

PSY 111 General Psychology 1 –Spring 2014 Instructor: Joseph Strazzo
Classroom: E206 **Wednesday 6:30pm-9:15pm**
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Office Hours: as requested

Welcome to General Psychology I! Please keep this syllabus and use it throughout the semester. Each student is assigned a TRCC e-mail and all correspondence with the class will be through this system.

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 basis of thought and behavior, theory of evolutionary psychology, learning theory, sensation and perception, memory, stress, emotion, health and motivation, and evolutionary psychology.

Learning Objectives

The course will provide you with a broad introduction to psychological terms and concepts. My role is to facilitate a positive educational experience and to provide support and assess your progress. You will have the opportunity to learn a variety of psychological theories *and* apply them to behavior, mental health and any endeavor that you undertake. Regardless of your major or career path, concepts taught in this course can be applied as soon as you leave the classroom and enter the real laboratory...your life, family, or occupation.

You will utilize the scientific method and research studies. You are encouraged to ask, “What is the evidence?” each time you encounter statements about human 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. We will delve into motivation, emotions and learning. We will explore how an individual’s behavior is influenced by the complex interplay between environment, genetics, physiology and intrapsychic processes. The course emphasizes written communication skills, questioning and critical thinking. Outside of class, utilize the interactive learning activities available on Blackboard Vista via <http://www.my.commnet.edu> Keep current on global, national and local news as such events are often discussed in light of persons’ psychological functioning. Class time will be used in combinations of: didactic lecture, scholarly debate, writing, Internet exploration, film and small group work. You are encouraged to ask questions during class. “Good thinkers are good questioners.” (King, 1994) *Integrating the course into your work life, campus life and personal life is the goal.*

Required Reading

Myers, David Psychology (Tenth Edition in Modules) New York, NY: Worth Publishers, 2012. The text's Study Guide is highly recommended.

Options

Students have two choices for their required text. The choices are 1) print textbook plus PsychPortal access cards or 2) PsychPortal access card which includes the eBook (electronic version of the print text).

Reading Assignments

Concentration requires practice. The weekly lectures/reading assignments will follow the syllabus for the most part. The textbook is *the* central component of the course.

Please be aware each module contains a plethora of data; keep up with the assignments. Digital supplements can be found at:

<http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/myers9einmodules/> You are expected to come to each class having read the assignment *and having thought critically about it.*

In-Class Writing Assignments

I believe that an essential part of education is improving your writing skills as it is a critical aspect of both your educational and occupational success. During the semester I will either show a brief DVD/Article/Quote that pertains to biological, psychological, or social/culture aspects of psychology. You will be required to write a brief summary as part of your grade during class. Expect 6-10 in-class writing assignments.

Homework/Group Assignments

In addition, homework is an essential. It enhances learning and comprehension of material. Throughout the semester you will be required to complete and turn in homework assignments. Expect 5 homework assignments throughout the semester which will include in-class individual/group assignments.

Research Paper

Your *research paper* is to be a minimum 10 pages/doubled spaced/12 Font in APA format. The topic of your paper is to focus on a subject relevant to the subject matter either from class discussion, textbook, and class writing assignments, (however not in the 1st person). Remember, TRCC has a writing center for your use....take advantage of it! I encourage students to choose a topic early in the semester.

Attendance

Former students agree unequivocally that coming to class is **essential** for success in this course. *Your* attendance is expected and benefits fellow learners. Absences adversely affect your grade. **If you miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining the notes from a classmate. Also, students can access Blackboard Learn for additional information.**

Please let me know if you have any problems which cause an extended absence. By next week or so, consider introducing yourself to two classmates, note their names and e-mail addresses or telephone numbers on this syllabus.

Evaluation Procedures - Grades determined as follows:

50 % Exams (2 Exams)

25 % Homework, in-class writing assignments, and class participation

25 % Research Paper

*******Extra Credit**- Writing assignments based on a topic of interest can be turned in to deepen your knowledge of that area and if needed improve your grade.

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 I have any reason to question your conduct, the College's academic dishonesty policy will be followed.

We are here to learn from one another. A tone of civility and good will is expected. Learning how to disagree with someone is an important skill as it's not what you say it's how you say it. **Cell phone conversations and text messaging are prohibited during class**, please put your cell phones on vibrate and please no texting in class. ***Disrespect of your classmates and disruptive behaviors will not be tolerated.***

Learning 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.

Examinations

Examinations 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. ***Do not wait*** until the exam date to evaluate your knowledge of psychological concepts, use the practice quizzes located at <http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/myers9einmodules/>.

Exams may be taken *only* on the day they are administered; if you miss an exam 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, you have until the next class (1 class day) to make it up. It is your responsibility to contact me to make arrangements for the make-up exam and your responsibility to schedule an appointment with test center. If a student misses an exam for an unacceptable reason, a 0 will be averaged into the student's grade for the missed exam. The make-up exam will differ from the in class exam.

The exam material is taken from the text and lectures. The key is to read the questions carefully and take your time. Please ask me any questions. I have notice that study groups work exceptionally well. I strongly encourage students to use study groups in this class!

Withdrawal

If you choose to withdraw from the course, please notify the instructor via e-mail or telephone. Make sure you contact the Registration Office to complete the official procedures.

Learning Outcomes General Psychology Part 1

The goals 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---(USE THE WRITING CENTER IF NEEDED) I will discuss APA Format to you through-out the semester.
- Develop the ability to articulate one's viewpoint in verbal 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

Class Structure:

- I will arrive 30 minutes before class, if you have any questions pertaining to the class please ask at that time.
- Please sign into class, even if you arrive late.
- I will always have an article, show a brief DVD, and discuss a topic relevant to psychology.
- Most of the lecture will be in PowerPoint.
- Expect in-class writing assignments.
- Expect to participate in each class.
- You will have a short break half-way through the class.
- The weekly lecture schedule is an approximate guide. I closely follow the material in the book. Check the order of the modules on your syllabus **carefully**.
- Please refer to your syllabus and if you have any questions outside of class please e-mail me.

Introduction

Week 1 – 1/29/14

Introduction(s)

Personal/educational/academic goals

Review and group activities

Writing Center and Informational Technology guests

Week 2 – 2/5/2014

History of Psychology Module 1

Critical Thinking Module 2-Assignment

Research Methods Module 3

Week 3---2/12/2014

Motivation and Work Modules 32/33/34

Week 4---2/19/2014

Emotion, Stress and Health Module 35/36/37/38/39

Week 5---2/26/2014
Biology of the Mind 4/5/6

Week 6 – 3/5/2014
The Biology of the Mind Modules 4- 5-6

Week 7-3/12/2014 Exam
1. Topic of research paper due

Spring Break March 17th – 23rd No class

Week 8 – 3/26/2014
Evolutionary Psychology Module 11-12

Week 9 -4/2/2014
Evolutionary Psychology Continued
Sensation and Perception Modules 17-18-19

Week 10-- 4/9/2014
Sensation and Perception continued

Week 11---4/16/2014
Learning Module 20/21/22
Review APA format

Week 12---- 4/23/2014
Learning Module Continued
Memory 23/24

Week 13-4/30/2014
Memory25/26

Week 14 – 5/7/2014 -Paper due
Memory continued and prepare for final exam

Week 15--- 5/14/2014
Papers returned
Final Exam

