

Course Syllabus

PSY 190 - General Psychology

The session begins on the 1st day of the enrollment month and ends on the last day of the 6th month.

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: James Christoff

UIU Faculty Email: christoffj@uiu.edu

Availability: Contact me using my e-mail address

Course Description

Semester Credits: 3

Catalog Course Description: Delving into the scientific study of behavior and mental processes, General Psychology (PSY 190) introduces students to the core concepts and methodologies in psychology. The curriculum covers a wide array of topics such as biological foundations, development, cognition, personality, and social behavior, providing a comprehensive overview of the field. Meets the social science requirement in The Peacock Professional Experience ("general education").

Credit Hour Policy: As a requirement of HLC Accreditation, all UIU courses, regardless of meeting schedule or instructional mode, follow the Federal Credit Hour Definition. As such, each credit hour earned at UIU is equivalent to a minimum of 45 hours of student engagement.

For more information on how specific instructional modes meet this requirement, please see UIU's Policy Guidelines for Instructional Time Expectations: [UIU Policies](#).

Course Recommended Materials & Resources

Psychology 2e

Authors: Rose Spielman, William J. Jenkins, & Marilyn D. Lovett

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Course Outcomes

- Students will be able to identify research approaches and descriptive statistics utilized in psychology.
- Students will be able to recognize the ethical standards in the field of psychology.
- Students will be able to understand the overarching themes, questions, and conflicts in psychology.
- Students will be able to identify socio-cultural, environmental, and other external influences that impact the human experience.
- General Education Outcome: Students will be able to apply scientific methodology to problems or investigations in social science.

Program Student Learning Outcomes

- 3. Program Outcome: Knowledge Base in Psychology o SLO: Students will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology enabling them to better understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues.

General Education Assessment

Upper Iowa University is committed to ensuring that all undergraduate students participating in its general education program receive a broad education, while gaining essential professional skills across multiple disciplines. The Peacock

Professional Experience provides nine learning outcomes, each of which articulates a specific skill students should gain, and are supported by knowledge provided by the courses students choose to take within the guidelines of the program. The outcome assessed in this course is the last outcome listed under Course Outcomes.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria

You have 16 weeks from the date of your enrollment to complete this course and students are administratively withdrawn after 14 days of inactivity. You should begin work on the course immediately upon enrollment and start submitting lessons for grading and evaluation in a timely manner.

The following attendance requirements regarding uiuFlex courses.

1. Attend during the first 7 days in the semester. Either and Assignment or Introduction post
2. Attend every 14 days at a minimum (students may be administratively withdrawn if this is not met)-Submission of assignments or quizzes
3. Complete all course work by the last day of the semester: Thursday, December 18, 2025

Grading Criteria

Criteria	Points Percentage
Student Autobiography	20 points
Unit Questions (120 points x 4 units)	480 points
2 Paper (100 points each)	200 points
Midterm & Final Exams (100 points each)	200 points

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Points / Percentage	
A	837 - 900 points	93 - 100%
A- (minus)	810 - 836 points	90 - 92%
B+	783 - 809 points	87 - 89%
B	747 - 782 points	83 - 86%
B- (minus)	720 - 746 points	80 - 82%
C+	693 - 719 points	77 - 79%
C	657 - 662 points	73 - 76%
C- (minus)	630 - 656 points	70 - 72%
D+	603 - 629 points	67 - 69%
D	567 - 602 points	63 - 66%
D- (minus)	540-566 points	60 - 62%
F	0 - 539 points	0 - 59%

Grades and Feedback

All graded work available must be posted in the uiuLearn Gradebook by Sunday at 11:59pm (CT) one week prior to the course drop date, as well as posted by Sunday at 11:59 pm prior to the final week.

Turnitin

Turnitin is a tool for both teachers and students to ensure academic integrity by checking the originality of submitted papers to avoid issues of plagiarism and academic dishonesty.

Students should be aware that Turnitin scans submitted work and compares it to ALL other sources on file.

Extension Policy

Students will be allowed to request an extension and receive an 'X' (extension grade) at the end of their original six-month enrollment period if:

- A minimum of one assignment has been received for grading per guidelines
AND
- All course units and exams are not completed and submitted OR
- A course withdrawal has not been initiated.

Note: The fee for a self-paced extension is \$99 per course. The request for an extension must be submitted no earlier than one month before the end of the course and no later than a week before the end of the course.

Extension grade details

- When the extension is granted and an "X" grade is issued, the student will receive a four-month enrollment period to complete the course.
- Students do not have the option to withdraw from a course after the initial six-month enrollment period.
- An 'X' grade posted to the student's official record will be replaced with a final letter grade; however, the extension will remain on the official transcript as a notation.
- If the course is not completed by the end of the extension period, the instructor will assign a final grade (A-F) based on work completed in relation to the total course requirements.
- If credit is not earned by the end of the extension period, students can re-enroll and repeat the entire course for credit.

Note: Students are not reported as enrolled during the extension period and are not eligible for student loan deferment. No more than one extension will be granted.

Course Schedule

Unit 1

Student Autobiography (Due 9-6-25)

Chapters 1-4 Questions - 8 Chapter Questions (Due Date 9-6-25)

Unit 2

Chapters 5-8 Questions - 8 Chapter Questions (9-20-25)

Approaches to the Science of Psychology Paper: ((10-4-25)

In Unit 2, a paper will be written to acquaint you with one of the approaches to the study of psychology (e.g. biological, behavioral, psychoanalytic, evolutionary, or cognitive) discussed in Chapter 1 in the textbook and will be worth 100 points. Research one of the approaches utilizing research journals and other sources. Summarize your study to inform the reader on the topic, what the research is saying, as well as any of your own thoughts, gleaned from your research and/or your personal experience.

Guidelines:

- Paper must be a minimum of 5 pages of content (not including the title page and reference list).
- Include minimum of three peer-reviewed journal articles—MUST be journal articles!!
- Use at least one other source, can be print or internet source, but MUST be a professional source
- Use text for basic information, as needed
- Inform audience about basics of topic
- Discuss research findings & other information from your research

- Include personal knowledge & experiences as needed—may include opinion as well
- Relate your paper to the class material and specifically to your future career needs
- Double spaced. 1 inch margins only
- Maximum size 12 font
- Include a title page and APA formatted reference list
- Must use proper APA formatting for within text citations and reference list

Midterm Exam: (10-15-25)

There is a Midterm Exam after Unit 2. The exam is open book and consists of 50 multiple choice questions. The Midterm Exam covers Chapters 1-8. You will have 90 minutes to complete each exam.

Unit 3

Chapters 9-13 Questions - 8 Chapter Questions (Due Date 11-8-25)

Unit 4

Chapters 13-15 Questions - 8 Chapter Questions (Due Date 11-22-25)

Philosophical Issues in Psychology Paper (Due Date 12-6-25)

A paper will be written to acquaint you with one of the major philosophical issues in psychology, Free Will versus Determinism, The Mind-Brain Problem, or The Nature-Nurture Issue, and will be worth 100 points. Research one of the issues utilizing research journals and other sources. Summarize your study to inform the reader on the topic, what the research is saying, as well as any of your own thoughts, gleaned from your research and/or your personal experience.

Guidelines:

- Paper must be a minimum of 5 pages of content (not including the title page and reference list).

- Include minimum of three peer-reviewed journal articles—MUST be journal articles!!
- Use at least one other source, can be print or internet source, but MUST be a professional source
- Use text for basic information, as needed
- Inform audience about basics of topic
- Discuss research findings & other information from your research
- Include personal knowledge & experiences as needed—may include opinion as well
- Relate your paper to the class and specifically to your future career needs
- Double spaced. 1 inch margins only
- Maximum size 12 font
- Include a title page and APA formatted reference list
- Must use proper APA formatting for within text citations and reference list

Final Exam: (Due Date 12-18-25)

There is a Final Exam after Unit 4. The exam is open book and consists of 50 multiple choice questions. The Final Exam covers Chapters 9-15. You will have 90 minutes to complete each exam.

Course Expectations

Email

Upper Iowa University employees and students are issued a UIU email account (doej@uiu.edu). University email communications will only be sent to UIU email address. Faculty and staff are not obligated to respond to students using non-UIU email accounts.

Professional Writing and Speaking Guidelines

Communications in class and online should follow the Student Conduct and Discipline, Respect for the University Environment, and Code of Student Responsibility in the [Student Handbook](#). Respect the opinions of others using appropriate language and communications.

University Policies

Withdrawal (W)

If a student decides to withdraw from a course before the end of an enrollment period, the student's charges, financial aid, tuition assistance, and/or veteran benefits could be affected. All students should consult with the Business Office and Financial Aid Office to understand the financial impact of withdrawing prior to initiating the withdrawal process.

Students who have registered for this course through our partnership are required to follow the withdrawal policy outlined on the partnership website. Please refer to the partnership site for official withdrawal procedures and deadlines.

Tuition adjustments are independent from academic and financial aid deadlines. Upon receiving a request for withdrawal, using the number of lessons submitted as compared to the total due, a refund of tuition is made according to the following guideline.

On or before the first day of the enrollment period* 100%

After the first lesson through 10% of the enrollment period 90%

After the first 10% through the first 25% of the enrollment period 50%

After the first 25% of the enrollment period 0%

*Enrollment is measured by the number of assignments to be submitted during a six-month period of time, as determined by the University, during which semester credits are earned toward graduation. The refund/repayments shall be calculated using the percentages noted above as determined using the number of assignments completed and the number of assignments yet to be submitted.

For example, if a student submitted 2 of 17 assignments, they completed 11.76% of the class assignments. The student would be refunded 50% of the tuition cost.

For students from Wisconsin, Maryland, Georgia, Oregon, or Arizona, state laws apply. For students enrolled through the cpacredits.com program, no refund is allowed after the first two weeks.

Students who withdraw from a course prior to submitting the first assignment, or who are administratively withdrawn for non-submission of assignments, will be charged an administrative fee of \$99.

Course withdrawal may impact financial aid eligibility. A financial aid counselor is available to discuss this decision.

Upper Iowa University is required to use a pro-rata schedule to determine the amount of Title IV aid the student has earned at the time of withdrawal. If financial aid funds have been released to the student because of a credit balance on the student's account at Upper Iowa University, the student may be required to repay some or all of the amount released to the student. This policy is subject to federal regulations. Contact the Financial Aid Office for details.

Withdrawing from a course in progress may result in significant student account charges. Consult with the Business Office before withdrawing. For more information on financial aid implications, go to uiu.edu/financialaid.

Administrative Withdrawal (AW)

A grade of AW (administrative withdrawal) is recorded for any course from which a student is administratively withdrawn. **At least one complete assignment/unit must be received and verified by the instructor within the first 60 days of the enrollment period or the student will be administratively withdrawn from the course.** Students who are administratively withdrawn for non-submission of assignments, will be charged an administrative fee of \$99. Non-Attendance (NA): Never attended grades are not applicable to the Self-Paced Degree Program.

Academic Accommodations

It is the policy of Upper Iowa University to ensure equal access to educational and co-curricular activities to students with disabilities as mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. A student seeking accommodations should contact the Director of Student Accessibility Services as early in the session as possible. In order to receive accommodations, students are required to disclose their disability to the Director by completing an application for services that can be found on the Student Accessibility Webpage. In addition to the application packet, the student is required to submit supporting documentation. Submit these to the Student Accessibility Services Office either in person or by email/Fax. A brief interview, in-person, by phone or virtually, with the Director will confirm or deny the accommodations requested. The Student Accessibility Services Office will email accommodation letters to the appropriate professor, the student, and the student's advisor. Additionally, students should work cooperatively with their instructors throughout the session to make sure that their accommodations are appropriate and effective.

Upper Iowa University (UIU) provides closed captioning/transcriptions in acknowledgment of the Americans Disability Act, Rehabilitation Act, and various state laws. The information displayed is computer generated and not reviewed before being published. UIU makes no representations or warranties and expressly disclaims any responsibility or liability with respect to any errors or omissions in, or the accuracy, reliability, timeliness, or completeness of, any information that appears in a closed caption or transcript.

Contact the Director at (563) 425-5949, accessibility@uiu.edu or stop by the office on the 2nd floor of the Student Center, Office of Student Life, Room 229.

Emergency Directives: (Fire, Natural Disaster, Threat on campus, etc.)

In accordance with Upper Iowa University's emergency management plan, any student that requires assistance in the event of an emergency (Fire, natural disaster, threat on campus) is responsible for notifying their instructor of the need for assistance. (Evacuation, and/or indoor safety protocols) This information will be held confidential and only needed in the unlikely event that there is an emergency.