

SYLLABUS

General Psychology I (PSY* K111)
(CRN #10766)

Three Rivers Community College
Norwich, Connecticut 06360

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Office Hours:

Upon request, and questions are always welcome by e-mail or phone. I will be on campus Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 11:00 and 12:00. Meeting place TBD.



Reverse Psychology

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, as well as emotion and motivation.

Required Texts

Myers, D.G. (2006). Psychology: Eighth Edition in Modules. New York: Worth.

Learning Objectives

1. Explain the evolution of psychology as a discipline and the importance of psychology in the world today.
2. Explain research methods and goals.
3. Explain the links between biology and psychology.
4. Explain how human beings learn, feel, react, think.

Classroom Procedure

To make the most of class time, it will include: lecture, open discussion, writing, small group work, and other activities designed to best fit the topic at hand. There will be plenty of opportunity for questions, discussion and debate; **this is your education and you deserve to get the most out of it!**

Office Hour Procedure

In addition to the times mentioned previously, I encourage you to call or e-mail me with any questions or concerns you may have, and I will reply to you in a timely manner.

Method of Evaluation

1. In-class multiple-choice/take-home essay examinations
2. Research paper
3. Class attendance, class participation and individual contribution (This includes your individual contribution to the summary presentations.)

Examinations

You are responsible for the material covered in the weekly reading assignments, and for any additional material covered in class; you may be tested on any part of this material. To enhance your learning, you are encouraged to take advantage of the practice quizzes located at: <http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/myers8einmodules/> . Not only can these quizzes test your knowledge, they also serve as a starting point for any help you may need from me. As a vocabulary-building exercise, each day you will be given a “word-of-the-day” (W.O.D.) relevant to that day’s topic. You can define these words for extra credit on your exams.

Exams can only be made up under specific circumstances, as approved by me. **Make-up exams will only be given to students who have a legitimate reason for missing the exam, have contacted me prior to the exam, and have not taken a make-up exam for this course previously.** Make-up exams will be scheduled at my discretion, and you are responsible for contacting me in a timely fashion to arrange for the make-up. If a student misses an exam for an unacceptable reason or does not meet the requirements for having a make-up exam, a “0” is given for that exam. **Make-up exams are entirely essay, and may not be completed at home.**

Research Paper

You are required to complete a 7-page minimum research paper for this class. The topic can be anything relevant to the world of psychology. You are encouraged to select a topic that is: 1) an area of personal interest to you, 2) related to your field of study, and/or 3) an area outlined by the text or classroom discussions. We will discuss the paper in further detail in future classes, but you are encouraged to come to me with any questions or concerns in the meantime. You must also prepare a brief (5 to 10 minute) but thoughtful summary of your paper to present to the class.

You must use at least three resources for the paper. If you choose to use the text as a resource, you must use three additional resources. All citations and references must be formatted according to the APA style. Other aspects of APA style do not need to be followed, unless you so choose. See me or the Writing Center for guidance.

Attendance

Your attendance is expected and will be recorded. This is for the benefit of both yourself and your classmates. Missing more than four hours of class may result in a lower grade, failure of, or withdrawal from the course. If you miss a class, you are responsible for contacting a classmate for any materials or information covered in that class. Please let me know if you have any circumstances that may result in an extended absence.

Course Outline

This is the schedule of reading assignments and lecture topics by week. The reading assignments are in italics, and should be completed by the date indicated. **“Completion” is defined as reading and thinking critically about the material assigned; you should come to class with opinions and questions about the topic of the day.**

Note: For selected modules, you will be responsible for preparing and presenting in class a thorough and thoughtful summary of the material. This is done in small work groups, with each group responsible for a particular section of that module. Additionally, each student is required to prepare a brief but thoughtful summary of their research paper to be presented to the class.

Week 1	January 21	Introduction to General Psychology: Review of syllabus and course
	January 23	<i>Module 1: History and Scope of Psychology</i>
Week 2	January 26	History and scope
	January 28	History and scope
	January 30	The field of psychology today
Week 3	February 2	<i>Modules 2 & 3: Critical Thinking and Research Strategies</i>
	February 4	Critical thinking
	February 6	Research methods and statistics
Week 4	February 9	<i>Module 4: Neural and Hormonal Systems</i>
	February 11	Neurons
	February 13	Endocrine system
Week 5	February 16	Washington’s Birthday – No class
	February 18	<i>Module 5: The Brain</i>
	February 20	Brain
Week 6	February 23	Brain and exam review
	February 25	Exam 1, Modules 1-5
	February 27	<i>Modules 12-15: Sensation</i>
Week 7	March 2	Senses – Small group summaries
	March 4	Senses – Small group summaries
	March 6	<i>Modules 16 & 17: Perception</i>
Week 8	March 9	Perception
	March 11	Perception
		Research paper discussion
	March 13	<i>Modules 21-23: Learning</i>
Week 9	March 16 - 20	Spring break – No classes

Week 10	March 23	Learning
	March 25	Learning and exam review
	March 27	Exam 2, Modules 12 – 17, 21 - 23
Week 11	March 30	<i>Modules 24 to 26: Memory</i>
	April 1	Encoding & storage
	April 3	Encoding & storage
Week 12	April 6	<i>Modules 27 & 28: Memory</i>
	April 8	Make-up class – TBD
	April 10	Spring recess – No class
Week 13	April 13	Retrieval & forgetting
	April 15	Retrieval & forgetting
	April 17	<i>Modules 34-37: Motivation</i>
Week 14	April 20	Motivation – Small group summaries
	April 22	Motivation – Small group summaries
	April 24	Motivation – Small group summaries
Week 15	April 27	Research paper due – Individual paper presentations
	April 29	Individual paper presentations
	May 1	<i>Modules 38-40: Emotion</i>
		Individual paper presentations (if necessary)
Week 16	May 4	Emotion
	May 6	Emotion
	May 8	Emotion
Week 17	May 11	Catch up and exam review
	May 13	Exam 3, Modules 24-28, 34-40

Course Evaluation

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%
Research paper	20%
Research paper presentation	5%
Class participation and attendance	15%

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is expected of you as students and of me as your professor.

Academic Dishonesty shall in general mean conduct which has as its intent or effect the false representation of a student's academic performance, including but not limited to (a) cheating on an examination, (b) collaborating with others in work to be presented, contrary to the stated rules of the course, (c) plagiarizing, including the submission of others' ideas or papers (whether purchased, borrowed, or otherwise obtained) as one's own, (d) stealing or having unauthorized access to examination or course materials, (e) falsifying records of laboratory or other data, (f) submitting, if contrary to the rules of a course, work previously presented in another course, and (g) knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above, including assistance in an arrangement

whereby any work, classroom performance, examination or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student under whose name the work is submitted or performed. (*Student Discipline Policy, section 2:10, Board of Trustees of Connecticut Community Colleges*)

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

Course Withdrawal Policy

Students may withdraw, in writing at the Registrar's Office, for any reason until May 11.

Students with Special Needs Statement

If you have special needs (such as a learning disability or physical condition) and require accommodations to enhance your participation in this course, please contact the Learning Specialist or Student Development Office for evaluation and assistance.