

Orientation to the Psychology Major (Psych 1030)

Wednesdays 10:00-10:50 a.m. or 1:00-1:50 p.m.

102 McAlester Hall

Instructor

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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Purpose & Goals

This course is intended for students who are considering major in Psychology or already declared Psychology majors in order to better understand the scope of the field and related career opportunities. The course is divided into 3 sub-sections:

What is Psychology?

How to be a successful Psychology student

What will I do next? Graduate school and career opportunities in Psychology

By the end of the course, students should be more knowledgeable about the resources that are available to them, the wide variety of sub-disciplines within Psychology, and have a plan of what career they plan to pursue post-graduation.

Course Assignments & Grading

- **Class participation (70 points)**: Some type of class participation/attendance will be collected every class period. If you are not in attendance at the time this is collected, you will not receive credit. Each class period will be worth 5 points, for up to 70 points. There are 15 classes, which means that everyone gets one “freebie” class to miss without missing points. Given this, no “excused” absences are granted.
- **Assignments (70 points)**: We will have 7 short writing assignments due over the course of the semester which will be worth 10 points each. Due dates are noted on the Course Schedule and are *due by 5 p.m. on those days through the course Canvas site*. Late submissions will be accepted, but will be docked 3 points. Assignment instructions can be found on Canvas.
- **Final Poster Presentation (10 points)**: On the last day of class, we will have a poster presentation session where each student will present information (in visual form) on what discipline and career-trajectory they feel they are most-likely heading towards with pursuing a psychology degree. More specific instructions will be available on Canvas. The 10 points will be based on both the poster and the student presentation.

A+ = 145.5 – 150 points

A = 139.5 – 145.5 points

A- = 135 – 139 points

B+ = 130.5 – 134.5 points

B = 124.5 – 130 points

B- = 120 – 124 points

C+ = 115.5 – 119.5 points

C = 109.5 – 115 points

C- = 105 – 109 points

D+ = 100.5 – 104.5 points

D = 94.5 – 100 points

D- = 90 – 94 points

F < 90 points

Class Schedule

What is Psychology?

- Jan. 17 Definition & Descriptions of Psychology
- Jan. 24 Disciplines of Psychology
(due: Assignment 1: Why do I want to be a Psychology Major)
- Jan. 31 What isn't Psychology? Related fields
(due: Assignment 2: APA division assignment)
- Feb. 7 Reading and understanding psychological research articles
- Feb. 14 Psychological Research in the popular press
(due: Assignment 3: research review)

How to be a Successful Psychology Major

- Feb. 21 Course requirements & recommendations: Jill & Cate
- Feb. 28 Senior panel: What do I wish I had known at the beginning?
(due: Assignment 4: course plan)
- Mar. 7 Undergraduate Research & importance to Psychology: Linda Blockus or ambassadors
- Mar. 14 Where can I find help? Campus Academic Resources
(due: Assignment 5: research opportunity inquiry)
- Mar. 21 Psychology-Related Student Organizations
- Mar. 28 SPRING BREAK, NO CLASS

What Do I Do Next? Graduate School and Career Opportunities

- Apr. 4 Career Center
- Apr. 11 Bachelors, Masters & Doctoral degrees & their related careers.
- Apr. 18 Psychology vs. Non-psychology graduate programs
(due: Assignment 6: online career profile)
- Apr. 25 Applying to Graduate School Timeline
- May 2 Student Poster Presentations
(due: Assignment 7: program & career plan, plus poster)