Introduction to Psychology 2101

James H. Steiger

Department of Psychology and Human Development
Vanderbilt University

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Psychology 2101 Introduction

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Psychology 2101
What's it About?

- Psychology 2101 is an introductory course in statistics, designed for Peabody College students.
- In this course, you will learn how to use numbers and numerical data to evaluate important questions in education, psychology, and in everyday life.
- You'll learn to think more critically about numbers and presentations designed to convince you with numbers. You'll be harder to fool.
- You'll learn how to create dynamic and colorful graphical presentations.
- You'll learn how to use the latest and most innovative statistical software. This software will make the course easier, it is absolutely free, and you'll probably find it useful in other classes.
- You'll learn a bit about computer programming, and actually write some of your own programs.

The Course Website

- I have a personal website at *www.statpower.net*. All course materials are available at this website, including:
  1. The Course Information Sheet
  2. The Course Syllabus and Schedule of Activities
  3. Lecture Slides
  4. Animated Lectures
  5. Practice Problems
- Simply click on the *Psychology 2101* link on the side of the opening page.

What Will You Need?

- The most important things you will need to take the course are:
  1. Some basic high school algebra
  2. A computer (preferably a laptop)
  3. An internet connection
  4. The course textbook
  5. A Turning Techologies XR-01 Response Card ("Clicker") for use with the Classroom Response System (CRS)
  6. Software installed on your computer
- We'll give you full details on all of these in handouts and videos on the website.

Course Features

- This section of Psychology 2101 is, for most students, no more difficult than any other section.
- However, several aspects of this section are "advanced," in order to
    1. Give you a more complete learning experience, commensurate with your status as elite students in an elite institution (paying elite tuition fees)
    2. Give you special learning and document preparation tools that will aid you, not just in this course, but throughout your future career at Vanderbilt.
- Here are some of the special features:

Course Features
MindTap System

- The standard textbook has been replaced by an online MindTap learning system.
- This allows you to have instant access to online quizzes, learning aids, and the textbook material.

Course Features
Weekly Tutorial Sessions

- These sessions are provided at additional cost to us, in order to allow you the opportunity to achieve at your highest possible level.
- Your tutorial instructors have been specially selected for their knowledge, enthusiasm, and ability to help you.
- Quizzes every few weeks will be administered during the tutorial sessions, so attendance is mandatory at many sessions, as will be indicated on the course schedule.

Course Features
Online Lectures

- Some lectures will be presented online outside of class time in an animated video format.
- After you view the online lecture at a prescribed time, the following lecture class will often begin with a brief quiz designed to assess your comprehension of the online lecture, followed by examples and demonstrations designed to illustrate the material.

Course Features
Instructor Cafeteria Hours

- On many Friday mornings, I'll spend some time in the Hill Center Cafeteria, sitting in a bench near the back.
- You can come join me for a discussion about course material, get help on homework problems, or talk about more general issues.

Classroom Response System (CRS)

- Throughout the course, we'll utilize a Classroom Response System (CRS)
- With this system, you bring a Turning Technologies XR-1 "Response Card" (or "Clicker") to each class
- At the beginning of class, you'll sign in using your clicker.
- Throughout the class, I'll ask questions, and you'll respond with your clicker. Your grade will be based partly on the accuracy of your answers.
- With this system, we'll be able to monitor your progress and the effectiveness of my communication simultaneously.

Peer-Assisted Learning
The Peerwise System

- As I mentioned in my discussion of keys to success at Vanderbilt, social interaction and teaching others can help bring material to life for you.
- In the PeerWise system, you write multiple-choice questions that are placed online, using a special editor that will allow you to use high-quality mathematical notation and graphics. Other students in the course see and evaluate these questions.
- Some of these questions will actually appear on course quizzes.
- You will need to sign up on the PeerWise system online. We'll send you full instructions on how to do that by email.

Advanced Statistical Software
The R Statistics System

- As part of the course, you will learn the rudiments of R, the open-source statistical software that is now the preeminent tool of professional statisticians.
- You will learn a little (just a little) about computer programming and apply it to this course.

Active Evaluation

- We will be asking you to tell us how we are doing.
- We will take your comments seriously, and adjust the course as we go depending on what you say.