

Foundations of Psychology (PSYC)

CAA Course Description

Week 1

Monday, Day 1: Introductions & Getting Comfortable!

- Overall Objective: Introduction to the class, each other & Psychology
- Specific Objectives:
 1. Set ground rules, outline expectations and requirements
 2. Begin establishing classroom community
 3. Outline the field of psychology and types of psychologists
- Activities:
 1. Comic groups (Obj. 2)
 2. Name plate with definition of psychology (Obj. 2,3)
 3. MBTI activity (Obj. 3)
- Study session:

Readings: IV/DV Handout
Reliability Handout
CTC pg 6-7
Extra readings

Assignments: CTC 1:1
CTC 1:4
Write Discussion Question from extra readings

Tuesday, Day 2: Research Methodology

- Overall Objective: Introduction to how the field of psychology advances its knowledge base
- Specific Objectives:
 1. Understand the characteristics of critical thinking & science
 2. Understand the importance of critical thinking & science in psychology
 3. Understand hypotheses and operational definitions
 4. Understand experimental designs
- Activities:
 1. Riddles (Obj. 1)
 2. Group Work: operationally define cool (Obj. 3)
 3. Design Experiments from Weekly World News (Obj. 4)
- Study session:

Readings: Extra readings

Assignments: Correct previous assignments
Work on midterm group project
Discussion Question from extra readings

Wednesday, Day 3: Research Methodology (cont)

- Overall Objective: Introduction to how the field of psychology advances its knowledge base
- Specific Objectives:
 1. Understand correlational designs
 2. Recognize sources of bias and error
 3. Understand and interpret descriptive statistics
 4. Understand philosophy behind inferential statistics and interpretation of
- Activities:
 1. Group work: identify lurking variables in correlations (Obj. 1)
 2. Soda Taste Test (Obj.2)
- Study session:

Readings: Stroke Survivors
Show Me the Way

Assignments: Show Me the Way: Research Question
Show Me the Way: RA #1
Correct previous assignments
Stroke Survivors PEA #2
Work on group projects

Thursday, Day 4: The Nervous System at a Neuronal Level

- Overall Objective: Understanding of nervous system functioning & its influence on behavior
- Specific Objectives:
 1. Identify basic neural structures
 2. Identify neuron types
 3. Recognize neuron influence on structure of nervous system
 4. Understand communication within the neuron
 5. Understand communication between neurons
- Activities:
 1. Group work: neural sequence (Obj. 1,2)
 2. Cracker demo (Obj. 3)
 3. Bandana race (Obj. 5)
- Study session:

Readings: Stroke Survivors
Show Me the Way

Assignments: Show Me the Way: Research Question
Correct previous assignments
Stroke Survivors PEA #2
Work on group projects

Friday, Day 5: The Nervous System at the level of the Brain

- Overall Objective: Understanding of nervous system functioning & its influence on behavior
- Specific Objectives:
 1. Identify brain parts & their functions
 2. Understand the impact of drugs on the brain
 3. Recognize ways of studying and altering brain functioning
- Activities:
 1. Group work: play-dough brain (Obj. 1)
 2. Bandana Race (Obj. 2)
 3. Psychopharmacologist (Obj. 2)

- Study session: (Sunday)
Readings: Moving Violations
 Sleep Handout
 Extra Readings
Assignments: Stroke Survivors RA #2
 Moving Violations: RA #1
 Correct previous assignments
 CTC 2:1:
 CTC 2.4
 CTC 3:4
 Brainstorm research ideas

Week 2

Monday, Day 6: States of Consciousness

- Overall Objective: Understanding of variations in consciousness & their underlying brain mechanisms
- Specific Objectives:
 1. Understand the sleep process
 2. Recognize sleep disorders
 3. Identify theories of sleep & dreaming
 4. Dispel myths surrounding hypnosis
- Activities:
 1. Group work: sleep disorders (Obj. 2)
 2. Bandana Race (Obj. 2)
 3. Sleep Jeopardy (all)
 4. self-hypnosis (Obj. 4)
- Study session
Readings: My Descent into Alcoholism
Assignments: Courage to Change PEA #2
 Correct previous assignments
 CTC 7:4
 CTC 11:2
 Critique PsychA study
 Finalize research questions

Tuesday, Day 7: Intelligence

- Overall Objective: Understanding of the meaning and implications of intelligence
- Specific Objectives:
 1. Define intelligence
 2. Understand origins of current definitions of intelligence
 3. Understand influences on intelligence
 4. Creativity and intelligence
- Activities:
 1. Group work: what is intelligence? (Obj. 1)
 2. CTC 3:1 (Obj. 3)
 3. RAT (Obj. 4)
- Study session
Readings: New Hope for Binge Eaters
 Rosenhan study

Assignments: New Hope for Binge Eaters RA #2
New Hope for Binge Eaters Research
CTC 3:6
CTC 15:5

Wednesday, Day 8: Abnormal Psychology

- Overall Objective: Understanding of the field of abnormal psychology
- Specific Objectives:
 1. Define what it means to have a mental illness
 2. Identify the various mental illnesses
 3. Gain knowledge of basic treatment options
- Activities:
 1. Bus stop (Obj. 1)
 2. CTC 15:5 (Obj. 1)
 3. Group work: diagnoses (Obj. 2)
 4. Let's be a therapist (Obj. 3)
- Study session
Readings: Choice of Readings on Mental Illness
Assignments: CTC 16:6
Correct previous assignments
Work on research paper

Thursday, Day 9: Development

- Overall Objective: Understanding of physical, cognitive and social development
- Specific Objectives:
 1. Identify stages of prenatal development
 2. Understand basic sequence of motor development across infancy
 3. Understanding of cognitive development in childhood
- Activities:
 1. Marble problem (Obj. 3)
 2. Lifesaver demo (Obj. 3)
- Study session
Readings: A Bilingual Childhood
Shame
Assignments: A Bilingual Childhood: Research
Shame PEA #
Shame Research
Correct previous assignments
Work on research paper

Friday, Day 10: Development (cont.)

- Overall Objective: Understanding of physical, cognitive and social development
- Specific Objectives:
 1. Understanding of cognitive development: reasoning and decision making
 2. Understanding of social development across childhood and adolescence
- Activities:
 1. Incubation problem (Obj. 1)
 2. Parenting skits (Obj. 2)
- Study Session (Sunday)

Readings: Witness for the Defense: Tryone & Ted
The Lost 24 Hours
Shaping Up Absurd or Dying to Be Bigger
Racism Doesn't Grow Up

Assignments: Witness: Ted RA #2

The Lost 24 Hours: RA#2 & Research question

Shaping Up Absurd: PEA #2 or Dying to Be Bigger: PEA #1

Racism Doesn't Grow Up RA #2

Racism Doesn't Grow Up PEA #2

Correct previous assignments

Week 3

Monday, Day 11: Learning & Memory

- Overall Objective: Understanding how we learn and remember information
- Specific Objectives:
 1. Understanding of classical conditioning
 2. Understanding of operant conditioning
 3. Understanding of observational learning
 4. understanding of the memory model
- Activities:
 1. Lemonade experiment (Obj. 1)
 2. Learning skits (Obj. 2)
 3. Shaping demo (Obj. 2)
 4. Memory test (Obj. 4)
 5. CTC 8:5 (all)
- Study Session (Sunday)

Readings: Always Running
Voices from the Future

Assignments: Always Running PEA #1
Always Running PEA #2
CTC 8:1
Correct previous assignments
Work on research project

Tuesday, Day 12: Social Psychology

- Overall Objective: Understanding how we influence and are influenced by others
- Specific Objectives:
 1. Understanding attributions
 2. Identifying the relationship between our attitudes & behaviors
 3. understanding social influences on our behaviors
- Activities:
 1. FAE exercise (Obj. 1)
 2. Social norm breaking (Obj. 3)
- Study Session

Readings: Black Men and Public Space
CP Ellis

Assignments: Black Men and Public Space PEA #1, PEA #2
CTC 8:6
CTC 9:4

Correct previous assignments
Work on research project

Wednesday, Day 13: Social Psychology (cont.)

- Overall Objective: Understanding how we influence and are influenced by others
- Specific Objectives:
 1. Understanding social influences on our behaviors
 2. Understanding relationships
- Activities:
 1. CTC 18:3 (Obj. 1)
 2. What would you do activity (Obj. 1)
 3. 18:1 (Obj. 2)
 4. Implicit stereotypes (Obj. 2)
- Study Session
 - Readings:* Influence
 - Assignments:* CTC 18:2
 - Influence: PEA # 1
 - Work on research projects

Thursday, Day 14: Research Project Presentations

Friday, Day 15: Goodbyes and Farewells
Jeopardy Face-off