

Psychology: Brain, Mind, and Behavior
Mr. Bodenrader

Curriculum Highlights

What is Psychology?

- The Definition of Psychology

Behaviorism

- The Philosophy of Behaviorism
- Operant Conditioning
- Social Norms
- Classical Conditioning
- Implicit Association

Addiction

- Disease Model
- Alexander Model: Rat Park

Biological/Neuroscientific Perspectives

- The role of genetics
- Neurons and neurotransmitters
- Parts of the brain
- Split Brain: right vs. left
- Neuroplasticity

Social Psychology

- Diffusion of Responsibility
- Obedience to Authority
- Stanford Prison Experiment
- Cognitive Dissonance
- Lifton's Theory of Thought Reform
- Analysis of Peoples Temple –
Jonestown

Memory

- Information Processing Model
- Memory Strategies and related
concepts
- Reconstructive Memory
- Repression
- Implicit Memory
- Analysis of the movie *Memento*

How You Will Be Graded

10% - Class Participation

25% - Homework

20% - Personal Exploration

25% - Tests and Quizzes

20% - Project

Final Grade – Q1 = 45%, Q2 = 45%, Final Exam = 10%

Class Participation – Get involved! This class will be a better learning experience for all of us – myself included – if all of you are willing to ask questions and share your insights and opinions. This part of your grade also involves other aspects of your contribution to the class atmosphere, such as punctuality, cooperation during class activities, and respect towards your fellow classmates.

Homework – The main reason for homework is to prepare you for what is happening in class the next day. For this reason, homework must be *fully* completed and in hand at the *beginning* of class on the due date to receive full credit (not during class or during a later free block). You may also turn it in one day late to receive 50% credit. Homework is graded in the following way:

Check = 95

Check minus = 75 (fully completed but not very well done)

Zero – not fully completed or not done at all

1 day late, fully complete and well done = 50

If at the end of the quarter, you have all checks (no check minuses, 50s, or zeroes), then I will change all 95s to 100s.

Note: Having your homework completed means having it **printed out** before class starts. Once a quarter, if a printer issue arises, I will allow you to share it with me – that's it!

Personal Exploration – Every 2 weeks or so, I will ask you to write a journal or to explore a subject in Psychology that you have a particular interest in.

Journal – Get out your thoughts, opinions, and personal connections to the material. While I will give you questions to respond to if you are stuck, you can go in whatever direction *you* want to in a journal, as long as it is in some way related to what you have been learning about in this course. Explore your ideas! It's ok if you make spelling, grammar, and/or punctuation mistakes, it's ok to start writing about something and midstream change topics – none of this will affect your grade. Journals will be graded solely on length.

- See journals as a further opportunity for you and I to talk about your ideas.
- Sometimes I read sections of student journals or entire journals aloud for the rest of the class to read. Don't worry! I do not reveal the author's name, and if there is anything remotely personal in the journal, I will ask you ahead of time for permission, and feel free to not grant it.

Explore a Subject - Watch a TED talk or read an article from the website below. Give a ½ - 1 page summary of the talk or article, and then reflect on what you learned. In reflecting, you can discuss what you find interesting, or your opinion about the information, or how it helps you understand yourself or others better, or how it relates to other information you have learned in this course, etc. In terms of grading, the first part of your write-up needs to be thorough and accurate, and the second part (your reflections) follows the same parameter as a journal.

- Ted Talks – Just type in “Psychology” in the search engine, or type in a more specific subject, like “depression,” and see what you get: <https://www.ted.com/talks>
- Articles – Pick an article that interests you from the following site and read it: <http://tetw.org/Psychology>

Personal Exploration work must be typed, double spaced, size 12 font, 1 inch margins.

Late Policy - You can turn a personal exploration assignment in 2 days late and you will lose 10 points; after 2 days, I will not accept your work.

Project – You will do one project each quarter. The first quarter will be the social norm-breaking project. For the second quarter project, you will select from a variety of choices. **Late Policy** – You can turn a project in 2 days late and you will lose 10 points; after 2 days, I will not accept your work.

Make-Up Work – If you are absent on the day of a test or quiz, you must make it up within **four school days** starting the day you return to school, or you will receive a zero. Whether you miss a test or any other assignment, *you are always responsible for finding out what you need to do and when you need to do it when you are absent*. Talk to me or a classmate. If you make the effort to initiate a conversation with me about a make-up date for a test or assignment, I tend to be pretty reasonable.

Phones and Computers

Never text in my class, or look like you are texting, or “go to the bathroom” to communicate with your phone to another person. Do not put your phone on your desk during class. Turn the ringer off. Inability to control your phone behavior is a great way to get on my bad side.

Unless I tell you otherwise, you do **not** need to have your computer out during class. If you would like to take notes, do so old-school; I will also have class notes on my website if you would like a typed version.