

PSYCH 424
Psychology of Emotion
Course Syllabus
Fall, 2009

Instructor: Ryan C. Martin, Ph.D.

Office: MAC C318

Office Hours:

Tuesday: 8:00 – 9:30

Wednesday: 9:00 – 12:00

Thursday: 12:30 – 2:00

*I will be happy to schedule time to meet with students if the above times don't work.

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Description of the Course:

This is an advanced undergraduate psychology course designed to expose students to the science of emotion. Students will become acquainted with the many ways in which biological, cultural, cognitive, and other factors can contribute to our emotions. The course will address emotional development in general as well as exploring, in depth, the four primary emotions of happiness, sadness, anxiety, and anger.

This Course Meets the Following Psychology Learning Outcomes:

1. Knowledge Base in Psychology
 - a. Students will demonstrate familiarity with major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology
2. Research Methods in Psychology
 - a. Students will understand and apply basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation.
3. Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology
 - a. Students will respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.
4. Application of Psychology
 - a. Students will understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues.
5. Personal Development
 - a. Students will develop insight into their own and others' behavior and mental processes and apply effective strategies for self-management and self-improvement.

Required Readings:

There is no required textbook for this class. Instead, journal articles will be assigned throughout the semester. The following textbook is optional.

Oatley, K., Keltner, D., Jenkins, J. M. (2006). *Understanding emotions (2nd ed)*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.

Course Requirements:

Assignments: There will be multiple in-class and take-home assignments throughout the semester (50 points total). Although they are not listed on the schedule below, I'll announce in class when they are going to occur. Unless I indicate otherwise, all assignments are due at the start of class and must be turned in via the D2L dropbox. With regard to late assignments, every student will be allowed one freebie, with no questions asked (i.e., students may turn in one assignment late without providing an excuse). Your freebie must be made up within the week to get credit. Additional missed assignments will have points deducted each day they are late unless the lateness is excused.

Lab Reports: There will be three lab reports (25 points each). They will be based on data we collect as a class at the beginning of the semester. For each, we will meet in the computer lab approximately one week before the assignment is

due so I can provide assistance with your statistical analyses. More information will be provided about the lab reports as we get closer to the due date.

In-class Exams: There will be three in-class exams (50 points each). They will not be specifically cumulative, though you will need to understand certain early terms to understand the latter material. Please note that each exam will contain information from lectures that cannot be found in the readings and material from the readings that is not covered in class. Make-up exams will be administered only under the most extraordinary circumstances. Make-up exams must be taken within one week of the missed exam and missed exams without a valid excuse will receive a zero.

Class Expectations: My goal is to create a comfortable learning atmosphere for all students. Thus, you are expected to be polite, attentive, and not be a distraction to the instructor or any other students. This includes visiting with other students, reading, sleeping, surfing the internet, texting, etc. You are asked to please turn off cell phones and pagers so they don't go off during class. Additionally, I ask you to note the following class expectations.

- I allow students to use laptops in class for note taking. However, I reserve the right to change that policy if I find that students are abusing it (i.e., using it to surf the internet, checking E-mail, watching videos/listening to music, etc.).
- I take punctuality very seriously and, in the past, have had problems with some students being frequently late to class. Those students who are consistently late to class will be spoken with about the problem and, ultimately, I reserve the right to start taking attendance if the problem continues.

Grading:

Assignment	Total Points	Grading Scale	
Assignments	50	A	92%-100%
Lab Reports	75	AB	88%-92%
In-Class Exams	150	B	82%-88%
Total	275	BC	78%-82%
		C	70%-78%
		D	60%-70%
		F	less than 60%

Tentative Semester Schedule

Date	Topic
<u>Week 1</u>	
9/3/09	Introduction to Emotion
<u>Week 2</u>	
9/8/09 9/10/09	Components of Emotion
<u>Week 3</u>	
9/15/09 9/17/09	Biological Approaches to Emotion
<u>Week 4</u>	
9/22/09 9/24/09	Biological Approaches to Emotion (continued)
<u>Week 5</u>	
9/29/09 Lab Report 1 Due 10/01/09	Emotions and Culture/Society
<u>Week 6</u>	
10/6/09 Exam 1 10/8/09	Psychodynamic Perspectives
<u>Week 7</u>	
10/13/09 10/15/09	Cognitive-Behavioral Perspectives of Emotion
<u>Week 8</u>	
10/20/09 10/22/09 Lab Report 2 Due	Cognitive-Behavioral Perspectives of Emotion (continued)

Week 9	
10/27/09 10/29/09	Happiness
Week 10	
11/3/09 Exam 2 11/5/09	Happiness (continued) Sadness
Week 11	
11/10/09 11/12/09	Sadness (continued)
Week 12	
11/17/09 11/19/09	Fear
Week 13	
11/24/09 11/26/09 No class	Fear (continued) Anger
Week 14	
12/1/09 12/3/09 Lab Report 3 Due	Anger (continued)
Week 15	
12/8/09 12/10/09	Anger (continued)
Final Exams Week	
12/17 1:00 – 3:00 Exam 3	

Final Notes:

- Consistent with the federal law and the policies of the University of Wisconsin, it is the policy of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay to provide appropriate and necessary accommodations to students with documented physical and learning disabilities. If you anticipate requiring any auxiliary aids or services, you should contact me or the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities at 465-2849 as soon as possible to discuss your needs and arrange for the provision of services.
- Using someone else's ideas or phrasing and representing those ideas or phrasing as our own, either on purpose or through carelessness, is a serious offense known as plagiarism. "Ideas or phrasing" includes written or spoken material, of course – from whole papers and paragraphs to sentences, and, indeed, phrases – but it also includes statistics, lab results, art work, etc. "Someone else" can mean a professional source, such as a published writer or critic in a book, magazine, encyclopedia, or journal; an electronic resource such as material we discover on the World Wide Web; another student at our school or anywhere else; a paper-writing "service" (online or otherwise) which offers to sell written papers for a fee.