.fit.edu/CampusLife/clubs-org/iaccp>

Social Influence Web Site--<http://www.public.asu.edu/~kelton>

Cult Group Information--<http://www.csj.org>

Nonverbal Behavior--<http://zen.sunderland.ac.uk/~hb5jma/1stbersn.htm>

Personality Project--<http://fas.psych.nwu.edu/personality.html>

Turn in a short paper (2 pages) on the web site you choose. Make sure your paper contains the following:

1. Web site name and URL.
2. General summary of the web site contents
3. Rating of the web site:
 - a. How well organized is the site? Easy to follow and understand?
 - b. How well documented is the site? Is it just someone's opinion, or does it contain well-validated information? How can you tell? Are references used, or does the author expect you just to accept what he/she says?

DUE MONDAY, MARCH 9.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READINGS, AND EXAMS:

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

Week	Reading and Topic
January 5	Chapters 1 & 2 Research No discussion sections this week
January 12	Chapter 5 Cognitive Aspects of Life Span Development
January 19	Chapter 6 Social Aspects of Life Span Development No discussion sections this week
January 26	Chapter 13 Stress and Emotions

MIDTERM I ON JANUARY 30

February 2	Chapter 14 Personality
February 9	Chapter 15 Assessing Individual Differences <i>Assignment #1 due February 9</i>
February 16	Chapter 16 (pp. 584-604) The Power of the Situation

MIDTERM II ON FEBRUARY 20

February 23	Chapter 16 (part 2), pp. 604 - 625. Constructing Social Reality <i>Assignment #2 due February 23</i>
March 2	Chapter 17 Psychological "Disorders"
March 9	Chapter 18 Therapies for Personal Change <i>Assignment #3 due March 9</i>

Final exam on Tuesday, March 17, 1:00 p.m.