

# Kentucky Class Notes

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PSY 215 Curtis  
Fall 2009  
Test 1

8/27/09

- Today Dr. Curtis spent the time going over the syllabus. We were dismissed as soon as he was finished.

9/1/09

- In today's lecture we discussed the science of psychology, what research psychologists do, and the research process.
- We began with psychological science.
  - The big goal of psychological science is to understand behavior.
  - The goals are to describe behavior, to predict behavior, to explain the cause of behavior, and to control behavior.
  - These goals are achieved through THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD.
  - There are many areas of psychology research including:
    - Clinical Psychology—concerns psychopathology, classification and diagnosis, and treatment outcome;
    - Developmental Psychology—concerns the development of children, when and how it occurs;
    - Cognitive Psychology—concerns learning, memory, attention, language, and thinking;
    - Social Psychology—concerns beliefs, attitudes, and behavior in groups, aggression, prejudice, and interpersonal attraction.
    - Other areas include animal behavior, biological psychology, quantitative psychology, industrial/organizational psychology, and more.
    - Research in psychology has become increasingly **multidisciplinary**.
  - For example; cognitive neuroscience, developmental psychopathology, social neuroscience, and developmental cognitive neuroscience are all areas of psychology that include multiple disciplines.
- The lecture moved on to discuss the research process.
  - Most of the research that is conducted relies on past work—there are only a few ideas that are completely new.