

THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Social Science Department
General Psychology I, K111 – T9, CRN 31363, Fall 2015
Monday 6:30 – 9:15, Room D109

Instructor: Pam Kerouack-Warner, M.S., LPC
Office hours: 6:00 – 6:30 in D109 or by appointment
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COURSE OUTLINE

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, research methodology, biological bases of thought and behavior, learning theory, sensation and perception, memory, stress and health as well as emotion and motivation.

Class time will be filled with a combination of didactic lecture, discussion, internet exploration, videos, experiments and small group work. Please come to class prepared by having read the modules assigned for that class period as well as having completed The Learning Curve in order to fully comprehend our discussions and to be enabled as an active participant. You should have received an access code to the publisher's website with the purchase of your book. Please see attachment to syllabus for instructions on how to access the website. If you experience any problems registering for the website, please contact tech support at 1-800-936-6899 or see me before the second class.

REQUIRED TEXT: *Psychology Eleventh Edition in Modules, (2015)*, D. Myers & C. N. DeWall, Worth Publishers

GRADING AND REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance and Class Participation	10%
3 Exams	45%
Quizzes	15%
The Learning Curve	10%
Presentation	10%
Presentation write-up	10%

Letter grades are earned accordingly: A: 95+; A-: 90-94; B+: 87-89; B: 84-86; B- 80-83; C+ 77-79; C: 74-76; C-: 70-73; D+: 67-69; D: 64-66; D-: 60-63; F: below 60

ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION: It is truly important to be present for the experience of class. It will help you to “get” the concepts so much more than just reading about them. Please attend class. If you cannot, please let me know in advance.

EXAMS: Exams may be comprised of multiple choice questions, fill-in-the blanks, matching and short essays. Complete the assigned work, attend class and participate, and you’ll do fine. Exams are given in-class and, as much as possible, returned to you the following class. Once exams are returned, there are **NO** make-ups. And, I **do not** provide extra credit work. If you are going to be out on an exam day, please let me know **prior to** the exam. All exam dates are clearly marked on your syllabus. You may use your notes for the exams but no other supports.

THE LEARNING CURVE: Prior to class, read the module(s) assigned for that class and complete “The Learning Curve” for that module(s). You’ll be given credit for its completion **only if it is done before class time**. If you experience problems, contact the Publisher’s tech support. I cannot help you with technical access problems – you must call tech support. No letter grade is assigned to Learning Curves; you are given credit only if you complete this assignment prior to class.

QUIZZES: On the publisher’s web as provided in your handout, (FILL THIS IN!!) you will find quizzes for each module. Please make sure you are registered for **the right class**. Complete each quiz as assigned. Your quiz grades will be averaged out and weigh 15% toward your overall grade with your lowest quiz grade dropped. You are only allowed to take the module mastery quiz once and it is only available until the start of class in which it is due. Please use the browser recommended. You are given a limited amount of time to complete the quiz so be prepared when you take it. **Please keep in mind** that the on-line assignments account for 25% of your grade. If you don’t do these assignments, you are starting with a grade of 75 for the class.

READING AND WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS: You will be assigned a module and date to work with a partner on a class presentation to be at least 15 minutes in length (including class discussion.) You will take one concept (or more) from that module to **explore in depth**. You can choose to do a class experiment, find a journal article or recent examples of the concept or do a PowerPoint or a video clip. **DO NOT** just reiterate the book. It is your responsibility to explore this topic/concept more fully. Be creative and have fun with this and keep in mind that it helps if you engage your classmates. You must consult with me at least one week prior to your presentation; failure to do so will drop your grade by ten points. **After** the class in which you present, you will write a paper on the concept you chose, including what you learned about the concept, your assessment of how you taught the concept and what you might do differently if you taught this again, how you worked with your partner and how you overcame any obstacles in so doing. This paper is due **within one week** of your presentation. Late papers will lose 10 credit points for each class over the week due date. If you don’t complete the assignment by the due date or miss the class in which you are to present, you will get a “0” for that assignment. There is

no time to make exceptions to this policy. Missing this assignment automatically drops your grade to a starting grade of an 80 (10% for presentation; 10% for paper.)

ON-LINE PORTFOLIOS: I am required to add this information into your syllabus. “As a student, you’ll maintain an online learning portfolio using a college-designed template in Digication. You will have the opportunity to monitor your own growth in college-wide learning through this electronic tool. It may even help you determine a major that is best suited to you. You’ll be able to keep and maintain your learning portfolio after graduation. A Three Rivers General Education Assessment Team will select and review random works to improve the college experience for all. If your work is selected and reviewed for assessment purposes, it will remain anonymous and private. Digication provides a “place” where you’ll connect your learning from the classroom, college, and life in general. Sometimes when you review all of the work you’ve done and think about it, you end up learning something different and perhaps unexpected. Please review your course outlines to determine what assignments to upload into the TRCC Digication template and post your own choices as well. Have fun in learning!”

POLICY ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM: Personal integrity is an important quality—once it is lost, it is difficult to regain. Please do not copy from another student or cheat on exams or papers. Not only will you receive a “0” if you are caught, it will speak very loudly about who you are as a person.

READING/VIDEO ASSIGNMENTS: The majority of your reading comes from the text. However, you will need to read or view newspapers, magazines, journals, television presentations and the like to complete your classroom assignment.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

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|-----------------|--|
| 08/31/15 | Introduction to class and review of expectations
Sign up for on-line resources and access to quizzes |
| 09/07/15 | Labor Day – no class |
| 09/14/15 | Prepare for class: Learning curves on modules 1 and 2
Module 1 What is Psychology?; Module 2: The Need for Psychological Science
Before next class, complete post-class quizzes on modules 1 and 2 |
| 09/21/15 | Prepare for the week: Learning Curve for Modules 3 and 4
Module 3 Research Strategies: How Psychologists ask and answer questions
Module 4 Statistical Reasoning in Everyday Life
Before next class, complete post-class quizzes on modules 3 and 4 |

- 09/28/15** **Prepare for the week:** Learning Curves for Modules 5, 6, and 7
Module 5 Neural and Hormonal Systems
Module 6 Tools of discovery and older brain structures
Module 7 The cerebral cortex and our divided brain
Before next class, complete post-class quizzes on modules 5, 6, and 7
- 10/5/15** **Prepare for the week:** Learning Curves for Modules 11, 12 and 13
Module 11 Behavior Genetics and Evolutionary Psychology
Module 12 Evolutionary Psychology
Module 13 Culture, Gender, and other Environmental Influences
Before next class, complete post-class quizzes on Modules 11, 12 and 13
- 10/12/15** **Columbus Day – No Class**
- 10/19/15** **Exam on Modules 1 through 7; 11 through 13**
- 10/26/15** **Prepare for the week:** Learning Curves for Modules 18, 19, and 20
Module 18 Basic Principles of Sensation and Perception
Module 19 Vision and Perceptual Organization and interpretation
Module 20 The Non-visual Senses
Before next class, complete post-class quizzes on Modules 18, 19 and 20
- 11/02/15** **Prepare for the week:** Learning Curves for Modules 21, 22, 23
Module 21 Basic learning concepts and classical conditioning
Module 22 Operant Conditioning
Module 23 Biology, cognition, and learning
Before next class, complete post-class quizzes on Modules 21, 22, and 23
- 11/09/15** **Prepare for the week:** Learning Curves for Modules 24, 25 and 26
Module 24 Studying and Encoding Memories
Module 25 Storage and Retrieving Memories
Module 26 Forgetting, Memory Construction, and Improving Memory
Before next class, complete post-class quizzes on Modules 24, 25, and 26
- 11/16/15** **Exam on modules 18 through 26**
- 11/23/15** **Prepare for the week:** Learning Curves for Modules 33 and 34
Module 33 Basic Motivational Concepts
Module 34 Hunger
Before next class, complete post-class quizzes on Modules 33 and 34

- 11/30/15** **Prepare for the week:** Learning Curves on Modules 35 and 36
Module 35 Sexual Motivation
Module 36 Affiliation and Achievement
Before next class, complete post-class quizzes on Modules 35 and 36
- 12/07/15** **Prepare for the week:** Learning Curves on Modules 37, 38, and 39
Module 37 Introduction to Emotion
Module 38 Expressing Emotion
Module 39 Experiencing Emotion
Before next class, complete post-class quizzes on Modules 37, 38 and 39
- 12/14/15** **Preparation for the week:** Learning Curves for modules 40 and 41
Module 40 Stress and Illness
Module 41 Health and Coping
Before next class, complete post-class quizzes on Modules 40 and 41
- 12/21/15** **Exam on modules 33 through 41**

NOTES:

Dear Students,

The online portion of our course is open for student registration. Follow these steps to get started. If you need additional guidance, consult the student [Get Started guide](#), especially the [system requirements](#) which list the recommended browsers.

To register for the course go to:

<http://www.macmillanhighered.com/launchpad/myers11einmodules/2129041>

PLEASE bookmark the page to make it easy to return to.

You have three options to enroll in the course: you can purchase direct access, you can buy an access code, or you can get free 21 day access while deciding. [Your registration options are explained here.](#)

To navigate and start using LaunchPad please consult the [Get Started guide](#) and/or [view this video](#).

If you have problems registering, purchasing, or logging in, please contact Customer Support. You can reach a representative 24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

- through the [online form](#)
- by [chat](#)

Or from 9 a.m. to 3 a.m. EST, 7 days a week:

- by phone at (800) 936-6899

Best,

Pam Kerouack-Warner

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