



**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences

**PY 101-01**  
**General Psychology**  
*FINAKPO' (Session A) 2024*

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Instructor: Rita Sharma, PHD

Class Time:

Online ASYNCHRONOUS  
MTWThF

Office: HSS 220C  
Phone: 735-2880

Class Location:  
Office Hours:

Moodle  
Email for appointment

E-mail: sharmar@triton.uog.edu  
(Please write PY101 in Subject of Email)



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### Catalog Description

This course provides an introduction to the basic principles of psychology, to methods for research in psychology, and to key findings from its subfields. Topics include the biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, consciousness and altered states, learning, human memory, problem-solving, motivation and emotion, development across the life span, personality, stress and coping, psychological disorders, psychotherapy, and social behavior.

Successful completion of PY101 is required before enrolling in any psychology courses at the 200, 300 or 400 levels. Each of these upper-level psychology courses addresses in more detail one of the subjects listed above.

### Course Content

This course is an introduction to the scientific study of behavior. In this course, students will learn how psychologists study human and animal behaviors. We will learn how information to our senses is transmitted and processed, the different ways we learn, remember and why we sometimes forget information. We will discuss what motivates different behaviors, and the role emotions play on our behaviors. We will explore what is intelligence, how it is measured, and the biases that can occur in interpretations. We will also examine how and why personalities differ, what psychological changes occur from infancy to adulthood, and the impact of stress on our physical and psychological health.

Additionally, we will cover how people behave in social situations and make group decisions. We will also explore the psychology of evil and altruism, and why certain leaders have influence over others to commit atrocities. Lastly, we will dive into the dynamics of love and why despite all our scientific methods, such human behaviors continues to elude and intrigue us.

Lastly, we will delve into the different psychological disorders, and their treatment. We will discuss how our understanding and treatment has evolved over the years and how the impact of socio-cultural and historical climate has helped define our labels. We will also briefly begin thinking critically about psychology as a discipline in its current stage and its future evolution.

### Instruction Format

This course is asynchronous and will be fully online this semester using UOG's **Moodle**. You should also check your emails regularly. Additional content will be posted on Moodle such as recorded lectures, videos, film clips, and Power Point presentations. Most of the material will be available for you to view later as well.

During the summer session A, you will need to read at least 3 chapters a week approximately. Powerpoints, videos, prerecorded lectures and readings will support each other, but not all material can be covered in the PPT presentations so ensure that you keep up with the weekly assigned readings! In addition, there will be opportunity to interactive with your classmates using the Moodle forum where a discussion question will be posted for you to comment and participate.

There will be a total of 4 exams. Look on the syllabus for exam dates. Your lowest exam grade will be dropped! You will have all day to complete an exam. The exam should take about 1 hour but you will have four hours to take it from the time you log on. We do this because we understand there are internet and other problems from time to time! ☺

Do not wait until the ending of the summer session A if you are having any difficulties in meeting the requirements of the course. I am here for you so please take the initiative to reach out to me. You can email me or the T.A. if you have any questions.

I am excited that you are going to take your first psychology course! I hope you will find the study of animal and human behaviors, mind, psyche, motivations, emotions, perceptions, psychopathology, personality, development and growth fascinating to learn and study this semester and beyond!

### Readings

Required Textbook: Weiten, W., Psychology: Themes and Variations (10th Edition). Cengage.  
You may use electronic version of this text.

### Evaluation Methods

#### Evaluation Methods

Numerical scores will be converted to letter grades based on the following percentages:

A+	98-100%
A	93-97%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%

C	70-76%
D	60-69%
F	<60%

UW – Unofficial Withdraw (not recommended as it affects financial aid)

W – Withdraw (this is an official withdraw but student must submit to registrar prior to deadline; this does not affect your GPA).

**Grades:** Exams will be primarily multiple choice, true and false, matching, or fill in the blank. You will take a total of 4 exams. The lowest grade will be dropped from the first 3 exams at the end of the semester. Your two highest exam grades will be used along with your final exam.

**Incompletes:** An incomplete grade is only given for extreme illness or unusual circumstances. Students are encouraged to speak with the instructor and provide appropriate documentation (when applicable) as soon as possible if he or she would like to request an incomplete. Requests for an incomplete will be reviewed by the instructor, who may discuss the request with an appropriate department administrator before approval.

**Extra Credit :**

Opportunities for extra credit may be given during the semester. Stay tuned for announcements and details!

**STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES (SLOS)**

**Course Learning Objectives**

Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate the following abilities. These objectives reflect both national and UOG standards: aligning with learning outcomes endorsed by the Psychology Program and by the University of Guam.

- 1) Identify and describe the major areas of research and application in psychology.
- 2) Identify and describe a minimum of three key findings from research in each of psychology's areas of specialization.
- 3) Contrast experimental and non-experimental approaches to behavioral research, and describe advantages of using scientific research to answer questions about behavior.
- 4) Identify and describe ethical issues attending research and applied work in psychology
- 5) Identify appropriate sources for additional reading on questions concerning human behavior, and contrast appropriate sources with unreliable sources.
- 6) Identify and describe important applications of psychological principles that can help meet individual needs and the needs of society, for each of psychology's areas of specialization.
- 7) Identify career opportunities for bachelor of arts and post-baccalaureate degree holders in psychology.
- 8) Identify important ways in which behavior is shaped by one's cultural heritage.

**Psychology Program SLOs**

The student learning objectives for the Psychology Program are articulated with those of the American Psychological Association. Graduating students will demonstrate that they have:

- 1) Developed a broad and deep knowledge base in Psychology.
- 2) Acquired and can appropriately apply knowledge of psychological research skills.
- 3) Acquired and can appropriately apply critical thinking skills in Psychology.
- 4) Developed competence in making appropriate applications of Psychology.

- 5) Acquired and can appropriately apply the values of Psychology.
- 6) Developed competence in information and technology literacy.
- 7) Developed competence in communication skills.
- 8) Acquired and can appropriately apply sociocultural and international awareness.
- 9) Acquired effective personal development skills.
- 10) Acquired knowledge and competence in career planning and development.

**University of Guam SLOs**

Some of the expected fundamental knowledge, skills, and values that the University of Guam student will have demonstrated upon completion of *any* degree are:

- 1) Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving.
- 2) Mastery of quantitative analysis.
- 3) Effective oral and written communication.
- 4) Understanding and appreciation of culturally diverse people, ideas and values in a democratic context.
- 5) Responsible use of knowledge, natural resources, and technology.
- 6) An appreciation of the arts and sciences.
- 7) An interest in personal development and lifelong learning.

**Student Learning Outcomes Alignment Matrix**

Course Student Learning Outcomes	Program Learning Outcomes	Institutional Learning Outcomes
SLO1	PY-1, PY-2, PY-3, PY-4	
SLO2	PY-1	UOG-6
SLO3	PY-2, PY-3	UOG-1
SLO4	PY-5	UOG-5
SLO5	PY-3	UOG-1
SLO6	PY-3	UOG-1
SLO7	PY-3	UOG-1
SLO8	PY-4, PY-9	
SLO9	PY-10	UOG-7
SLO10	PY-8	UOG-4

**University of Guam Policies**

COVID Response

The University of Guam is experiencing continued disruption to delivery of instruction during the global coronavirus pandemic. The University will follow executive orders and may be forced to close again, causing more modifications as the semester progresses. All changes will be posted on the UOG website, [www.uog.edu](http://www.uog.edu).

- Contact OIT for technical support at 735-2630 or oit@triton.uog.edu
- Contact the Triton Advising Center at 735 – 2271 or tac@triton.uog.edu
- Contact Isa Psychological Services Center at 735-2883 or isa@triton.uog.edu

In face to face courses, wearing masks and social distancing is required. Anyone who has a fever, or any other symptom, should stay home. If you do not comply with these directions, you will be asked to leave, and if you do not, class will be cancelled. Patience, respect, and cooperation are needed from all of us to persist through these uncomfortable times.

#### ADA Accommodation Services

If you are a student with a disability who will require an accommodation(s) to participate in this course, please contact the Student Counseling and Advising Service Accommodations office to discuss your specific accommodation needs confidentially. I will receive notification of your approved accommodation(s) from the SCAS Accommodations office. If you are not registered, you should do so immediately at the Student Center, Rotunda office #4, ph/(TTY): 735-2460, to coordinate your accommodation request.

#### EEO/ADA & Title IX Office

The University is committed to maintaining the campus community as a place of work and study for faculty, staff and students, free of all forms of discrimination and harassment. If you experience harassment or discrimination, then you should report it immediately to EEO Director at the **EEO/ADA & Title IX Office**, Institutional Compliance Officer (671) 735-2244 located in Dorm 1. For immediate assistance in an emergency call 911.

#### Tobacco-Free/Smoke-Free Policy

UOG is a tobacco-free/smoke-free campus. Thank you for not using tobacco products on campus, for helping to fight cancer, and for helping to make UOG a healthy learning environment.

#### No Recording Policy

Recording of online class meetings is not allowed. Not only is the delivery of course content the intellectual property of the instructor, but students enrolled in the course have privacy rights. Unauthorized recording and distribution of online courses may violate federal law.

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#### Plagiarism Policy

The term “plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials (UOG Student Handbook, p. 49). Cases of plagiarism are referred to the Student Discipline and Appeals Committee. In this course the penalties for plagiarism may include: (1) no credit for the assignment, or (2) failure in the course.

## PY101-01 Course Calendar Summer Session A 2024 May 28 to June 28

Date	Subject	Chapter
May 28	<i>First Day of Class!</i> – Course Overview; self-enroll on Moodle; review syllabus; download 4 chapters of test book; get ready!	
May 29	Introduction to psychology	Ch. 1
May 30	7 Key themes in psychology	Ch. 1
May 31	How psychologists use research to answer question about behavior Experimental and Correlational Methods, Challenges in conducting research on behavior	Ch. 2
June 3	Psychology and research	Ch. 2
June 4	Biological Bases of Behavior: The Nervous system; Neurotransmitters	Ch. 3
June 5	Biological Bases continued: Brain and behavior	Ch. 3
June 6	<b>EXAM 1 (Chapters 1, 2 &amp; 3)</b>	
June 7	Consciousness and Altered States; research on sleep Effects of sleep deprivation / Dreams Continued – Hypnosis / Alcohol and other drug abuse effects on consciousness	Ch. 5
June 10 & June 11	Introduction to Learning: Defining Learning; Classical conditioning Operant Conditioning and observational learning	Ch. 6
June 12	<b>Exam 2 – Chapters 5 &amp; 6</b>	
June 13	Stress, Coping and Health. What is stress, what it does to your health and how do you cope?	Ch. 13
June 14	Psychological Disorders – Depression, Bipolar Disorder and Anxiety	Ch. 14
June 17	Psychological Disorders continued – Schizophrenia and other disorders	Ch. 14
June 18	<b>Exam 3 – Chapters 13 &amp; 14</b>	
June 19	Social behavior: Attributions, Attraction, What’s love got to do with it? Stanford Prison Studies. The bystander effect and Group decision	Ch. 12
June 20	Personality Disorders: how is it developed according to famous psychologists? How is it assessed?	Ch. 11
June 21	Continued – Narcissistic, Antisocial, and Borderline Personality.	Ch. 11
June 24	Treatment of Psychological Disorders: Treatment through history; homelessness, stigma, and institutionalization.	Ch. 15
June 25	Treatment: Psychotherapy models such as psychoanalysis, cognitive behavioral therapy, family systems approaches, and behavioral analysis	Ch. 15
June 26 June 27 & 28	Review for Final <b>Opens June 27<sup>th</sup> FINAL EXAM Chapters 11, 12, and 15 (Closes June 28<sup>th</sup>)</b>	

**Have a great and productive summer! Good luck with the course!**