

Office Hours: Upon request

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Welcome to General Psychology I! Please keep this handout and use it throughout the semester.

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, theoretical models, causes and correlates of behavior, biological bases of thought and behavior, learning theory, sensation and perception, memory, cognition as well as emotion and motivation.

Learning Objectives

The course will provide you with a broad introduction to psychological terms and concepts. It will foster your ability to comprehend a variety of psychological theories *and* apply them to behavior and mental life. You will investigate research logic and the scientific method. You may ask "What is the evidence?" each time you encounter statements about behavior. (Walsh, 2001) You may become a more successful college student after studying human memory. You will gain knowledge of the human nervous system, the anatomy of the senses and the manner in which perception formulates your personal reality. You will examine the manner in which organisms learn, think and communicate. You will scrutinize the basis of motivation and better understand emotions! We will explore how individuals' behavior is influenced by the complex interplay between environment, genetics, physiology and intrapsychic processes. The course emphasizes written communication skills, questioning and critical thinking skills.

Class time will be used in combinations of: didactic lecture, scholarly debate, writing, Internet exploration, film and small group work. You are encouraged to visit http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/Prog_Study/Soc_Sciences/Psychcallen/GenPsych111/index.htm It is necessary for you to keep current on global, national and local news as such events are often discussed in light of persons' psychological functioning. You are encouraged to ask questions during class; it is likely that a classmate too needs clarification. "Good thinkers are good questioners." (King, 1994) Active learning is the goal.

Required Reading:

Myers, David Psychology Myers in Modules, 8th ed. New York, NY: Worth Publishers, 2007.

Please be aware each module contains a plethora of data; keep up with the assignments. Use the text's digital supplements found at

<http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/myersinmodules8e/>

A dictionary is needed to support your reading and writing.

The Reading Assignments

The weekly reading assignments will follow the syllabus for the most part. The textbook is *the* central component of the course. You are expected to come to each class having read the assignment *and having thought critically about it*. This will bolster your written and oral communication skills as well as group work.

Evaluation Procedures – Learning will be measured and grades determined as follows:

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|--|--------------------|-----------------|
| 20% Exam # 1 | 20% Exam # 2 | 20% Exam # 3 |
| 10% Class participation, in-class group work, cooperation and preparedness | | |
| 15% Unannounced Quizzes | 15% Analysis Paper | 100 Point scale |

Attendance

Former students agree unequivocally that coming to class is **essential** to succeeding in this course. *Your* attendance is expected and benefits fellow learners. Absences adversely affect your grade. If you miss more than 6 hours of class, regardless of the nature of the absences, you risk failure of or withdrawal from the course. If you miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining from a **classmate** information germane to that meeting (notes, changes in exam dates, etc.) By next week or so, consider introducing yourself to two classmates, note their names and e-mail addresses or telephone numbers on this syllabus. Please let me know if you have any problems which cause an extended absence.

Punctuality is imperative. Important information often is disseminated at the beginning of class and it shows respect for fellow learners. If you repeatedly come to class late, you will be marked absent. Absences affect your grade.

Special Needs

If you have difficulty with the course material, please see me during office hours or call me for an appointment. I am happy to clarify any questions you may have. Utilize office hours!

If you have special needs (such as a learning disability, physical condition, etc.) and require accommodations to enhance your participation in the class, please contact the Learning Specialist or Student Development Office. In order to provide accommodations, I must receive documentation pertaining to your needs. Effort will be made to support everyone's learning.

Integrity & Civility

You will be treated with respect and as honorable individuals. Note that academic dishonesty erodes the integrity of the College and devalues *every* degree granted. While the instructor encourages students to work together frequently, honesty in all academic work is expected of every student. This means papers shall be the original creation of each student and answers on examinations will be determined without help from auxiliary sources. If the instructor has any reason to question your conduct, the College's academic dishonesty policy will be followed.

As adult college students, you are expected to behave as professionals – arrive prepared to work, display maturity and show respect to all. A tone of civility and good will is expected. We are here to learn from one another. Disrespect of your classmates and disruptive behaviors will not be tolerated.

Examinations and Quizzes

Detailed information concerning the paper requirements will follow under separate cover. Examinations and quizzes will cover material from the assigned readings (whether discussed in class or not) and data we have discovered in class through video, Internet exploration, lecture or discussion. Please take advantage of the practice quizzes located at <http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/myersinmodules8e/> Quizzes may be taken only on the day they are administered; if you miss a quiz you will receive a grade of zero. There are very few legitimate reasons for missing an exam. Make-up exams will be given only to students who have an acceptable reason for missing the exam, during office hours and only to students who have contacted the instructor in advance of the exam. It is your responsibility to contact the Instructor to make arrangements for the make-up exam. If a student misses an exam for an unacceptable reason, a 0 will be averaged into the student's grade for the missed exam.

Information contained in this syllabus may change with or without notice as circumstances warrant.