

Psychology 452
Winter 2009
Mon., Wed. 1:30 - 3:20
Physics A110

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Course Objectives

This course provides students with a basic understanding of contemporary research and theory on the nature and functions of the self-concept. Students are expected to attend class meetings and to do the assigned reading *in advance*. Class lectures will both clarify and go beyond the material covered in the text, and students will be responsible for all material covered in class. Brief demonstrations will be conducted in class to illustrate various points.

A. *Make-Up Exams*

As a general rule, make-up exams will not be given. Exceptions to this rule are made only in dire, unavoidable circumstances (e.g., serious illness or emergency) that are fully documented (e.g., with official correspondence from physicians and/or Deans) and preferably with advance arrangement made by me. Make-up exams, on the rare occasions that they are offered, are essay exams.

B. *Extra Help*

Disabilities: If you have a disability that I should know about, please contact me right away, not mid-way through the quarter, and we can make any necessary special arrangements.

C. *Assignments*

1. **Exams:** There will be two multiple choice exams. The first will be worth 25 points. The second exam will be worth 35 points and will cover the entire course (with greater weight given to the second half of the class). The dates for the exams are indicated on the attached page.

2. **Papers:** There will be **four** written assignments due at various times throughout the quarter. The specific details of these assignments will be discussed in class. Late papers will **NOT** be accepted, and these papers must be handed to me at the start of class on the day they are due (see below). The total number of points earned on these papers will be 45.

All five papers **must** meet the following requirements:

- “Normal font” (no smaller than 10 point; no larger than 12 point),
- Double-spaced, with **one inch margins** on **all** sides.
- **Stapled**

- **A header (aka running head)** that includes **your name and page numbers on all pages.**
- A paper version and an electronic version, submitted by email. Both must be received no later than **the start of class** on the date the paper is due. Late papers will not be accepted.
- The electronic version **must include** your name in the file and the assignment number. For example, BILL DOE PAPER1.DOC.

Overview of Papers

- Paper 1: Describe yourself in general terms. (5 points)
- Paper 2: Begin to develop a research project relevant to this course by generating three research questions, each described in one paragraph. (5 points)
- Paper 3: Review three research articles pertinent to your topic and tell how they relate to your thesis. (10 points)
- Paper 4: Prepare a 4-6 page research report that SUMMARIZES AND INTEGRATES the findings from three different articles. (25 points)
- Paper 4a: A chance to redo Paper 4 and earn back up to .5 points for every point you missed (up to a total of 5 points). For example, if you received 21 points on Paper 4, you could earn 2 more points by redoing the paper; if you received 17 points on Paper 4, you could earn 4 points by redoing the paper.

In order to qualify for this bonus, you must

- ❖ bring a complete draft of Paper #4 to the Psychology Writing Center for comments before you turn it in to me on the date it is due; and
- ❖ turn in the draft you brought to them (with their comments) AND the draft you prepared after revising your paper in accordance with the comments you received from them on the date the paper is due.
- ❖ If you do both of those things, I will give you the chance to correct any errors they might have missed. They get busy late in the quarter, so you should schedule an appointment as soon as you can (<http://depts.washington.edu/psywc/>). You can also download some of their handouts (which are very informative).

Grading

Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade
90-105	4.0	80	3.0	70	2.0	60	1.0
89	3.9	79	2.9	69	1.9	59	0.9
88	3.8	78	2.8	68	1.8	58	0.8
87	3.7	77	2.7	67	1.7	Less than 58	0.7
86	3.6	76	2.6	66	1.6		
85	3.5	75	2.5	65	1.5		
84	3.4	74	2.4	64	1.4		
83	3.3	73	2.3	63	1.3		
82	3.2	72	2.2	62	1.2		
81	3.1	71	2.1	61	1.1		

Syllabus

Week	Date	Chapter	Topic	
Week 1				
Monday	01/05	1	Introduction	
Wednesday	01/07	2	Who Am I?	
Week 2				
Monday	01/12			
Wednesday	01/14	3	Self-Development	Paper #1
Week 3				
Monday	01/19	NO CLASS		
Wednesday	01/21	4	Self-Knowledge Acquisition	
Week 4				
Monday	01/26			
Wednesday	01/28	5	Self-Assessment	Paper #2
Week 5				
Monday	02/02			
Wednesday	02/04	NO CLASS		
Week 6				
Monday	02/09	Midterm 2		
Wednesday	02/11	6	Self-Regulation	
Week 7				
Monday	02/16	NO CLASS		
Wednesday	02/18			Paper #3
Week 8				
Monday	02/23	7	Self-Presentation	
Wednesday	02/25			
Week 9				
Monday	03/02	8	Self-Esteem	
Wednesday	03/04			Paper #4
Week 10				
Monday	03/09	9	Depression	
Wednesday	03/11			
Monday	03/16	Final: 2:30-4:20		Paper #4a

I. Assignment 1: Due Wednesday, January 14, 2009**A. Purpose**

To develop the ability to think and write in a clear and logical manner.

B. Audience

Writing to one of your peers, using non-technical language.

C. Topic

Write a five paragraph paper (no more than 3 pages) describing yourself to someone you do not know.

D. Structure

- Each paragraph *must* consist of a topic sentence, three supporting sentences, and a concluding sentence.
- No sentence can be longer than 3 typewritten lines or contain more than 2 commas (unless you are enumerating).
- The five paragraphs must be structured as follows:
 1. Your first paragraph must introduce your topic (YOU!) and give readers a general sense of what they will learn by reading your essay.
 2. Describe characteristic 1 and illustrate it with at least two examples.
 3. Describe characteristic 2 and illustrate it with at least two examples.
 4. Describe characteristic 3 and illustrate it with at least two examples.
 5. Concluding paragraph. Provide a summary paragraph that integrates the three characteristics you have described. Your task here is to show how these characteristics combine to produce "YOU."

E. Grading:

The paper will be worth 5 points, and will be graded as follows:

3 point: Clarity and organization

1 point: Originality and creativity.

1 point: Spelling and punctuation. To receive this point your paper must be free of all obvious spelling, grammatical, and typographical errors.

II. Assignment 2: Due Wednesday, January 28, 2009**A. Purpose**

To identify and describe aspects of psychological research that interest you.

B. Audience

Writing to one of your peers, using non-technical language.

C. Topic

Write a five paragraph paper (no more than 3 pages) discussing areas of research that interest you. The research areas must be related to the content of a course on "The Self."

D. Structure

- Each paragraph *must* consist of a topic sentence, three supporting sentences, and a concluding sentence.
- No sentence can be longer than 3 typewritten lines.
- The five paragraphs must be structured as follows:
 1. Your first paragraph should say a bit about why you became a psychology major, and conclude, in a general way, with aspects of psychology that you find especially interesting.
 2. Describe one specific question or topic you would be interested in learning more about.
 3. Describe a second specific question or topic you would be interested in learning more about.
 4. Describe a third specific question or topic you would be interested in learning more about.
 5. Concluding paragraph. Provide a summary paragraph that shows how the three areas of research you discussed relate to your overall interest in psychology (as discussed in paragraph 1).

E. Grading:

The paper will be worth 5 points, and will be graded as follows:

3 point: Clarity and organization

1 point: Originality and creativity.

1 point: Spelling and punctuation. To receive this point your paper must be free of all obvious spelling, grammatical, and typographical errors.

III. **Assignment 3: Due Thursday, February 18, 2009**

A. *Purpose*

To formulate a thesis and find three articles that support it. This thesis **MUST** pertain to the content of this course (i.e., it **MUST** have something to do with some aspect of “The Self”). For example, “Strict professors have rigid self-views.”

B. *Audience*

Writing to one of your peers, using non-technical language.

C. *Topic*

Write a five paragraph paper (no more than 3 pages) that will serve as a preliminary review of research.

D. *Structure*

- Each paragraph *must* consist of a topic sentence, three supporting sentences, and a concluding sentence.
- No sentence can be longer than 3 typewritten lines.
- The five paragraphs **must** be structured as follows:
 1. Paragraph 1 should begin by describing your topic (including how you came to be interested in it) and conclude by presenting your thesis.
 2. Paragraph 2 should introduce your first article.
 - 2a. Sentence 1 should give the article’s reference (last name of first author and year of publication only).
 - 2b. Sentence 2 should provide an overview of what the paper is about.
 - 2c. Sentence 3 should present the methods.
 - 2d. Sentence 4 should present the findings.
 - 2e. Sentence 5 should tell us how these findings relate to your thesis.
 3. Paragraph 3 should follow the same format as Paragraph 2, using a different article.
 4. Paragraph 4 should follow the same format as Paragraphs 2 and 3, using a different article.
 5. Concluding paragraph. Provide a summary paragraph that reminds us what your thesis is and lets us know how these articles support it.

E. *Grading:*

The paper will be worth 10 points, and will be graded as follows:

6 points: Clarity and organization.

2 points: Originality and creativity.

2 points: Spelling and punctuation. To receive these points your paper must be free of all obvious spelling, grammatical, formatting, and typographical errors.

IV. **Assignment 4: Due Wednesday, March 4, 2009**

A. *Purpose*

To write a comprehensive term paper, with a clearly articulated thesis and a literature review of three articles that support your thesis.

B. *Audience*

Writing to one of your peers, **using non-technical language.**

C. *Structure and Length*

The paper must be between 4-6 pages in length, but there are no other requirements with respect to number of paragraphs, sentences, or sentence length. However, we have been using a very structured format (e.g., short sentences, tight paragraphs) because I believe it is the most effective way to write. You can stray from that model if you like, but you do so at some peril because I'm still the one grading the papers and I will deduct point for writing that rambles.

D. *References*

You do not need to include a reference list, but you must staple the first page of each paper you review (printed or photocopied) to the hard version you turn in.

E. *Grading:*

The paper will be worth 25 points, and will be graded as follows:

15 points: Content, clarity, and organization.

7 points: Originality and creativity.

3 points: Spelling and punctuation. To receive these points your paper must be free of all obvious spelling, grammatical, formatting, and typographical errors.