



Psychology 353

Psychology of Aging

Instructor: Mark Huff
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Office: Admin 01
Office Hours: By appointment only

Lecture Location: PF 128
Lecture Days/Time: 12:30-2:20pm

Course Description and Goals

Course examines theory and research related to psychological processes related to development from middle-age to older adult age groups. Topics include life-span and developmental theories, research methodology, biological development including changes in sensory and perceptual processes, cognitive processes related to attention and memory, mental health issues, life transitions, and dying.

Prerequisites

Psyc 205 – Principles of Psychology or Psyc 200/201

Required Text

Cavanaugh, J. C., Blanchard-Fields, F. & Norris, J. (1st Canadian Edition). Adult Development and Aging. Thomson/Nelson.

Evaluation

There will be three equally weighted examinations that will consist of multiple-choice and short answer questions. Exam 1 will be held July 19, Exam 2 on Aug. 2, and the final exam will be scheduled by the Registrar over the dates of Aug. 15-17. Exams 1 and 2 are noncumulative, however, Exam 3 will have a cumulative section of which 25% of the questions will be based on materials covered by prior exams. In addition, two short papers (3-pages maximum) will be assigned that involve a brief empirical article summary based on a current topic in psychology and aging. Articles will be provided by the instructor one week prior to the due date along with specified instructions. Articles will be assigned on the dates of the first two exams.

The grading scale is listed below as well as the points breakdown for the exams and article summaries. The grading system will not be more harsh than specified here, but I do reserve the right to make the grading system more lenient if the need arises.

Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

Points Breakdown:

Exam 1	30%
Exam 2	30%
Exam 3 (Final)	30%
Papers	10%

Grades will be rounded to the nearest percentage point (i.e., .5% and above is rounded up; .49% and below is rounded down) at the end of the course which will be used to determine the final course letter grade.

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic	Text Chapter
W July 3	Lecture Begins. Introduction	1
F July 5	Introduction/Demography/Research Methods	1/3
M July 8	No Class	--
W July 10	Research Methods	1/3
F July 12	Biology; Sensation and Perception	2
M July 15	Mental Health	4
W July 17	Psychological Testing and Assessment	4
F July 19	Exam 1; 1 st article summary assigned; Intro to Cog. Aging	6/7
M July 22	Attention and Perceptual Processing	6/7
W July 24	Attention and Perceptual Processing; Learning and Memory	6/7
F July 26	1 st article summary due; Learning and Memory	6/7
M July 29	Learning and Memory	6/7
W July 31	Intelligence	8
F Aug. 2	Exam 2; 2 nd article summary assigned; Intelligence	8
M Aug. 5	No Class	
W Aug. 7	Social Cognition	9
F Aug. 9	2 nd article summary due; Personality	10
M Aug. 12	Relationships	11
W Aug. 14	Retirement and Work	11/12
F Aug. 16	Death and Dying; Recap	13

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

Absence From A Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act

The FOIP legislation disallows the practice of having student's retrieve tests and assignments from a public place. Therefore, tests and assignments may be returned to students during class/lab, or during office hours, or via the Department Office (Admin 275), or will be made available only for viewing during exam review sessions scheduled by the Department. Tests and assignments will be shredded after one year. Instructors should take care to not link students' names with their grades, UCIDs, or other FOIP-sensitive information.

Course Credits for Research Participation (Max 2% of final grade)

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. **A maximum of two (2) credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation.** The demand for timeslots may exceed the supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is **August 14th, 2013**.

Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>
Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 170 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 403-220-3911

suvpaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 403-220-3913

socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course and **still receive a tuition fee refund** and the last day for registration/change of registration is **July 4, 2013**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **August 14, 2013**.