

PSYC 2040 INTRODUCTORY PSYCHOLOGY (3 credit hours)

Elmira College

SPRING 2025

Required Text:

David G. Myers; C. Nathan DeWall(2021). *Psychology*(13th ed.). Worth Publishers.

Supplemental readings might be included to illustrate or expand on textbook readings.

Pre-requisites: None.

Course Description

This introductory course offers a comprehensive exploration of the fascinating field of psychology, providing students with a foundational understanding of the mind, behavior, and the scientific principles that underlie psychological research. Through a combination of lectures, readings, discussions, and practical exercises, students will embark on a journey to unravel the complexities of human thought and behavior.

Course Objectives and Goals

- Gain a solid understanding of the fundamental concepts, theories, and principles that form the foundation of psychology.
- Be able to analyze and evaluate psychological information effectively.
- Develop an awareness of various research methods and experimental techniques used in psychology, and understand how psychologists conduct and evaluate research.
- Explore the biological underpinnings of behavior, including the nervous system, brain structure and function, and the role of genetics and hormones in psychological processes.
- Explore the principles of human development from infancy to old age, including physical, cognitive, and psychosocial changes that occur across the lifespan.

Evaluation of Performance

Your grade will be based upon your performance on exams, assignments, and participation.

Class Participation	10%
Assignments	30%
Projects	30%
Midterm Test	15%
Final Exam	15%
Total	100%

Grades will be assigned as follows:

A 93% and above B- 80 - 82% D+ 67 - 69%

A- 90 - 92%	C+ 77 - 79%	D 63 - 66%
B+ 87 - 89%	C 73 - 76%	D- 60 - 62%
B 83 - 86%	C- 70 - 72%	F 59% or below

Withdrawal Policy: Please see Elmira College Bulletin for information on this policy.

Academic Honesty: Please read the section on Academic Honesty in the [Code of Conduct](#). Briefly, academic dishonesty includes: cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism. Ask if you have any questions on whether something constitutes as academic dishonesty. All work must be original and new. Past assignments from current or other courses will not be accepted. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. It will result in zero on the assignment, and a report will be filed with the school. Continued practice will result in failure of the class. Institutional penalties may also apply with repeated acts of academic honesty.

Student Responsibility:

- It is your responsibility to keep track of assignments and due dates.
- You should ask questions concerning assignments and lectures, if you need any clarifications.
- If you are struggling in class, have concerns, and/or unsure about expectations, please stop by during office hours or make an appointment for another time.

Tentative Schedule of Topics

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Materials</u>	<u>Tasks & Evaluations</u>
Thinking Critically With Psychological Science	Chapter 1	
The Need for Psychological Science	Chapter 2	
The Biology of Mind	Chapter 3	Assignment 1
Consciousness and the Two-Track Mind	Chapter 4	
Basic Consciousness Concepts	Chapter 5	
The Nervous System	Chapter 6	Assignment 2
Sensation and Perception	Chapter 7	
Vision: Sensory and Perceptual Processing	Chapter 8	
Processing Sensations and Perceptions	Chapter 9	Assignment 3
Memory Retrieval	Chapter 10	
Cognition's Influence on Conditioning	Chapter 11	Midterm Test
Thinking and Language	Chapter 12	
Language and Thought	Chapter 13	
Language Acquisition and Development	Chapter 14	
Intelligence	Chapter 15	Project 1
Spearman and Thurstone's Intelligence Theories	Chapter 16	
Emotions, Stress, and Health	Chapter 17	
Context, Motivation, and Emotion	Chapter 18	Project 2
Basic Motivational Concepts	Chapter 19	
Basic Learning Concepts and Classical Conditioning	Chapter 20	
Biology, Cognition, and Learning	Chapter 21	Final Exam