Introduction to Psychology  
Summer Session 1, 2012  

Class Meeting Information  
This course meets online during Summer Session 1.  

Final Exam:  
Wednesday, July 31, 2012, 6:00 PM to 7:50 PM  
Location:  
ICS 174  

Instructor Information  
Jutta Heckhausen  
heckhaus@uci.edu  
http://socialecology.uci.edu/faculty/heckhaus/  

Jutta Heckhausen is Professor in the Department of Psychology and Social Behavior. Her research area is lifespan developmental psychology and motivational psychology. She has taught classes at all levels from undergraduate to advanced graduate courses. Her research area is lifespan developmental psychology and motivation.  

TA Information  
Sean Wojcik is a Ph.D. student in the graduate program of Psychology and Social Behavior. His research interests are in social psychology, in particular moral and political psychology. swojcik@uci.edu  

Prerequisites — Classes or Knowledge Required for this Course  
This is a breadth requirement course, suitable for students with different majors from all over the UCI campus and from other four-year colleges.  

Course Text and Online Resources  

Course Description  
This course introduces students to the major topics, concepts, and methods of psychology. The course uses a high-quality and widely used textbook.  

Each week, the instructor will provide two lessons that give more in-depth information on research about two specific topics per lesson in the area covered by the week’s reading. Students are expected to study these lessons carefully and complete a 10-item quiz about the lessons at the end of the week.  

Each week, one or two textbook chapters will be assigned. Students are expected to read these chapters before the week begins and use the knowledge from the assigned chapters to inform their postings on the discussion forum. In the final exam, knowledge from both the textbook chapters and the lessons will be assessed.  

Students are asked to participate in discussion forums to use and apply their new knowledge and to show their mastery of the newly acquired material. The class will be divided into groups of approximately 5-6 students to engage in weekly discussion forums. Students are required to post one contribution at the beginning of the week and one contribution during the second half of the week in response to the contributions of their classmates in their discussion forum group. Professor Heckhausen together with the teaching assistant will monitor the forum discussions and assess the quality of each student’s contributions. The conducting of the discussion is the responsibility of the students. Professor
Heckhausen and the teaching assistant will occasionally post a comment in the forums should they find that the students’ discussion needs their input.

The weekly schedule for Discussion Forums is as follows:

- Tuesday 6 p.m. (PDT) 1st discussion post due from each student
- Thursday 6 p.m. (PDT) 2nd discussion post due from each student in response to discussion posts from classmates

**Opportunities to practice open-ended questions for the final exam**

Some of the discussion group assignments and some of the open-ended (1/2 page writing) questions in the weekly quizzes (there will be one open-ended question in each quiz) will be used as open-ended questions in the final exam. Feedback will be provided to the open-ended answers on the quizzes.

**Course Objectives**

After successfully completing this course, the students will be able to:

- Identify the major areas of psychology, their most important research topics, and their professional fields.
- Understand various different scientific methods of psychology, and in which fields they are typically applied.
- See psychological phenomena not as a product of simply the environment or simply personality, but as a product of both situation and person characteristics and their interaction.
- Understand that human behavior is a product of behavioral evolution reaching far back into mammalian and primate evolution.
- Critically read texts, tables and figures about psychological research in public media.

**Course Outline**

In addition to the readings, quizzes, and forums, each week you will go through two online lessons. Each lesson maps to one or two chapters in your textbook.

1. **Lesson No. 1: Functionality of Human Behavior; Evolutionary Psychology**
   - Chapter 1: Mind, Behavior, and Psychological Science

2. **Lesson No. 2: Nature and Nurture; Learning to Control the Environment**
   - Chapter 2: Biopsychology, Neuroscience, and Human Nature
   - Chapter 3: Learning and Human Nature

3. **Lesson No. 3: Constructing Memories; Fluid and Crystallized Intelligence**
   - Chapter 4: Memory
   - Chapter 5: Thinking and Intelligence

4. **Lesson No. 4: Development of Depth Perception in Childhood; Development of World-Class Performance Throughout the Life Span**
   - Chapter 6: Development Over the Lifespan

5. **Lesson No. 5: Perception as Making Sense of Sensations; Implicit and Explicit Motives**
   - Chapter 7: Sensation and Perception
   - Chapter 8: States of Consciousness

6. **Lesson No. 6: Incentives; Flow Experience**
   - Chapter 9: Emotion and Motivation

7. **Lesson No. 7: The Big Five Personality Factors; Psychodymanic Theories and Projective Tests**
Online Course Syllabus

- Chapter 10: Personality: Theories of the Whole Person

8. Lesson No. 8: Social Stereotypes; Moral Values in the Political Arena
   - Chapter 12: Social Psychology

9. Lesson No. 9: Depression as an Adaptation; Effectiveness of Psychological Therapies
   - Chapter 12: Psychological Disorders
   - Chapter 13: Therapies for Psychological Disorders

10. Lesson No. 10: Coping with Health Problems; Psychological Factors for Social Inequalities in Health
    - Chapter 14: Stress, Health, and Well-Being

Evaluation and Grading
In this course, you will be evaluated in the following way:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (weekly)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in forum discussions (weekly)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Quizzes are offered on Fridays from 3 to 6 p.m. and for students who cannot take the test during this time from 8 to 10 p.m. If a student missed the quiz for a legitimate reason, we require that this be documented (e.g., doctor's note) and the document scanned and sent to the TA via email. Then the student's most recent quiz score will be assigned as the score of the missed quiz.

Participation in Forum Discussion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Thought-provoking or challenging new idea informed by reading or lesson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This rating is given to posts that present a new idea or</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>challenges others’ posts based on information from lesson or textbook or</td>
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<td></td>
<td>other scholarly source.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Opinion based on information from reading or lesson</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This rating is given when a person writes a fact-based forum post. The</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>facts could come from a lesson or a chapter from the textbook, or another</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>scholarly external source.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Answered as required, but nothing more</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This rating is given when a post answers all parts of my question, but</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>does nothing more. May show an absence of depth or thought.</td>
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<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Inappropriate or insufficient postings</td>
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<td></td>
<td>This rating is given to posts that do not meet my grading requirements.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Used for: agreement without new substance, general humor, posts that do</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>not fit into the current discussion.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>No activity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No posting</td>
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Types of Communication
In an online course, the majority of our communication takes place in the course forums. When we have a need for a private communication, whether personal, interpersonal, or professional, we will use individual email or telephone.

Questions concerning class materials should be posted on the class forum called "General Discussion Forum" so that all students have the benefit of reading the answer. (Please do not email the instructor with questions about the readings). These are archived and will be available throughout the course. The instructor or TAs will check this forum at least three times a week.

If you feel it is necessary to contact your instructor **confidentially**, please follow these guidelines:
Online Course Syllabus

1. Check your syllabus. Can your question be answered by the syllabus or the textbook? Look there first.
2. Post your question on the Course’s Help Forum on the class webpage, so that others can learn from your query and our response.
3. If you do have a personal concern that needs to be discussed in private, use your UCI email account. Messages from other email accounts will not be answered.
4. Compose your message to the instructor in a professional manner. Salutations such as: "Hey" or "Hi there" are not professional and emails containing such language will not be answered.
5. Use complete sentences and correct punctuation and grammar in the body of your email.
6. Sign your message with your full name and your student ID number.

Course Policies
Expectations of students

I expect you to:
- keep up with the material covered every week
- complete your assignments (reading, forum, quiz) on time every week
- participate actively and courteously in the forums
- do your best to moderate and report from your forum’s discussion when it is your turn
- abide by the standards of academic honesty and student code of conduct
- seek help (via General Discussion Forum from instructor or TA, or in student forums) when you don’t understand a topic
- aspire to enjoy learning about the course material – yes you can and I’ll do my best to help!

Expectations of the instructor

You can expect me to:
- provide comprehensive learning material on time every week
- provide a help forum, check it at least three times a week, and respond to student postings
- create quizzes and exams that reflect the stated learning expectations for the course
- do my best to get you to appreciate and enjoy the course material

Code of Conduct

All participants in the course are bound by the University of California Code of Conduct, found at http://www.ucop.edu/ucophome/coordrev/ucpolicies/aos/uc100.html.

Netiquette

In an online classroom, our primary means of communication is written. The written language has many advantages: more opportunity for reasoned thought, more ability to go in-depth, and more time to think through an issue before posting a comment. However, written communication also has certain disadvantages, such a lack of the face-to-face signaling that occurs through body language, intonation, pausing, facial expressions, and gestures. As a result, please be aware of the possibility of miscommunication and compose your comments in a positive, supportive, and constructive manner.

Special Arrangements for Disabled Students

If you need support or assistance because of a disability, you may be eligible for accommodations or services through the Disability Services Center at UC Irvine. For more information, contact this office at (949) 824-7494 (voice), (949) 824-6272 (TTY), at www.disability.uci.edu or stop by the center at Building 313 on the UC Irvine map.