COURSE DESCRIPTION
“Students are introduced to the basic concepts and methods of psychology. Course content surveys scientific methods, the brain and nervous system, sensation and perception, consciousness, learning and memory, personality, psychological disorders, and treatment.” (College Catalog)

TEXTBOOK AND ASSIGNED READINGS
Required:
You will need to purchase the following package:
Jeffrey S. Nevid, 2009, third edition; Psychology: Concepts and Applications, Houghton Mifflin Company/Cengage Learning. Additional readings will be made available during class, or may be on reserve at the MWCC Library.

COURSE WEBSITE
This course has a Website designed by Houghton Mifflin. You can access the online study center site at: http://college.hmco.com/psychology/nevid/psychology/3e/student_home.html
You will need a passkey which is packaged with the text. If you do not have a passkey, your access to the website will be limited.
The site has been designed to help you to understand and reinforce your understanding of concepts in the Nevid text. It contains practice tests, tutorials, activities, weblinks, podcasts and many other helpful tools.
Additionally, I have a Website for this course at http://bb.mwcc.edu; click on Introduction to Psychology and you will find my Psych Café! This course will appear on your list of courses and you will use your Bb user name and password to access the account (after the first full week of classes). Use this site to access copies of my syllabi as well to find other helpful information like my writing lab and “bonus” work for the course.

GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES FOR MWCC
Mount Wachusett Community College has developed four competencies that are aimed at “equipping students with the skills, knowledge, and intellectual understanding that they need to function effectively in a dynamic, complex and interdependent world.” You will need to demonstrate competence in these outcomes in this course and others, which you will enroll in at MWCC. This course has been designed to help you achieve the following competencies:

1. Written and oral communication in English; 2. Quantitative reasoning and scientific modes of inquiry; 3. Information literacy; 4. Understanding self
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THIS COURSE

1. To learn the definition of psychology, the historic perspectives of psychology and the various approaches to behavior, mental processes and contexts. To learn to think critically and develop good communication skills. To understand cultural diversity as it relates to psychology.

2. To understand what psychologists do and to gain knowledge of the various careers in psychology, as well as the ethical principles that psychologists follow.

3. To develop an understanding of scientific research and methods and how research relates to psychology as a field.

4. To gain knowledge about the biology of the brain and nervous system.

5. To develop an understanding of sensations and perceptions, and to gain knowledge of the structure, function and theories of the five senses.

6. To learn about states of consciousness, sleep, hypnosis and to explore the physical and psychological aspects of psychoactive drug use and abuse.

7. To explore the systems, processes, biological bases and cultural factors involved in learning and memory.

8. To learn about human development, including prenatal, birth, physical, cognitive and social aspects and to examine the various theories of development.

9. To develop an understanding of personality and the basic schools of psychology including psychodynamic, behavioral, humanistic and cognitive theories.

10. To be able to define and discuss the causes of abnormal behavior; to learn the purpose of and contents of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders; to be able to identify characteristic causes of various mental disorders; to explore and discuss various approaches to treatment.

11. To become familiar with online resources; to be able to apply psychological concepts and definitions to the world that exists outside of the classroom.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

The classroom time will be composed of a combination of lectures (including PowerPoint multimedia lectures which I have designed) with student discussions, classroom experiments and demonstrations, discussions of articles and additional reading materials, in-class group work, films, in class use of technology, and student participation. Class participation is an important part of the learning process and is encouraged and expected. You are also required to complete reading assignments on time so that you will be able to be an active participant in class. Active note taking and critical thinking are strongly suggested.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

It is important that you attend all classes since participation is vital and since not all of the lecture information will be covered in your text. While it is not encouraged, you will be allowed to miss three (3) classes for any reason. **There are no excused absences (except in the event of absence because of religious beliefs—please see college catalog for details),** so every absence counts! Each miss over the allowed three misses will result in a deduction of three points off your final grade. Please see me during the semester if you have over three absences. I strongly suggest that you reserve your “cuts” for illnesses and emergencies. Excessive absenteeism (seven or more absences) will result in my withdrawing you from this course. NOTE: the last day to withdraw from a class is ___________. After ___________, excessive absenteeism will result in failure of the course. You are responsible for ALL class work/lectures and assignments given during any class you have missed. MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL NOT BE GIVEN, EXCEPT IF THE STUDENT HAS MISSED THE EXAM DUE TO WHAT WE BOTH AGREE IS AN EMERGENCY (e.g., serious illness or death in the family). You will receive a “0” for any missed exams. You are allowed only one emergency make-up exam per semester. There will be no make-up for the final exam. If you miss the final, you will receive a “0.”
You are required to be on time for class. If you are not present when attendance is taken, you will be considered absent, unless you check in with me at the end of the class. Of course, inclement weather or some other emergency would allow for exceptions to this rule. If you know that you will be late for a particular class or that you will have to leave a class early, please inform me before class. Otherwise, it is expected that you will remain for the entire class. Excessive tardiness may adversely affect your final grade.

**METHODS OF EVALUATION:**

Your final grade will be based on the following:

**Four exams:**

- **Three general exams, and a final exam.** Each exam will cover assigned textbook reading, assigned articles and handouts, and classroom activities and lectures. The exams will be a combination of objective questions (i.e., multiple choice, matching, true/false, fill-ins) and essay questions. You will receive a study guide for each exam. The third exam will be a take home exam, format will be objective questions, short answers and essays.

If you have a course average of 93 or better, you will be exempt from taking the final exam. **Each exam will be graded on a scale of 0 to 100. The exams will be averaged, and will account for 50% of your final grade.** Make up exams will be given only for emergencies such as serious illness, or death in the immediate family.

**Homework Assignments:**

- You will have 6 written homework assignments. You will be given a choice of two assignments per chapter and will need to complete a total of six (select 6 chapters, only 1 assignment may be completed per chapter. For example, you may do one homework assignment for chapter 1, 3, 4, 5, 9 and 14. The choices will be included in your Chapter Outline packets and we will be covering chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 13 and 14. I will only count six assignments; you cannot do extra.

- **Only one late assignment per semester:** Your one allowed late assignment will receive a 5 point deduction per late day and will not be accepted after one week. I will not accept more than one late assignment. **Therefore, you will receive a “0” for any additional late assignments.** Assignments should be typed and double spaced with one inch margins, using Times New Roman 12 pt font. There are some assignments that may be handwritten (activity worksheet assignments only). The assignments must be in your own words. You may use resources other than your text for some of the homework assignments, and some of the assignments require you to have references. If you use references, be sure to properly cite the sources using APA format. Failure to use proper documentation (plagiarism) will result in failure of the assignment, and possible failure of the course. Please see schedule for due dates. **Your six assignment grades will be averaged to yield one grade that will account for 50% of your final grade.**

**IMPORTANT: ALL WORK FOR THIS COURSE MUST BE COMPLETED. FAILURE TO COMPLETE ALL ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS MAY RESULT IN FAILURE OF THE COURSE.**

Please keep all returned papers and exams throughout the semester. Do NOT discard them.

- **Participation:** Based on the frequency and quality of your participation, you may receive bonus points at my discretion.
The college utilizes the following grading system:

- 93-100 A
- 90-92 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

A grade of Incomplete (I grade) may be given at my discretion. You would have thirty days from the date of the final exam to complete all of your work. If you receive an Incomplete, it is your responsibility to contact me to arrange for the completion of your work, and it is my responsibility to provide you with an opportunity to complete the course requirements. If you do not finish your work at the end of the thirty-day extension, your grade may automatically convert to an F.

**Withdrawal from this course:**
You may formally withdraw from this course through the end of the 9th week. You are required to speak with me before withdrawing. A grade of W will be recorded. Please be advised that if you stop attending class after the ninth week, you cannot receive a W for a grade, but will receive an F grade. This is a college policy.

**ADDITIONAL STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Please adhere to the following in my classroom.

- Once class has begun, it is expected that you will remain for the duration of the class. “Coming and going” disrupts class.
- Please turn off all cell phones, pagers and all electronic devices during class time. Do not leave on vibrate. Texting is not allowed in my classroom.
- You may bring your laptop computer to class. However, you should use it during class only for note taking. If you are surfing the internet, instant messaging friends or doing other work that is not part of the class, you will no be allowed to bring your laptop to class again.
- **Classroom Atmosphere:** Any good classroom discussion involves personal exposure and thus the taking of risks. Your ideas and beliefs may differ with others students’ ideas and that is ok! As long as your points are honest and supportable, they need to be respected by all of us. Encouragement, questions, discussion, and laughter are all an important part of this class, but rudeness and mockery are never allowable, just as disruptive behavior is grounds for dismissal. Please be attentive in class and respect other students’ needs and differences. Talking while I am talking or while another student is speaking is not acceptable behavior.
- **Academic Honesty:** MWCC policy: “Students enrolled in this course are responsible for academic honesty. Cheating and plagiarism (any forms of presenting someone else’s work as one’s own) are serious offenses and will not be tolerated.” If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, please see me, or go to the Academic Support Center for assistance. “Students enrolled in MWCC’s courses are responsible for academic honesty. All members of the MWCC community strive to promote honesty in scholarship and research. The primary responsibility for maintaining standards of academic integrity rests with the individual student. Academic honesty is required of all students at MWCC. The Academic Honesty Policy is intended to establish and enforce uniformly just and equitable procedures for resolving allegations of dishonesty. Students must also become knowledgeable about what constitutes cheating, plagiarism, and fabrication by asking the instructor and consulting with the academic support center. Students are instructed to resolve questions or confusion about appropriate documenting and referencing techniques before submitting assignments. The instructor reserves the right to fail students who cheat, plagiarize, or fabricate.” (College Catalog, 2010-2011).

“Academic dishonesty is prohibited at MWCC and includes but is not limited to:
• **Cheating:** intentional use and/or attempted use of trickery, artifice, deception, breach of confidence, fraud and/or misrepresentation of one’s academic work. Includes giving or receiving aid during examinations or in completing laboratory assignments, computer programs, or other work assigned in courses, unless given explicit permission by the instructor.

  - **Examples:** use of books, notes, or other materials during an examination, unless permitted; copying others’ work or unauthorized cooperation in doing assignments or during an examination; use of purchased essays, term papers, or preparatory research for such papers; submission of work originally done by someone else; submission of the same written work in more than one course without prior approval from the instructors involved; falsification of experimental data or results; unauthorized use of username or password; use of false signatures or initials on course related material.

• **Plagiarism:** using another person’s words or ideas without acknowledgement.

• **Fabrication:** intentional and unauthorized falsification and/or invention of any information or citation in any academic exercise.

  - **Examples:** the use of “invented” information in any laboratory experiment or academic exercise without notice to and authorization from the instructor; alteration and resubmission of returned academic work without notice to and authorization of the instructor; misrepresentation of the actual source from which information is cited.” (College Catalog, 2010-2011).

**Plagiarism Policy:** “Plagiarism is a serious breach of academic honesty and is not tolerated at MWCC. If a faculty member suspects that a student has engaged in plagiarism, it is the student’s responsibility to provide the sources the student used in preparing his/her project. If the faculty member suspects that plagiarism is involved, he/she will follow this procedure:

**Stage One**

- The faculty member will notify the student within 10 days of the alleged incident and arrange for a meeting with the student.
- If, after an informal meeting the faculty member and the student cannot reach a resolution of the incident, the faculty member will fill out a student plagiarism report available from the division dean.
- Once the plagiarism report has been issued, to overcome the accusation of plagiarism, the student must provide proof of his/her sources.
- If, upon investigation by the faculty member, the student has been found to be not responsible, the student will be notified by the faculty member in writing by means of the student plagiarism report. If the student has been found not responsible, the report will be expunged.
- If the student is found responsible, the student will be offered an opportunity to sign the report. If the student does not accept the finding of responsibility, the student has the option of accepting the report’s finding or appealing the decision to the appropriate division dean.
- The student receives a copy of the report and the faculty member keeps a copy of the report as part of the class record and forwards the report to the vice president of academic affairs and a copy to the appropriate division dean.

Students found to have engaged in plagiarism based on the evidence may be subject to, but not limited to, the following sanctions that are to be imposed by the faculty member:

- Receive a grade of zero for the assignment.
- Receive a grade of F for the course.
- Refer the case to the division dean for further action through the student disciplinary procedures.
- At the faculty member’s discretion, a temporary file will be maintained in the vice president of academic affairs’ office outlining the facts of the incident and its resolution.
- This record will be maintained for the duration of the student’s enrollment not to exceed two years.
- If the student drops out and does not enroll for the succeeding semester, the student retains the right to appeal the decision for a period not to exceed 12 months.

**Stage Two**

Upon referring the case for student disciplinary action, the faculty member agrees that the disposition of the case including the imposition of any sanctions or actions will be determined by the committee” (College Catalog, 2010-2011).

• **Students with Disabilities:**

  Students with documented disabilities (physical, emotional, learning, and/or others) who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Counselor for Students with Disabilities, in room 135, extension 120, as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.
**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

Please note that this is a tentative schedule, and that this schedule may change at any time at my discretion.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Syllabus, policies, getting to know you, defining psychology</td>
<td>Chapter 1: 2-24</td>
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<td>Chapter 1: Introduction to Psychology and Methods of Research</td>
<td>Chapter 1: 25-39</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Chapter 1 concluded; Chapter 2 begins</td>
<td>Chapter 2: 40-60</td>
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<td>Chapter 2: The Biological Foundations of Behavior</td>
<td>Chapter 2: 60-83</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Chapter 2 continued</td>
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<td><strong>Homework: Chapter 1 is due</strong></td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Chapter 2 concludes</td>
<td>Chapter 3: 86-106</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chapter 3: Sensation and Perception</td>
<td>Chapter 3: 107-131</td>
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<td><strong>Homework: Chapter 2 is due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td><strong>Exam #1: Chapters 1, 2</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 4: 132-149</td>
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<td>Chapter 4, Consciousness begins</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>4: States of Consciousness</td>
<td>Chapter 4: 150-171</td>
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<td><strong>Homework: Chapter 3 is due</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 5: 172-186</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Chapter 5: Learning</td>
<td>Chapter 5: 187-207</td>
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<td><strong>Homework: Chapter 4 is due</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 6: 208-225</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>5: Learning concludes/</td>
<td>Chapter 6: 226-243</td>
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<td>Chapter 6: memory</td>
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<td><strong>Homework: Chapter 5 is due</strong></td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Chapter 9: Child Development</td>
<td>Chapter 9: 322-334</td>
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<td><strong>Exam #2: Chapters 3, 4, 5 and lectures, Handouts</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 9: 335-365</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>9: Development</td>
<td>Chapter 14: 516-535-555</td>
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**Week 11**  
Chapter 14: Psychological Disorders  
**Homework:** Chapter 9 is due  
Chapter 13: 477-495

**Week 12**  
Chapter 14: Disorders; Chapter 13: Personality  
**Exam 3: Chapters 6, 9 and 13**  
Chapter 13: Personality  
**Homework:** Chapter 13 is due  
Chapter 13: 495-515

**Week 13**  
Chapter 13: Personality  
**Homework:** Chapter 13 and 14 are due. You should have 6 assignments completed!

**Week 14**  
Chapter 13 concludes; Review for final

**Week 15**  
Final exams. Good luck!

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This syllabus contains a lot of valuable information. Please read it and keep it. On a more informal note, I welcome you to this course and look forward to an exciting and interesting semester. Please do not hesitate to ask for help if you need it. I am always available for extra guidance and assistance. Good luck to all of you and I hope you have a productive and rewarding semester.
PSY 105 Syllabus Addendum: Assignment Formatting

General Information regarding assignments:

- Most assignments should be typed, double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, with 1 inch margins. Include a References page if you used information from references. You do not have to type “worksheet” style homework. However, please make sure work is neat and well presented (legible and without crossouts).
- If you use resources/references for your homework (some require it), documentation must be according to APA (American Psychological Association) format. (See below and APA style handout); **If you pass in a paper without documentation (i.e., no bibliography and/or without internal citations), you will receive a “0”**.
- Written homework assignments should have a cover page, with the title centered, and your name, the course name and date below that.
- Pages should be stapled together in upper left hand corner. **No folders or plastic covers please.**
- References should be “new,” usually written within the last five years; our textbook or any other textbook should not be used as a reference; encyclopedias are not good resources; you may use Web resources, but make sure they are “legitimate” such as American Psychological Association. **Do NOT use Wikipedia please!!!!! IF YOU USE WIKIPEDIA AS A REFERENCE YOU WILL RECEIVE AN AUTOMATIC 10 POINT DEDUCTION FROM YOUR PAPER.**
- All homework should be a MINIMUM of one full page. Ideally, papers will be 2 to 3 pages!
- Please see me if you need help with any assignments. The Writing Center is also open daily for assistance in room 115/116

**APA FORMAT**

- Works should be listed in alphabetical order, second, third lines indented. Double-space entire Reference page.
- Authors’ Names: Note that first names are not used, only initials.
- Capitalization: Books and journal articles: Only the first word of titles of books and journal articles, proper names and first word of subtitles are capitalized. Journals: Each word of the title of a journal is capitalized.
- Titles of books and journals are italicized.
- See APA Style Guide handout for more examples; see my Blackboard site for examples and links

References (SAMPLE)


For Internal Citations

**Do not use footnotes**, but use the following:

“Cocaine produces few congenital malformations, but it can dramatically affect nervous system development” (Bekerian, 2006, p. 224).

Or

**Need help with APA Style?**

- Use Easybib. Go to: [http://www.mwcc.edu/library/](http://www.mwcc.edu/library/), select E-Reference tools from the left menu; Scroll down to Style Guides. Sign up for Easybib, following library directions; then go to the Easybib site through the library (APA style is free if you use our account). Make sure you select APA when you get to the Easybib page!
- Purdue University has a great website with samples of APA style. Find their site at: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/)
Homework Assignment Checklist

*Use the following checklist each time you submit an assignment to make sure that you are adhering to guidelines and following proper formatting tips.*

*Your homework will be graded on the following dimensions:*  
Comprehensiveness, Depth of understanding, Accuracy, Presentation (including grammar, spelling, length of assignment and proper use of APA documentation)

**Before submitting your paper, please make sure that it meets the following criteria:**

- Cover page follows correct format (see syllabus)
- Times New Roman font, 12 point, 1” margins
- Entire paper is double spaced
- Paper has no typographical and/or grammatical errors (use spell check and read your work to proof it!)
- Quotations are not overused
- Work is properly documented according to APA style (in-text citations for summarized, paraphrased and quoted ideas)
- If you use references, the paper includes a “References” page which conforms to APA style
- Paper is stapled in upper left corner and does not have a cover (plastic…)
- Facts, data etc. are accurate. Directions for each homework assignment are followed; Paper is at least one page in length, ideally 2 to 3. For “fill in” activity assignments: work is accurate, neat (no crossouts or messiness) and directions are followed.
- Paper is well organized and establishes and maintains a clear focus; paper is comprehensive
- Ideas are well-developed; depth and complexity of ideas supported by rich, and/or pertinent details; paper shows reflection and insight; paper does not include personal, anecdotal information unless requested.