



Intro to Psychology (PCCM2371)
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Leavell College
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Mission Statement

The Mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries

Course Rationale

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the various fields in the area of psychology. Students will be encouraged to critically evaluate the observations and inferences in the field of psychology from a biblical perspective.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the various fields in the area of psychology, which include: nature versus nurture, human development, the brain, sensation and perception, cognitive development, motivation, stress and health, personality, psychological disorders, psychological therapies and social psychology. Students will study theories, research and the applied use of psychology. Prerequisite: None

Student Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to

- 1) Understand basic concepts of current scientific theory and research in the major topic areas of psychology.
- 2) Value the personal relevance of course material, including an understanding of the role of psychological processes in their lives and the lives of others, and an appreciation of the practical and spiritual value of psychology.
- 3) Apply skills necessary to evaluate and think critically about information concerning psychological phenomena obtained from research, the general public, religion, and the media.
- 4) Be well prepared for further study at the graduate level.

Assignments

Exams 50%

Three exams will be given during the semester. Exams are not cumulative. Exams will be comprised of objective questions (matching, true/false, and multiple choice) and subjective questions (short answer and essay).

Quizzes 10%

The quizzes will cover the assigned reading for that class period. The student will be able to drop the lowest three quiz scores. If the student misses a quiz it can not be made up but will be used as one of their (3) dropped scores, but after the third missed quiz the student will be given a zero for that quiz.

Research Paper 30% Students will write a brief, personal, biblically and theologically informed position paper on relationship between psychology, theology, and Christian faith. The student will provide their personal views on the nature of psychology, and its purpose and role in God's creation. The student must document major influences that contribute to their current understanding of the nature God, the nature of man, the problem of sin, the mechanism of salvation, the purpose of man's life on earth, and the eternal destiny of man. The paper will be 5-6 pages in length, and may be completed in APA or Turabian style. More details of this assignment will be given in class.)

Class Participation 10%

Class discussion is a major component of this class. Role-plays, videos, and possibly actual sessions will be used as forms of class participation.

Late Assignments & Make Up Exams

Assignments

Assignments are to be turned in at the beginning of the class period in which they are due. Failure to turn in an assignment on time will result in a **4 point penalty** for **each class period** the assignment is late. After 4 class periods assignments will not be taken without clearance from the faculty of the Psychology and Counseling Dept.

Exams

If an emergency prevents a student from taking a scheduled exam, it is that **student's responsibility** to reschedule with the instructor. If a student misses an exam and does not get **preapproval** from the instructor and/or cannot provide **documentation** (doctor's note, police report, death of loved one) they **will not** be allowed to make up the exam. The exam must be made up within one week of the missed exam. After one week, the student will earn a grade of 0 for the assignment.

Attendance

Class attendance is essential for effective learning. According to seminary policy, students are allowed nine absences from a three-hour class. Arriving 20 minutes late for a class or leaving 20 minutes early from class will count as one absence. A grade of "F" will be assigned to students who fail to attend the class the minimum number of hours. This policy will be strictly enforced.

Plagiarism Policy

Please do *not plagiarize* when writing your paper for this class. The seminary policy on plagiarism can be found in the student handbook, which is available as a pdf on the "Student Services" page of the seminary website (<http://www.nobts.edu/students>). Plagiarism is a serious academic and ethical offense, and will be treated as such. Please see your instructor in advance if you have any questions about proper citation or plagiarism.

Required Textbook

Myers, David G. Exploring Psychology 9th Edition. New York: Worth Publishers, 2011.

Course Methodologies

WEEK	DATE	Lecture & Reading	Exams
1	21 AUG	Biblical View Prologue: The Story of Psychology Chapter 1-Thinking Critically	
2	28 AUG	Chapter 2-The Biology of Mind	
3	4 SEP	Chapter 3-Consciousness & 2 Track Mind	
4	11 SEP*	Chapter 4-Nature, Nurture, & Diversity	Exam 1 (Chps 1-4 & Biblical View)
5	18 SEP	Chapter 5-Developing Through Life Span	Part 1 of Paper
6	25 SEP	Chapter 6- Sensation & Perception	
7	2 OCT	Chapter 7&8- Learning and Memory	

8	9 OCT	Chapter 9-Thinking, Language, and Intelligence Chapter 10-Motivation	
9	16 OCT	Fall Break	
10	23 OCT	Chapter 11-Emotions, Stress, Health Chapter 12-Personality	Part 2 of Paper
11	30 OCT*	Chapter 13-Psychological Disorders	Exam 2 (Chps 5-12)
12	6 NOV	Chapter 14- Therapy	
13	13 NOV	Chapter 15-Social Psychology	
14	20 NOV	Chapter 16-Therapy	Part 3 of Paper
15	27 NOV	THANKSGIVING	
16	4 DEC		Exam 3 (Chps 13-16)

Selected Bibliography

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- McMinn, M. (2008). *Sin and grace in Christian counseling: An integrative paradigm*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic.
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- Powlison, D. (2005). *Speaking truth in love: Counsel in community*. Greensboro, NC: New Growth Press.
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- Brown, W. S., Murphy, N., & Malony, H. N. (Eds.). (1998). *Whatever happened to the soul? Scientific and theological portraits of human nature*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press.
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