

UNC-Chapel Hill Course Evaluation Report

Term: Fall_2011

Instructor: PENN, DAVID L.

Course/Section: PSYC 101 3

Department: Psychology

Response Rate: 183 out of 294 (62.24%)

Course/Instructor Characteristics	0 Not Applicable	1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Neither Disagree Nor Agree	4 Agree	5 Strongly Agree	Missing	Median	Mean	Dept Mean
This course challenged me to think deeply about the subject matter.	2	0	6	14	85	75	1	4.32	4.27	4.21
The instructor clearly communicated what was expected of me in this class.	1	1	2	9	61	108	1	4.66	4.51	4.42
I was able to get individual help when I needed it.	19	3	0	38	61	61	1	4.16	4.09	4.25
The course materials (e.g., coursepack, website, texts) helped me better understand the subject matter.	1	0	7	15	72	86	2	4.44	4.32	4.19
The course assignments helped me better understand the subject matter.	0	2	11	28	75	65	2	4.16	4.05	4.24
The instructor evaluated my work fairly.	1	1	3	8	70	99	1	4.59	4.45	4.40
The instructor showed concern about whether students learned the material.	0	2	1	12	59	106	3	4.65	4.48	4.34
The instructor expressed ideas clearly.	0	1	4	6	50	121	1	4.75	4.57	4.39
The instructor showed enthusiasm for the subject matter.	0	1	0	5	36	140	1	4.85	4.72	4.60
The instructor showed enthusiasm for teaching this class.	0	1	0	7	29	144	2	4.87	4.74	4.56
The instructor treated all students with respect.	0	1	0	3	28	149	2	4.89	4.79	4.63
The instructional techniques engaged me with the subject matter.	0	1	9	12	45	115	1	4.71	4.45	4.18
The instructor provided me with helpful feedback on my performance.	4	5	20	53	44	56	1	3.75	3.71	4.04
This course was very exciting to me intellectually.	0	2	8	24	54	93	2	4.53	4.26	4.05

Overall Course Assessment	0 Not Applicable	1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Neither Disagree Nor Agree	4 Agree	5 Strongly Agree	Missing	Median	Mean	Dept Mean
Overall, this course was excellent.	0	2	8	16	61	94	2	4.54	4.31	4.12
Overall, this instructor was an effective teacher.	0	2	2	8	43	126	2	4.78	4.60	4.35
Overall, I learned a great deal from this course.	0	2	5	10	60	103	3	4.63	4.43	4.26
Comments on overall assessment of this course.	See Below									

Teaching Award Recommendation	0 Not Applicable	1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Neither Disagree Nor Agree	4 Agree	5 Strongly Agree	Missing	Median	Mean	Dept Mean
The instructor was one of the best I have had at Carolina, fully deserving of a teaching award.	0	4	3	24	54	96	2	4.56	4.30	3.89

Feedback to Students	0 Not Applicable	1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Neither Disagree Nor Agree	4 Agree	5 Strongly Agree	Missing	Median	Mean	Dept Mean
The instructor handled questions well.	0	3	0	6	47	127	0	4.78	4.61	4.42
The instructor used examples that had relevance for me.	0	4	2	3	36	138	0	4.84	4.65	4.51
The instructor used class time well.	0	3	2	5	55	118	0	4.72	4.55	4.32
The instructor encouraged students to participate in this class.	0	2	2	3	27	148	1	4.88	4.74	4.32
This course was designed to keep me engaged in learning.	0	3	5	16	45	112	2	4.69	4.42	4.22

The workload was appropriate for what I gained from this class.	0	2	1	10	57	110	3	4.68	4.51	4.34
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Other Information										
	Fail	Pass	F or D	C- or C	C+ or B-	B or B+	A- or A	L	P	H
What grade do you think you will get in this course?	0	0	0	12	16	79	75	0	0	0
Is this a required course for you?	No	Yes								
	93	89								

Comments on overall assessment of this course.										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes it was hard to follow the lectures when we got behind because we would skip around to fit in as much as possible in the time frame. The clips DEFINITELY helped in understanding what we would talk about, but there were some lectures that had no clips and those classes were hard to get through. Overall, this was a great class! • Fantastic course. Wonderful instructor, academically rigorous. • I really enjoyed Psychology 101, and it actually helped influence me in choosing Psychology as one of my majors. • The course was challenging, but engaged in appropriate work for the course. • the professor was very nice and well spoken. He showed enthusiasm and concern for all students and things in class • The instructor was one my favorite teacher I have had. He was very enthusiastic about all work, used examples relative to all of our lives and worked hard to make sure everyone understood the material. • This was a 300+ person class in the Stone Center Auditorium and our professor made the effort to remember the majority of our names. 90% of the time I put my hand up he called me by my name which was impressive and showed us that he actually cared who we were and that we weren't just a number. • This professor was great at engaging a large lecture. However, the course seemed to be designed for younger students (understandably, as an intro course), so I found the pace a little slow and the assignments and exams quite easy. However, I really enjoyed the last two essay assignment articles, and I would not have wanted to take psychology 101 with any other professor. Also liked his numerous references to Madison, WI. • Outstanding teacher. Wonderful subject material. • Penn did his best to make a big lecture class feel like a small discussion course by calling students by name and facilitating communication among students. He made somewhat dry material more interesting. • I learned that psychology is not my thing. This has nothing to do with your teaching in general. You are an amazing teacher and I love that you took the time to attempt to learn all of our names. That meant a lot • the Instructor really made learning interesting. I typically do not enjoy large lecture classes bu the instructor made it feel smaller and more intimate, which is the environment I prefer for a class. • This course made me love psychology so much that I declared it as my major. • He did a great job incorporating videos and examples into the lecture. • Favorite class at Carolina so far. • Dr. Penn took the time to learn as many students' names that he could out of a 300 person class. That is incredible! • This course helped me to view psychology as an interesting subject. • I enjoyed this course, it was very engaging as well as insightful. Dr. Penn is excellent in teaching. • I loved it. • Very interesting class. • This class was spent as a therapy session for the 300 students who attended. Although the professor was not bad person I did not like his teaching style. We spent more time hearing random examples that did not fit than we spent learning the definitions. This left me confused after most days of what the definitions were. • none • I found this class to be interesting and engaging. For a large class with a vast amount of subject matter to cover, I thought Dr. Penn did a great job of trying to keep everyone intrigued and covering the material thoroughly. • The course tried to do too much student involvement, which is ridiculous for a 300+ class. • TA's were extremely unhelpful - I was stood up twice when trying to meet with my TA. Exam questions were unfair in my mind, as well. • Dr. Penn was excellent in conveying his ideas clearly. Though it was a very large class, he made a concerted effort to learn every student's name and make it feel like a smaller class. • Dr. Penn was wonderful! He was worried about making the material engaging, and he tried very hard to make students feel as if they were in a small classroom even with other 300 students. I thoroughly enjoyed this class. • Very enjoyable, great teacher! • very good class. Dr. Penn is an engaging teacher, which is hard to do in such a large lecture, but he pulls it off very successfully. • Great lectures and kept me interested even when the subject matter was bland. • I liked the way Dr. Penn lectured. He would send us the power points with the topics on them, then in class he would speak further about the subjects so I could add notes to the powerpoint. I learned the best in his class. • Great professor. He made it his mission to keep the class engaged and participating. He was very well prepared and always had abundant examples for each point he made, including youtube videos when applicable. He was very clear in his lectures, never hesitating to slow down and clear up and confusing topics. Also he attempted to learn the names of all 300 or so students, which was very impressive. All around great teacher in terms of teaching style and his treatment of students. 										

- This class has been my favorite class this semester. The lectures were interesting and Dr. Penn did an excellent job engaging his students. I also really appreciated the effort he took to learn every student's name. The tests were challenging, but fair. The only thing I would comment on is that I wish the essays counted for more of our grade. They take a while to write, but hardly count for anything!
- Dr. Penn is an amazing teacher who made Psychology 101 an exciting class
- I knew what was expected of me, and I knew exactly what was going to be on the exam. However, sometimes when the professor falls behind in his lectures, he starts to rush, mumbles/talked extremely fast when he was giving a lecture. He also jumps around on the power point so it was hard to follow.
- The instructor was usually prepared for class with lecture notes, posted material ahead of time, and did a good job engaging students in class through activities and questions. Despite preparation, however, lectures often seemed slightly unorganized and occasionally contradicted material in the text book.
- Dr. Penn is my favorite professor I have had this semester. He is a very relaxed person in general, and he is always enthusiastic about teaching psychology. I have enjoyed his course this semester very much!
- I really liked it.
- Everything was very interesting and interactive, and he did a very good job of making the class enjoyable.
- I enjoyed this course very much. This course allowed me to truly dig deeper into the study of the mind and I was able to learn about a wide spectrum of subjects involved in psychology. The presentations were very interactive and the showing of videos and clips was useful in understanding many concepts and topics. Overall, this has been one of my favorite courses!
- This course played an important role in my decision to major in Psychology. My professor was very enthusiastic and gave excellent examples throughout the semester.
- Dr. Penn is an excellent psychology professor. Somehow he made this class of a few 100 seem like a high school class with about 30 kids as he took time to know all our names and really encouraged participation. I loved psych 101 and found it interesting and fulfilling academically--definitely a great option I would recommend for freshman because he makes the transition easy.
- I absolutely loved this class and it actually encouraged me to change my major to Psychology! Dr. Penn was an awesome teacher. It was truly a privilege to be taught by Dr. Penn who is so passionate about the information that he is teaching.
- Great class with appropriate amount of work and a teacher who is clear and therefore perfect for an introductory class.
- The tests were extremely challenging for me, but then again they are supposed to be. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time spent in here and commend the professor and TA's for their dedication to the students and punctuality when it comes to posting study guides and grades in a consistent and timely manner. I especially enjoyed the fact that Penn was constantly emailing everyone articles related to lecture discussions; these were not only interesting but further aided me in the comprehension of material learned in class. Best of luck to all three of them!
- I loved this class, it was definitely one I looked forward to. Dr. Penn was great, really mellow, funny, and interesting and made the subject matter fascinating. I loved the clips we watched because they were placed at great spots when the subject matter was getting heady and he was really interested in making sure the students understood.
- I really like the professor's passion for the subject and how he is very open towards and respectful of everything students say in class.
- Course was overly driven by tests. His in class teaching was dull as he taught mainly off of his power points. Office hours were unhelpful and attempts to meet outside of scheduled hours were unsuccessful.
- I found that note-taking in this class was the most beneficial out of all my classes. Notes were very applicable to tests.
- Dr. Penn was great! I always loved going to his class and definitely hope to take more of his in the future. He was always concerned with making sure we understood what he was saying and genuinely wanted us to learn from him. I loved his class!
- Best professor I've had so far. Great lecturer!
- I found this course to be extremely interesting. Dr. Penn made most of the material easy to understand and, if there was any confusion, he was willing to take time to back and review the material. Dr. Penn did a great job connecting the subject matter to current events and real-life scenarios. I thought that he provided an effective combination of videos, articles, and lecture to convey a large amount of information. The biggest concern I found with the course overall was that Dr. Penn didn't go into much detail on most of the covered topics. However, this wasn't a negative reflection on Dr. Penn- I just wish that the introductory course would cover a little bit more. Most students won't agree with me, but I found the exams to be a bit too easy- maybe it would be more efficient to increase the difficulty of the questions a little or perhaps include a free response section. Overall this course was great. I thoroughly enjoyed the lectures that I attended and thought Dr. Penn did an excellent job teaching the material effectively.
- The professor engaged the students very much and made the course exceptionally interesting. He always added group activities and encouraged participation so the students always knew what was going on. Probably the best professor of my first semester as a first year.
- If I could take it again, i would!
- Amazing professor.
- It was hard to focus in class because the powerpoints just consisted of many definitions and concepts that went by quickly. The professor would ask students to offer examples of terms, but I never found it very helpful because the examples students offered weren't always the best ones. I would have preferred to hear examples and explanations from the teacher, who is the one evaluating us in the end anyway.
- It was a very interesting class
- I love the way Dr. Penn lectures this was actually my favorite course
- I absolutely loved this course! Great teacher!
- Dr. Penn was a great instructor. I never wanted to miss class and his clips, and also I looked forward to learning something new and interesting every class. There were times however where it seemed he spent too much time on a subject matter and subsequently will speed through the rest of the material just before an exam. When that happened things would get a little confusing and unorganized. Overall, though, Dr. Penn gave us everything we needed to be successful and prepared for class by making his powerpoints available online as well making study guides so there were no surprises come test days.
- Dr. Penn is awesome and I loved this class! I am now a Psychology major.
- It was a great course with a great instructor, but psychology is not my cup of tea.
- The course was very interesting and the instructor was thoughtful and enthusiastic.
- loved it! Dr. Penn is the best
- I think I'm going to major in psychology because of this class. I absolutely loved it! So interesting
- Penn is a phenomenal teacher. Maybe it's just because he's a psychologist...he really is great, though.
- Very fair professor, enthusiasm for the subject.

- AWESOME Teacher! Would recommend to anyone. Perfect amount of work, explained everything we needed to know and not too much more, and was engaging the entire class! Answered every question we had, and knew us personally, even in a 300 person class! Only downside was the tests - the test questions were structured in a confusing manner, so that even when I knew everything about a certain subject, I often answered wrong because the answers were very similar and ambiguous. Overall a great teacher!
- Very interesting class, glad I took it with Penn.
- very good, interesting
- I really appreciated Dr. Penn putting in the effort to learn the majority of his students' names in this 300+ student class. It made me have respect for him and more motivated to learn the material.
- i would suggest this class to anyone interested in human existence...which means everybody...
- Dr. Penn is a great professor and I have greatly enjoyed his class.