



Introductory Psychology: University of Southern Maine

(For a list of topics covered in the course, please see http://www.theNCAT.org/R2R/AcadPrac/Topics/USM_IntroPsy_Top.pdf.)

Introductory Psychology is a one-semester, three-credit course that uses the following materials:

Commercial Materials

- Textbook: *Atkinson and Hilgard's Introduction to Psychology*

Author: Edward E. Smith, Susan Nolen-Hoeksema, Barbara L. Fredrickson and Geoffrey R. Loftus
Publisher: Wadsworth Thomson Learning
Edition: 14th edition

- Software: *WebTutor*

Publisher: Thomson Learning
http://www.wadsworth.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20bl&product_isbn_issn=0155050699&discipline_number=24

Description: *WebTutor* is designed as a companion to the textbook and extends the concepts and pedagogy of the text into a highly visual, hands-on, online learning environment. With a flexible format, *WebTutor* allows faculty to assign pre-formatted, text-specific content that is immediately available or to customize content including uploading images and other resources, adding web links, or creating special practice materials. *WebTutor* includes seamless access to both *InfoTrac*, an online database of millions of full-text articles, and *Newsedge*, an online news service. *WebTutor* can be used with both Blackboard and WebCT.

At the University of Southern Maine, the faculty have divided each online text chapter into sections of 3-4 pages. These sections are tied to specific quiz questions. When students miss a quiz item, they are directed to these small sections for review of the concepts they missed. Because the text is searchable by key words, students can easily find discussions of particular concepts when they are studying. Students also use the online glossary frequently.

How to preview: WebTutor may be previewed on the Thomson Learning web site listed above

How to obtain: A variety of purchasing options are available. See the Thomson Learning web site for details.

- Textbook: *Psychology*

Author: D. G. Myers
Publisher: Bedford, Freeman, and Worth
Edition: 7th edition

- Software: *PsychOnline*

Author: Thomas Ludwig
Publisher: Bedford, Freeman, and Worth
<http://www.bfwpub.com/book.asp?1124002080>

Description: *PsychOnline* provides a complete web-based learning environment for introductory psychology including module overviews, psychology tutorials, interactive learning activities, flashcards, simulated lab experiences, lecture demonstrations, critical thinking activities, pooled data/research projects, reference tools and core assessment instruments. The content can be used with multiple textbooks. *PsychOnline* can be used with both Blackboard and WebCT.

How to obtain: A variety of purchasing options are available. See the Bedford, Freeman, and Worth web site for details.

NOTE: There are many excellent texts available for introductory psychology, and the content they include is quite similar. At the University of Southern Maine, faculty members have successfully used several texts in the redesigned course. In addition to those listed above, two that have worked well are:

- Textbook: *Psychology*

Author: Lester M. Sdorow and Cheryl A. Rickabaugh,
Publisher: McGraw-Hill
Edition: 5th edition

- Textbook: *Psychology*

Author: P. O. Gray
Publisher: Worth Publishing
Edition: 4th edition

NOTE: Mastery quizzing is the most important aspect of the redesign that ensures student success at the University of Southern Maine regardless of which particular textbook is used. Follow the link below for advice from the core academic practice associates in psychology about mastery quizzing.

[How To Create Mastery Quizzes Using Publisher Materials](http://www.theNCAT.org/R2R/AcadPrac/CM/PsyQuizzing.html) (see <http://www.theNCAT.org/R2R/AcadPrac/CM/PsyQuizzing.html>)

- Test Questions

Description: The University of Southern Maine uses the publisher's test bank that accompanies the textbook in WebCT's quizzing function. Faculty select items for each concept to be covered on a particular quiz, and WebCT randomly selects a specified number of items for each concept from the test bank. Thus, each time students take a quiz, they receive slightly different quizzes. Each quiz is 20 items, and two quizzes are given each week for 14 weeks. The total number of items is ~ 2,000. Most test banks are also available in Blackboard format.

Test banks modified by University of Southern Maine faculty members can be used by those projects that use the same textbooks. Projects who wish to use other textbooks may contact Southern Maine faculty for one-on-one advice about how to modify publisher test banks.

How to preview: Logon to <http://webct.usm.maine.edu/> with the user ID "visitor04" and the password "visitor04" (all lower case and zero-four.) This will allow you to see what things look like to students. Contact John Broida at broida@usm.maine.edu if you want to see what things look like to the instructor.

How to obtain: To obtain publisher test banks, see the publisher's web site listed above that supports the desired textbook. To obtain test banks modified by the University of Southern Maine, contact John Broida at broida@usm.maine.edu.