

Three Rivers Community College, Spring, 2010

General Psychology I. Psy K111

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Office Hours: Mondays; 11:50-12:20 and 5-6pm, Fridays
11:50-12:50 and 1:50-2:20. Other times are available by
appointment.

Tutor/Teaching Assistant: Greg Mackay is available via
Blackboard. There are many tutors available at TASC that are
familiar with the requirements of this course.

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.” (Three Rivers Community College online catalog, 2006)

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. (2007). Psychology: Myers in Modules (8th ed.). New York: Worth Publishers.

*You may use the hard copy or ebook (which is interactive and may save you money).

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 (885-2334) 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.

-Web Site And PsychSim: See text for supplementary web site address/ebook and PsychSim. Though not required, some activities may help you study/comprehend material.

-Psychology Tutoring: Available in the TASC (next to the library) and writing center. TASC telephone: 892-5745. 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 892-5773

-Library Services: Rob Walsh is our new REFERENCE LIBRARIAN!
(860)885-2346

<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. More on this in class.

-Quizzes: There will be 6 multiple choice 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.

-“MAKEUP QUIZ”: (after missing a quiz) may differ in format and may be MORE DIFFICULT, will be given on specified day at end of the semester.

-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 1 absence per quarter 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 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: 20%

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 me 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.

CLASS CANCELLATION: If class is cancelled (when the college is not) I will attempt to post an announcement on Blackboard and also leave a message on my college voice mail. If you would like to be part of a telephone tree in the event of unforeseen cancellation, please speak with me after class. If class will be cancelled for long periods of time we will attempt to conduct class via blackboard.

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 12/9 or you will likely receive an "F" final grade.

SECTION I

Week #1 starts 8/26

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

-Reading;

(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 pgs12, 13 (study strategies), 390,391 (improving memory).

-Research; gathering and reporting info; basics of sources and referencing;

Plagiarism; scientific attitude and method: asking questions and answering questions

Week #2 starts 8/30 optional extra credit pretest due by 10am

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

-Reading;

(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; asking questions, confirming hypothesis

Week #3 starts 9/6 MC quiz#1 (required), extra credit pretest(optional) #2 Due by 10am (9/8)

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

Reading;

(9th Edition) Modules 4

(8th Edition) Modules 4

Research;

***NO CLASS 9/6, Holiday

Week #4 starts 9/13

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

Reading;

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

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

Research; Survey and correlational research.

Week #5 starts 9/20 MC quiz #2 (required), extra credit pretest (optional) # 3 due by 10am

NEUROSCIENCE: Brain organization and function.

Reading;

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

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

Research; Experimental and quasi-experimental designs

Week #6 starts 9/27 SENSATION and PERCEPTION: sensory systems; vision, perceptual organization and interpretation

Reading:

(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; TBA

Week #7 starts 10/4 MC quiz #3 (required) due by 10am Reading day 10/8; NO CLASS

NEUROSCIENCE: Putting it all together; review and preview

Mental illness and/or DRUGS: synapse physiology.

Readings: review all neuroscience and sensation/perception

Research;

Week #8 starts 10/11 MIDTERM EXAM #1 (in class, closed book), Monday 10/11

STRESS and HEALTH

Readings:

(9th Edition): Modules 43 and 44

(8th Edition): Modules 41 and 42

Section II

Week #9 starts 10/18 extra credit pretest #4 (optional) due by 10am

EMOTIONS: Models of emotion; physiology.

Reading:

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

(8th edition) modules 38,39,40

Research; Finding sources/psychinfo, source credibility, peer review journals, and source citation. Observational and qualitative research

Week #10 starts 10/25

MOTIVATION: Intro and Hunger

Reading:

(9th edition) Modules; 36, 37

(8th edition) Modules; 34, 35

LEARNING:

Reading; modules 21,22,23

Research; TBA

Week #11 starts 11/1 M.C. quiz #4 (emotions and motivation), extra credit pretest (optional) Due by 10am

LEARNING: Classical Conditioning, Operant Conditioning, Observational learning

Reading

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

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

Research; Single subject designs; ABAB

Week #12 starts 11/8 MC quiz #5 (required), extra credit pretest (optional) due by 10am
SCIENTIFIC METHODOLOGY; Research strategies, measures of central tendency, and probability. Critical thinking, hypothesis, operational definitions, surveys, case studies, naturalistic observations.

Reading

(9th edition) modules: 2 and 3

(8th edition) modules: 2 and 3

Research: human subjects/IRB

NO IN-CLASS MEETING 11/12; scientific conference day (!)

Week #13 starts 11/15 SCIENTIFIC METHODOLOGY; Research strategies, measures of central tendency, and probability. Critical thinking, hypothesis, operational definitions, surveys, case studies, naturalistic observations.

Reading

(9th edition) Milgram (pgs. 693-697)

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

Week #14 starts 11/22 No Class; Have a nice break!

Week 15 starts 11/29 MC quiz #6 (required)

origins of psychology, theoretical models, history, philosophy

Reading

(9th edition) modules: 1

(8th edition) modules: 1

Week #16 starts 12/6

12/6 course integration, review, unfinished business

12/8 Midterm #2

12/10 reading day (catchup on studying!)

Week #17 starts 12/13

12/13 Final Exam

12/15 student conferences, Makeup/retake

Week #18 Starts 12/20

Have a nice winter break!

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:

Pretest #1, optional extra credit 8/30, by 10am

Quiz #1 Memory 9/8, by 10am

Pretest #2 optional extra credit 9/8, by 10am

Quiz #2 neurons 9/20, by 10am

Pretest #3 optional extra credit 9/20, by 10am

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

Midterm #1 Memory, biological bases, sensation/perception, Fear (emotion) in class on 10/11

Pretest #4 optional extra credit 10/18, by 10am

Quiz #4 Emotion and motivation 11/1, by 10am

Pretest #5 optional extra credit 11/1 by 10am

Quiz # 5 Learning and research methods 11/8, by 10am

Pretest #6 optional extra credit 11/8, by 10am

Quiz # 6 Research methods and origins of psychology/theoretical models 11/29, by 10am

Midterm #2 emotions, learning, motivation, research methods, origins and theoretical models
12/8, in-class

Final Exam Cumulative 12/13, in class

Writing/research assignments will be given as the 2nd half of the semester progresses

*Myers Modules 9th edition Breakdown for General Psychology I: Mods 1-3; Mods 4-6;
Mods 17-22; Mods 23-25; Mods 26-30; Mods 36-39; Mods 40-44;*