

This is a sample syllabus only. The instructor may make changes to the syllabus in future courses.

## ***Honors Introduction to Psychology***

### ***PY 201***

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Maria Hopkins
<b>Meeting Times:</b>	Tuesdays & Thursdays – 12:30 - 1:45 pm
<b>Meeting Location:</b>	CH 320
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Wednesdays 10:00 - 11:00 am; or by appointment
<b>Office Location:</b>	Campbell Hall 415
<b>Phone:</b>	(205) 975-9456
<b>Email:</b>	mhopkins@uab.edu
<b>Required Textbook:</b>	Licht, L., Hull, M., & Ballantyne, C. (2014). <i>Scientific American: Psychology</i> , 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition, United States: McMillan.

#### ***Course Objective:***

Psychology 201 is an honors introductory course designed to introduce students to the major concepts, theories, and research findings in the field of psychology. Through reading, lectures, videos, and demonstrations, students will be exposed to the wide range of research issues addressed by psychologists, and hopefully will gain an appreciation of the importance of psychological research in its application to human life. The instructional format of the class will primarily rely on class discussion to amplify and enrich information from the required text and related readings.

This introductory course will provide students with an overview of the current body of knowledge and methods of the science of psychology. Topics will include the historical foundations of psychology, cognition, emotions, learning, human development, biological bases of behavior, personality, psychological disorders, psychotherapy and behavior change, and social behavior. Emphasis also will be placed on the application of psychology to diverse human endeavors.

An overriding course goal is to provide access to the way psychologists conduct science, communicate research findings, and apply psychological knowledge. Toward this goal, by the end of the course students will be able to:

1. Describe and define major psychological theories, theorists, principles, and concepts.
2. Become familiar with current scientific theory and research in the major topic areas of psychology.
3. Be able to locate, read and evaluate psychological resources.
4. Become familiar with the methodology of psychology and its limitations.
5. Discover the personal relevance of course material, including an understanding of the role of psychological forces in their lives and the lives of others, and an appreciation of the practical value of psychology.
6. Develop skills necessary to evaluate and think critically about information concerning psychological phenomena obtained from research, the general public, and the media.
7. Be well prepared for advanced study in psychology.

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### **Course Requirements:**

- (1) **Tests.** There will be 3 tests given over the course of the semester. Tests will be administered in class, as marked on the syllabus, and will take the class time to complete. Three tests are non-cumulative, and cover textbook chapters and lectures as documented in the course schedule. Tests will consist of multiple choice and essay questions and include material from the text, class assignments, and lecture. **Please bring a #2 pencil with you to class on test days.**
  - a. No exams will be handed out to students who arrive more than 10 minutes late on exam dates.
  - b. Make-up exams will not be given, except in the case of *extreme emergency* (i.e., medical emergency or family death), and if possible, should be arranged prior to missing the scheduled exam time. Be aware that I will require you to document the cause of any unforeseen rescheduling of exams.
  - c. Make-up exams will be difficult and will only be given within a week of the exam date. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to set-up an appropriate time to take the exam.
- (2) **Assignments.** Three assignments will be distributed throughout the semester. A brief description is indicated below. A handout will be provided to you for each assignment.
  1. Observational Study: You will be grouped with other students to design and conduct an observational field study. You will be asked to write a brief report of your experience.
  2. Genie: You will watch a documentary about Genie, a little girl who was found after years of abuse and neglect. You will be asked to answer several questions after watching the video.
  3. Birmingham Civil Rights Institute: You will be asked to attend the museum (520 16<sup>th</sup> St. North) and write a reflection paper based on your experience. Admission is free on Sundays (1-5 pm) and \$6 on other days (10 am-5pm). A class day is set aside for you to complete this assignment.
- (3) **Group Project.** You will be asked to investigate a current hot topic in psychology (e.g. suicide, eating disorders, school violence, sociopaths, etc.) and to create a group presentation and discussion about this topic. Each group will have 4-5 members. More information regarding this assignment will be given in class. A short description of your topic is due on **October 14**. You will conduct the oral presentation on **December 2 or 4**.
- (4) **Participation** Students are expected to contribute to class discussion of the issues raised in the readings. Active, thoughtful, and informed participation is a key condition for the vitality and success of this course, and is therefore, a basic requirement for all class members. Throughout the course, your participation will be recorded through a variety of methods such as group activities, reflection paragraphs, in class discussions, and quizzes. Please come to class prepared by doing the assigned readings.
- (5) **Research Credit.** In order to pass this class, you must complete four (4) research credits. You can sign up for research credits through Sona. All the information you need to know

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about this is on the handout. Do not lose this! After you complete your research hours, you will receive your credits; and they will be visible to me through the online Sona system. You must complete this by the last day of class. This is not extra credit, and I will *not* give extra credit for more than four research credits. You can either participate in experiments or write one of the papers as described in the research credit packet. If you cannot attend research you signed up for, you must contact the researcher. **FAILURE TO COMPLETE THIS REQUIREMENT WILL RESULT IN AN INCOMPLETE FOR THE CLASS.** You will then need to complete your requirement during the next semester or the incomplete will turn into an F regardless of your academic standing.

**Course Grade:**

Your final grade and course assignments will be graded on the following scale and the grades will be calculated according to the percentages below:

<b>Grading Scale</b>	<b>Grading Breakdown</b>		
A=600-540 points	Exams	3@100 points each	(300 points)
B=539-480 points	Presentation	100 points	(100 points)
C=479-420 points	Participation	50 points	(50 points)
D=419-360 points	<u>Assignments</u>	<u>3@50 points each</u>	<u>(150 points)</u>
F=< 360 points	<u>TOTAL</u>		<u>600 points</u>

**Dropping and Withdrawing:**

The Office of the Registrar has set the last day to drop this course without paying full tuition and fees as September 2nd, 2014. The last day to withdraw from this course with a grade of “W” is October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

**Severe Weather:**

In the event of severe weather, the official source for UAB closing is WBHM, 90.3 FM.

**Academic Integrity Policy:**

*“The Department of Psychology considers academic dishonesty to be a very serious matter. Cheating devalues the honest efforts of other students, consumes enormous amounts of faculty and staff time, and is never justifiable. The undergraduate catalog presents the university’s policy on Academic Misconduct, which the Department scrupulously follows. Note that academic dishonesty can take various forms, including cheating on an exam, assisting someone else in cheating, and plagiarizing or presenting someone else’s written material as your own. The Department routinely uses sophisticated mathematical and computer-based techniques to detect cheating and plagiarism in its classes. Students may be asked to present evidence of independent scholarship or re-take an exam if cheating or plagiarism is suspected. In general, the Department of Psychology will seek the most severe penalty for acts of academic misconduct that are detected. First offenses typically result in an “F” in the course. Second offenses typically result in expulsion from the university. For further details, consult the catalog.”*

**Disability Related Accommodations:**

If you are registered with Disability Support Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss accommodations that may be necessary. If you have a disability

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but have not contacted Disability Support Services, please call 934-4205 or visit DSS at 1701 9th Ave. South.

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<i>Week</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>	<i>Assignment</i>
1	Tue	Aug 26	Introduction to Psychology	Chapter 1	
	Thu	Aug 28	Research Methods	Chapter 1	
2	Tue	Sep 2	Biology and Behavior	Chapter 2	
	Thu	Sep 4	Biology and Behavior	Chapter 2	
3	Tue	Sep 9	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 3	
	Thu	Sep 11	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 3	
4	Tue	Sep 16	Learning	Chapter 5	
	Thu	Sep 18	Learning	Chapter 5	
5	Tue	Sep 23	<b>Exam 1</b>		
	Thu	Sep 25	Consciousness	Chapter 4	
6	Tue	Sep 30	Memory	Chapter 6	<b>Assignment 1 due</b>
	Thu	Oct 2	Memory	Chapter 6	
7	Tue	Oct 7	Cognition	Chapter 7	
	Thu	Oct 9	Cognition	Chapter 7	
8	Tue	Oct 14	Human Development	Chapter 8	<b>Group topic due</b>
	Thu	Oct 16	Human Development	Chapter 8	
9	Tue	Oct 21	<b>Exam 2</b>		
	Thu	Oct 23	Social Psychology	Chapter 15	
10	Tue	Oct 28	Social Psychology	Chapter 15	<b>Assignment 2 due</b>
	Thu	Oct 30	<i>Birmingham Civil Rights Institute</i>		
11	Tue	Nov 4	Personality	Chapter 11	
	Thu	Nov 6	Sexuality and Gender	Chapter 10	
12	Tue	Nov 11	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 13	
	Thu	Nov 13	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 13	
13	Tue	Nov 18	Treatment	Chapter 14	
	Thu	Nov 20	Treatment	Chapter 14	<b>Assignment 3 due</b>
14	Tue	Nov 25	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>		
	Thu	Nov 27	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>		
15	Tue	Dec 2	Group Presentations		
	Thu	Dec 4	Group Presentations		
16	Thu	Dec 11	<b>Exam 3 10:45am - 1:15 pm</b>		