

PSY K111 General Psychology 1 – Spring 11

Office Location: C Wing, Room 116

Office Hours: T and Th 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

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

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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, memory, learning theory, sensation and perception, stress, as well as emotion and motivation.

Learning Objectives

The course will provide you with a broad introduction to psychological terms and concepts. Your instructor is present to help *you* create a great educational experience; my role is to provide support and assess your progress. You will have the opportunity to learn a variety of psychological theories *and* apply them to behavior and mental life. 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, 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 G. (2010). Psychology Ninth Edition in Modules. New York: Worth.

A **dictionary** is needed to support your reading and writing. Use the text’s Study Guide.

The Reading Assignments

Concentration requires practice. The weekly 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. Use the text’s digital supplements found at <http://courses.bfwpub.com/myers9einmodules.php>

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.

Attendance

This course is based on teaching, learning and communication. Each of us has a responsibility to contribute to the learning of others through critical dialogue, and integrative and collaborative learning (Forando, 2009). Former students agree unequivocally that coming to class is **essential** for success in this course. If you miss more than 6 hours of class, regardless of the nature of the absences, you risk

failure. If you miss a class, *you* are responsible for obtaining from a *classmate* information germane to that meeting (notes, changes in exam dates, etc.) 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.

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.

Evaluation Procedures - Grades determined as follows:

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

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.

We are here to learn from one another. A tone of civility and good will is expected. As adult college students, you are expected to behave as professionals – arrive prepared to work, display maturity and show respect to all. Cell phone conversations and text messaging are prohibited during 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. Effort will be made to support everyone's learning.

Examinations and Quizzes

Information concerning the paper 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. ***Do not wait*** until the exam date to evaluate your knowledge of psychological concepts, use the practice quizzes

located at <http://courses.bfwpub.com/myers9einmodules.php>

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, **and** only to students who have contacted the instructor in advance of the exam. It is your responsibility to petition the Instructor for the privilege of a make-up exam. If a student misses an exam for an unacceptable reason, a **0** will be averaged into the student's grade.

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
- 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

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

Topic Schedule and Assigned Readings for 9:30 CRN 10570

Information in *italic typeface* is the topic(s) for the week. Chapters, which are in plain typeface, should be read by the specified date. Activities will be assigned as the course unfolds.

Week 1	January 20 R	<i>Introduction to the course & to Psychology</i>
Week 2	January 25 January 27	Modules 1 and 2 <i>History of psychology, theoretical perspectives & critical thinking</i>
Week 3	February 01 February 03	Module 3 (read module 3 at least a few times) <i>Study Circle meeting</i> -- Paper draft to Writing Center
Week 4	February 08 February 10	<i>Research methods of scientific psychology</i> Modules 26, 27 and 28
Week 5	February 15 February 17	<i>Memory</i> Paper DUE Modules 29 and 30 Review for Test - exam preparation study circles outside of class
Week 6	February 22 February 24	<i>Memory plus forgetting</i> Exam # 1
Week 7	March 01 March 03	Module 4 <i>Neuroscience of Behavior - Neural & Hormonal systems</i>
Week 8	March 08 March 10	Modules 5 and 6 <i>Neuroscience of Behavior - The Brain</i>
***	March 14	<i>Spring Holiday – Classes not in session – Study Circle meeting</i>
Week 9	March 22 March 24	Modules 17, 18 and 19 <i>Sensation and Perception</i>
Week 10	March 29 March 31	Modules 20 and 21 <i>Continued – Sensation and Perception</i> Exam preparation study circles outside of class
Week 11	April 05 April 07	Exam # 2 Modules 23, 24 and 25
Week 12	April 12 April 14	<i>Learning</i> <i>Continued – Learning</i>

Week 13	April 19 April 21	Modules 40 and 42 <i>Emotion</i>
Week 14	April 26 April 28	Modules 43 and 44 Modules 36, 37 and 39
Week 15	May 03 May 05	<i>Motivation</i> Module 38
Week 16	May 10 May 12	Catch-up class Exam # 3 – Congratulations

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