



UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK TIRANA
Fall 2007

Course: **General Psychology (3 credit hours)**

Instructor: **Anxhela Gramo, M.A., CP**

Office hours: **TUE & FRI 11:00 - 13:00**

Email: **agramo@unyt.edu.al**

Meeting day and time: **WED 13:00 - 16:00**

Catalog Description

This course provides a general view of human mind, brain and behavior.

Course Purpose

This course is an overview of the field of psychology. It is intended to provide students with knowledge of the most recent findings about human nature, the methods used to gather scientific information, and the status of controversies in the discipline of psychology. It attempts to answer the kind of questions that you may have asked about yourself.

Required Textbook

Wade, Carole & Tavris, Carol, (2003) Psychology New Jersey, Prentice Hall (7th ed.)

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Describe the scientific methods used in psychology for gathering knowledge.
2. Develop a personal opinion on the Nature & Nurture debate.
3. Discuss reasons why we forget and how to improve memory.
4. Describe the relationship among stress, health, and coping.
5. Discuss the concept of intelligence, how it is measured, and the controversies surrounding its measurement and use.
6. Identify and apply principles of learning.

7. Discuss the impact of societal and cultural influences on behavior.

Content of the Course

1	What is Psychology
2	Psychology and Research
13	Theories of Personality (presentation & paper topic due)
5	Body Rhythms and Mental State (presentations begin)
7	Learning (1st article summary)
11	Emotions (article critique)
8	Behavior in Social Context
12	Motivation (2n article summary)
9	Thinking and Intelligence
10	Memory (draft paper due)
6	Sensation and Perception
15	Stress and Coping
3	Evolution, Genes & Behavior (paper due)
16	Psychological Disorders/Treatments

Course Requirements

A. Reading assignment: The textbook and additional reading assignments are crucial to your understanding of the course material. **Note that not all the text material will be covered in class. Completing all reading assignments each week remains student's responsibility.**

B. Attendance is mandatory:

- *Students who miss more than three classes may be required to withdraw from the course.*
- Students with perfect attendance will be given extra credit toward their final grade (for example, a B would become a B+).
- Any **unexcused absences** will lead to loss of participation and attendance points.
- Any illness or emergency situation should be reported to the instructor. **Only in this case, it will be considered excused.**

C. Participation is as important as attendance.

Participating in class discussions is a good tool to practice your communication skills. Sharing your experiences, opinions and raising questions will be beneficial to all. However, if you do not feel comfortable speaking in front of others, please see me.

D. Article Summaries (2): Students are required to choose a topic of interest for the paper. By the third week of class, students are expected to have made a decision about the topic. Please see the instructor if assistance is needed.

Based on the selected topic, students are required to find two articles (relevant to the topic) as references for the final paper and to prepare one summary for each.

Criteria for writing article summaries:

- a. It should not exceed 2 pages.
 - b. Each summary should cover the following
 1. What was the hypothesis raised by the author?
 2. Show some evidences provided by the author to support the hypothesis.
 3. What did you learn from the article?
- If you do not turn in your assignment on time, you will receive 0 points.
 - All the summaries will count for 10% of your final grade (each-5%)

E. Critical Review of an article (1). Students are also expected to submit an article critique. Article should be relevant to the topic of presentation. It is allowed to use one of the articles students have used for "summary". 10% of the final grade.

F. Paper: Each student is required to prepare a paper, which

- should not exceed 4 pages.
- It must be typed and double-spaced.
- **Remember, your paper needs to be unique and individually written.**
- The paper will count 20% of your grade.

G. Tests: There will be 2 tests during the semester- 1 during the course of the semester and 1 during final exam period. These tests will consist of series of multiple choice questions and short answered question which will cover the material presented in your textbook, material discussed in class and all assigned readings. These exams will count for 40% of your final grade (each 20%). **No make-up tests.**

Exceptions - only in documented cases of emergency.

H. Group Presentation: Students will be divided into groups of two. Each group will choose a different, specific topic of their interest, which is relevant to the course material. The topic must be approved by the instructor by the third week of class.

- Each group is required to provide a *copy of the outline presentation* to the classmates and to the instructor.
- Presentations should be 30 minutes in length and should facilitate the class discussions.
- *If for any reason, you will not be present on the scheduled day, your presentation will be postponed for the next week, and you will get 5 points deduction.*
- 10% of your final grade will be based on the presentation.

Class Policies

A. It is expected that students **show respect in class**. It is very disrespectful to talk to your neighbor while someone is speaking. If you need assistance regarding a point you missed, please ask.

B. Being on time for class is important. If you will be late for the class, you are allowed to enter the class and not miss it. However, note that regular tardiness will lower your grade.

C. Raise your hand when you would like to speak. It is not rare that most of students want to speak at the same time. Raising hand will facilitate our discussions and will assist us respect everyone equally. If you will ignore this rule, your word will be ignored as well.

F. Cell phones should be turned off or silenced. In cases of emergency, please let me know before the start of class. If you need to go out, please do so quietly without disturbing the class process.

G. Late Assignment & Paper will be penalized. For each day the paper or the assignment is late, points will be deducted.

H. Cheating & Plagiarism will lead to severe consequences. Copying your friend's work during a test, assignment or paper is not acceptable. If someone gives you the permission to copy his/her work, this is still considered **cheating** and both individuals will suffer the consequences. **Plagiarism** (it is worth repeating) occurs when a student uses the work of another person (author) without change or with minor changes without recognizing this fact.

In the event of illness or emergency, contact your instructor IN

ADVANCE to determine whether special arrangements are possible. The University's rules on academic dishonesty (e.g. cheating, plagiarism, submitting false information) will be strictly enforced. Please familiarize yourself with the STUDENT HONOUR CODE, or ask your instructor for clarification

Criteria for determination of GRADE

Participation	10%
Article Summaries (2)	10%
Exams (2)	40%
Presentation	10%
Article critique	10%
Final Paper	20%

Grading Scale

Grad. Scale	96-100 A	90-95 A-	87-89 B+
	83-86 B	80-82 B-	77-79 C+
	73-76 C	70-72 C-	67-69 D+
	63-66 D	60-62 D-	0-59 F

Guidelines for writing the paper

As mentioned above, the paper will be graded on a 200-point scale as it follows:

- 20 points** - Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar
- 20 points** - Is clearly written and easy to follow
- 30 points** - The defense of your position.
- 40 points** - At least four references (2 foreign + 2 Albanian)
- 40 points** - Demonstration of critical thinking.
- 50 points** - Mastery of course material.

NOTE: Course assignments/papers will not be accepted by email. If the paper is late, you will receive 10 points deduction; Papers can be accepted until 1 week after the DUE DATE.

- **I strongly advise you to consult with your English professor for writing assistance, or visit the Writing Center.**

Papers must be prepared according to APA or MLA Style. Be sure to proofread your work to assure that there are no incomplete sentences, nor spelling or grammatical errors.

- *I am always willing to review draft papers before they are submitted. I am not responsible for computer problems or your inability to complete papers in a timely fashion.*
- A successful paper will follow the basic format:

1-Introduce your topic - What is the topic and Why you have selected it? This section should be 1 -2 paragraphs.

2- Describe what you found out from the literature review. This section should include at least 5 paragraphs (findings about phenomenon in the world and the phenomenon in Albania)

3-Discuss the findings, by comparing them with text material. Define and explain your own opinion. Make sure to strongly support your arguments. Be sure you tie it into what you have discussed in the previous paragraphs. This section is the MAIN part of your paper and should be at least 3 - 4 paragraphs.

4-Provide one-paragraph conclusion of the study of your topic.