

Three Rivers Community College, Spring 2015

General Psychology I. Psy K111, section T1

Time/location: M,W,F 10-10:50 am; D211

Professor: Dov Kugelmass, Ph.D.

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Office: C164

Office Hours: Mondays; 2:00pm-3:30pm and 9:15-10pm Wednesday 1:50pm-2:35pm.
Other times are available by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: “This introductory course provides an overview of the theories and research findings pertaining to scientific psychology with an emphasis on: the origins of psychology, nature and nurture, human diversity, theoretical models, research methodology, biological bases of thought and behavior, learning theory, sensation and perception, memory, stress and health as well as emotion and motivation.” (Three Rivers Community College online catalog, 2013/2014)

The goals and objectives for General Psychology 1 are integrated with the College’s general education goals. After completing this course, the successful student will have the following knowledge and skills.

Critical Thinking: Utilize critical thinking skills to analyze psychological theories and research data

- Describe human behavior and mental processes from various theoretical perspectives in the field of psychology
- Identify the interrelationship between human biology and psychology
- Identify the manner in which psychological research on memory relates to college study skills

Information Literacy: Assess what information is needed to answer questions as well as evaluate the quality of information

- Demonstrate the skill of identifying information needed to answer questions pertaining to psychological terms and concepts
- Recognize and evaluate information sources for a specified purpose
- Develop an understanding of psychology as an ever-changing discipline, based on contemporary research data

Communication: Understand and express ideas about psychology through reading and writing

- Demonstrate the ability to comprehend and interpret written passages
- Write clearly
- Develop the ability to articulate one’s viewpoint in verbal or electronic discussions

Systematic Inquiry: Understand social science research methods used in psychological research

- Demonstrate the ability to describe the science of psychology
- Describe different research methods used in psychology
- Acquire knowledge about men and women whose research endeavors made significant contributions to the field of psychology
- Develop an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of different psychology research methods

REQUIRED TEXT:

-Myers, D.G. (2013). **Psychology: Myers in Modules (10th ed) and Launchpad**. New York: Worth Publishers

-You may find Launchpad an excellent source for course enrichment and helpful study activities (or use the ebook for readings). Per TRCC psychology curriculum coordinator "...when students purchase a subscription to PsychPortal (now Launchpad) the length of subscription is 365 days. Therefore, students who wish to take both General Psychology 2 and General Psychology 1 only need to buy the subscription once" (if taken in consecutive semesters). All **required** online activities (e.g. tests, discussions, etc.) for this section will be conducted in the college BlackBoard system that is independent of Launchpad and is provided by the college as part of your registration in this class.

*Due to financial constraints, some students may choose to use the 8th edition (2007) or 9th edition (2010): This will probably save you money and I will attempt to remark on content differences in class, but I cannot guarantee all content required for class will be presented in the earlier editions. To be helpful, I have included the reading lists for both current and earlier editions in this syllabus and conduct required/graded activities (e.g. quizzes, discussions, etc.) in BlackBoard.

LEARNING RESOURCES:

-Blackboard Vista: <http://my.comnet.edu/>

You will need your banner ID and password. Whenever possible, assignments and grades will be posted on Blackboard. The IT help desk (215-9049) can help you with technical problems. Quizzes and some course content will be administered in Blackboard. Students **MUST** be able to access and use Blackboard to meet the requirements of this course.

-Study Guide: May be helpful.

-Launchpad activities may help you study/comprehend material and an ebook is available. A course for this section has been created.

-Psychology Tutoring: Available in the TASC (next to the library) and writing center. TASC telephone: (860-215-9082). Please see me if you think being assigned a tutor at the start of the semester would be helpful.

-Writing Center: TRWritingCenter@trcc.comnet.edu (860) 215-9082

-Library Services: (860)215-9052 <http://www.trcc.comnet.edu/library/Index.htm>

ASSIGNMENTS:

-Reading assignments (see attached schedule) should be completed **PRIOR** to class so that we can have active discussions about the material both as a whole class and in small groups. There is a lot of reading and it is important to keep up. *If you're having trouble keeping up, or understanding the material, please speak to me right away.*

-Writing: You will complete a few writing and research assignments individually and in groups including finding and analyzing a peer review journal and designing an experiment. More on this in class.

-Quizzes: There will be 6 multiple choice closed note/book quizzes (three for each half of the course) which will be available in Blackboard in a sequential content appropriate time.

-Midterm exams; There will be two closed book/note midterm exams that will consist of essay and short answer. There will be no "retakes" of Midterm exams. Makeups will be given only with written documentation of medical excuse. More on these in class

-Final Exam: There will be a cumulative final exam consisting of multiple choice and (possibly) short answer and essay.

-Class participation: Attendance *and* participation are required. This means coming on time to all classes, having done the assigned reading, and joining in class discussions. If you miss a class it is your responsibility to obtain notes from a peer, make up assignments, and/or note changes to the syllabus that are presented in class. Each class meeting you will fill out an activity sheet to document participation and suggest a grade. If you do not attend class or turn in the evaluation sheet a grade of 0 will be entered. Each student will be granted 2 absences per half before it adversely effects the participation grade. More on this in class. Reasonable public health concerns exist over the spread of flu and other infectious diseases. Therefore, I prefer that you miss class than come sick. We will discuss/strategize about this at the start of the semester.

-Extra Credit: There will be several extra credit closed note/book pretests posted on Blackboard. A total of 4 grade points can be accrued towards final grade by completing these. More on this in class.

GRADING:

Writing/Research Assignments;article: 10%
Writing/Research Assignments;experiment proposal: 10%
Multiple Choice Quizzes: 10%
Mid term Exam1: 15%
Midterm Exam2: 15%
Class Participation: 20%
Final Exam: 20%
Total: 100%

Numeric Grade Equivalents:

94-100 = A
90-93 = A-
87-89 = B+
84-86 = B
80-83 = B-
77-79 = C+
74-76 = C
70-73 = C-
67-69 = D+
64-66 = D
60-63 = D-
0-59 = F

STUDENT CONDUCT: All students are expected to behave as responsible and mature adults. This means participating in class discussions in a respectful, prepared, and thoughtful manner. Students will be encouraged to express opinions and beliefs in class. It is important that critical discussions and feedback are conducted in a considerate and scholarly manner. The work of others that is not properly credited is plagiarism. This is unethical and illegal and will result in referral to proper school authorities and/or a flunking grade for the assignment and/or course. The college recommends we include the following passage taken from the TRCC handbook (2006) "Academic integrity is essential to a useful education. Failure to act with academic integrity severely limits a person's ability to succeed in the classroom and beyond. Furthermore, academic dishonesty erodes the legitimacy of every degree awarded by the College. In this class and in the course of your academic career, present only your own best work; clearly document the sources of the material you use from others; and act at all times with honor." We will discuss these issues in more detail at the start of the semester. If you have questions about what it means to be considerate and scholarly please be sure to ask questions and clear this up.

SPECIAL NEEDS: If you have any special needs related to the class (e.g. physical or learning challenges), please contact a counselor at the start of the semester.

Also, if any difficulties arise that may interfere with your full participation (such as not understanding course material, missed class, etc.), please contact me as soon as possible.

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES

If you have a disability that may affect your progress in this course, please meet with a Disability Service Provider (DSP) as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations cannot be provided until you provide written authorization from a DSP.

TRCC Disabilities Service Providers Counseling & Advising Office Room A-119	
Matt Liscum (860) 215-9265	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical Disabilities• Sensory Disabilities• Medical Disabilities• Mental Health Disabilities
Chris Scarborough (860) 215-9289	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learning Disabilities• ADD/ADHD• Autism Spectrum

CLASS CANCELLATION: If class is cancelled (when the college is not) I will attempt to post an announcement on Blackboard and **send a mass email to your college email address.**

REGISTRATION and WITHDRAWAL: It is the responsibility of each student to manage their registration status. If you do not complete the course you must formally withdraw at the registrar's office by 12/8 or you will likely receive an "F" final grade.

Unless otherwise noted, quizzes and optional extra credit pretests are conducted in Blackboard are due **BEFORE class on the Wednesday** of the week they are listed.

Digication statement: The college requires the following statement:

"All students are required to maintain an online learning portfolio in Digication that uses the college template" (Faculty Resource Handbook for General Education, AY 13-14, pg 30).

It is unclear to me at the time of this writing what this will entail, but I will share information as it becomes available to me.

COURSE SCHEDULE (Subject to change, notification by announcement in class)

SECTION I

Week #1 starts 1/22

INTRODUCTION: overview, ground rules, definitions, methodology, history of psychology, introduction to memory; Atkins & Shifrin Model,

-Reading;

(10th edition) Modules 1, 23, pgs 418-421 and pgs 12 & 13 (study strategies), pgs 347 & 348 (improving memory).

(9th edition) Modules 1 (skim), 26, 36 (skim, motivation) and pg 12 (study strategies), 365, 366 (improving memory).

(8th edition) Modules 1 (skim), 24, 34 (skim, motivation) and pgs 12, 13 (study strategies), 390, 391 (improving memory).

-Research;

Week #2 starts 1/26: **optional extra credit pretest #1 due by 1/28 10am**

MEMORY; Encoding, Retaining and Retrieval of information, study principles, and motivation.

-Reading;

(10th edition) modules 23, 25, 26 (skip module 24-biological bases of memory-for now).

(9th edition) modules 27, 28, 29, 30 (skip 339-345-biological bases of memory-for now).

(8th edition) modules 25, 26, 27, 28 (skip 363-368-biological bases of memory-for now).

Grow handout.

-Research; Surveys and ?What is SCIENCE?

Week #3 starts 2/2

MC quiz #1 (required), extra credit pretest (optional) #2 Due by 10am (2/4)

NEUROSCIENCE: cell organization, synapse physiology, excitable membranes/action potential.

Reading;

(10th Edition) Modules 4

(9th Edition) Modules 4

(8th Edition) Modules 4

Research; Analogue studies; giant squid

Week #4 starts 2/9

NEUROSCIENCE: cell organization, synapse physiology, action potential preview, brain organization (autonomic nervous system (ANS)).

Reading;

(10th edition) modules 5 and 6

(9th edition) modules 5 and 6 (pgs 67-74)

(8th edition) modules 5 (pgs 64-80)

Research; Natural experiments/observation; Phineas Gage

Week #5 starts 2/16

MC quiz #2 (required), extra credit pretest (optional) # 3 due by 10am 2/18

NEUROSCIENCE: Brain organization and function.

Reading;

(10th edition) modules 24, (biological bases of memory)

(9th edition) modules 5, (pgs.339-345-biological bases of memory)

(8th edition) modules 5, (pgs.363-368-biological bases of memory)

Research; Analogue Studies; animal models

Week #6 starts 2/23

SENSATION and PERCEPTION: sensory systems; vision, perceptual organization and interpretation

Reading:

(10th edition) Modules 17, 18 (focus on pgs234-240), 19 (skim), 35 (pgs 477-481; fear processing)

(9th edition) Modules 17, 18, 21, 22 (pgs 506-508, fear processing) (skim Mods 19, 20)

(8th edition) Modules 12, 13, 16, 17, (pgs 521-523, fear processing) (skim Mods 14, 15)

Research; Analogue studies; development and neuroplasticity

Week #7 starts 3/2

MC quiz #3 (required) due by 10am 3/4

NEUROSCIENCE: Putting it all together; review and preview

Mental illness and/or DRUGS: synapse physiology, neural plasticity revisited and

NATURE/NURTURE

Readings: review all neuroscience and sensation/perception

Research; Twin Studies

Week #8 starts 3/9

MIDTERM EXAM #1 (in class, closed book), Wednesday 3/11

STRESS and HEALTH (not on midterm)

Readings:

(10th Edition): Modules 38 and 39

(9th Edition): Modules 43 and 44

(8th Edition): Modules 41 and 42

Week #9 starts 3/16: Spring Break!!

Section II

Week #10 starts 3/23

extra credit pretest #4 (optional) due by 10am 3/25

EMOTIONS: Models of emotion; physiology.

Reading;

(10th edition)modules : 35,36,37

(9th edition)modules : 40, 41, 42

(8th edition) modules 38,39,40

Research; TBA

Week #11 starts 3/30: MOTIVATION: (NO CLASS 4/3 COLLEGE HOLIDAY)

Reading;

(10th edition) Modules; 32 (pgs418-422), 34, and other readings to be determined

(9th edition) Modules; 36, 37 and other readings to be determined

(8th edition) Modules; 34, 35 and other readings to be determined

Introduction to LEARNING:

(10th edition): modules 20, 21, 22

(9th edition): modules 23,24,25

(8th edition): modules 21, 22, 23

Week #12 starts 4/6:

M.C. quiz #4 (emotions and motivation), extra credit pretest #5 (optional) Due by 10am 4/8

LEARNING: Classical Conditioning, Operant Conditioning, Observational learning

Reading

(10th edition): modules 20, 21, 22

(9th edition): modules 23,24,25

(8th edition): modules 21, 22, 23

Week #13 starts 4/13:

Finish LEARNING

SCIENTIFIC METHODOLOGY; Research strategies, measures of central tendency, and probability. Critical thinking, hypothesis, operational definitions, surveys, case studies, naturalistic observations.

Reading:

(10th edition) Milgram (pgs. 582-586) modules: 2and 3

(9th edition) Milgram (pgs. 693-697) modules: 2and 3

(8th edition) modules: Milgram (pages 737-741) modules: 2and 3

Week # 14: Starts: 4/20

NATURE/NURTURE and Human diversity.

Reading:

(10th edition) modules: 11 & 12

(9th edition) modules: 11 & 12

(8th edition) modules: 6 & 7

Research: Continue on experiment design project

Week #15 starts 4/27

MC quiz #5 (required), extra credit pretest #6 (optional) due by 10am 4/29

SCIENTIFIC METHODOLOGY; Research strategies, measures of central tendency, and probability. Critical thinking, hypothesis, operational definitions, surveys, case studies, naturalistic observations.

Reading:

(10th edition) modules: 2and 3

(9th edition) modules: 2and 3

(8th edition) modules: 2 and 3

Research: Experiment design project
course integration, review, unfinished business

History of Psychology and the BIG QUESTIONS: Origins of psychology, theoretical models, philosophy, “nature vs nurture” and Human Diversity

Reading

(10th edition) modules: 1

(9th edition) modules: 1

(8th edition) modules: 1

Week #16 starts 5/4 Blackboard activity, No In-class mtg Monday 5/4)

SCIENTIFIC METHODOLOGY; Research strategies, measures of central tendency, and probability. Critical thinking, hypothesis, operational definitions, surveys, case studies, naturalistic observations.

Reading:

(10th edition) modules: 2and 3

(9th edition) modules: 2and 3

(8th edition) modules: 2 and 3

Research: Experiment design project

Week #17 Starts 5/11:

course integration, review, unfinished business

Course integration, big ideas in science & psychology, review

5/13; Midterm #2

5/15 reading day (catchup on studying!) No in-class meeting

MC quiz #6 (required by 5/13, but I recommend taking it before that!)

Week #18 Starts 5/18

Have a nice SUMMER break!

5/18 Final Exam: Closed book/closed note!

SYLLABUS/SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE via announcements in class. It is student responsibility to keep up with changes.

Pretest, quiz, midterm tests, final exam schedule summary:

Section I

Pretest #1, optional extra credit 1/28, by 10am

Quiz #1 Memory 2/4, by 10am

Pretest #2 optional extra credit 2/4, by 10am

Quiz #2 neurons 2/18 by 10am

Pretest #3 optional extra credit 2/18, by 10am

Quiz #3 brain, sensation/perception, fear (fight/flight) 3/4 by 10am

Midterm #1 Memory, biological bases, sensation/perception, Fear (fight/flight) in class on 3/11, closed note/book, essay

SECTION II

Pretest #4 optional extra credit 3/25, by 10am

Quiz #4 Emotion and motivation 4/8, by 10am

Pretest #5 optional extra credit by 4/8 10am

Quiz # 5 Learning and research methods 4/29, by 10am

Pretest #6 optional extra credit 4/29, by 10am

Quiz # 6 Research methods and origins of psychology/theoretical models 5/13, by 10am

Midterm #2 emotions, learning, motivation, research methods, origins and theoretical models 5/13, in-class, essay, closed note/book

Final Exam Cumulative, closed note/book, multiple choice, in-class, 5/18

Please note that all pretests, quizzes, midterms and the final exam are closed note and closed book and must be completed by the student only.

Writing/research assignments will be given in the 2nd half of the semester. Due dates to be announced in class.

Other Important Dates:

4/8: Last day to select Pass/Fail grade option

5/11: Last day to withdraw from class