

PSY K111 General Psychology 1 – Spring 2010

Office Location: D205

Office Hours: 8:30-8:50 am Monday

10:00-10:30 am Wednesday

Instructor: Joseph Strazzo

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Classroom: D221

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

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

Learning Objectives

The course will provide you with a broad introduction to psychological terms and concepts. My role is to create a great 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. I believe that writing is a critical skill and a part of your educational experience and throughout the course you will be tasked to develop and expand that skill. I will collect these observational journals randomly throughout the semester and you will be surprised on how this assignment will hone your observation skills.

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.comnet.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 Eighth Edition in Modules](#) New York, NY: Worth Publishers, 2007.

Use the text’s Study Guide if needed.

The 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. Use the text’s digital supplements found at <http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/myers8einmodules/> You are expected to come to each class having read the assignment *and having thought critically about it.*

Attendance

Someone is paying (yourself, family, college loan) for you to be here and it would be beneficial that you take advantage of it. 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 more than 6 hours of class**, regardless of the nature of the absences, you risk failure of or withdrawal from the course. If you miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining the notes from a *classmate*. Please be on time. If you are repeatedly late for class, you will be marked absent.

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:

- 20% Exam # 1
- 20% Exam # 2
- 20% Exam # 3
- 10% Class participation: in-class group work, cooperation and preparedness
- 10% Unannounced quizzes
- 20% Observation journal
- 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. However, 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. Effort will be made to support everyone's learning.

Examinations and Quizzes

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://bcs.worthpublishers.com/myers8einmodules/>

Quizzes may be taken *only* on the day they are administered; 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, during office hours, **and** only to students who have contacted the instructor in advance of the exam. It is your responsibility to contact the Instructor to make arrangements for the make-up exam. If a student misses an exam for an unacceptable reason, a **0** will be averaged into the student's grade for the missed exam.

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

Week 1	January 22 T	<i>Introduction to the course & to Psychology</i>
Week 2	January 25 January 27 January 29	Module 1 <i>The history of psychology and theoretical perspectives</i>
Week 3	February 1 September 10	Modules 2 and 3 <i>Thinking critically and research methods of scientific psychology</i>
Week 4	September 15 September 17	Modules 24, 25 and 26 <i>Memory</i>
Week 5	September 22 September 24	Modules 27 and 28 <i>Continued – memory plus forgetting</i> and Review for Test Exam preparation study circles outside of class – encouraged
Week 6	September 29 October 01	Exam # 1 Module 4
Week 7	October 06 October 08	<i>Memory Neuroscience of Behavior - Neural & Hormonal systems</i> Module 5
Week 8	October 13 October 15	<i>Neuroscience of Behavior - The Brain</i> Modules 12, 13 and 14
Week 9	October 20 October 22	<i>Sensation and Perception</i> Modules 15 and 16
Week 10	October 27 October 29	<i>Continued – Sensation and Perception</i> Exam preparation study circles outside of class – encouraged Exam # 2
Week 11	November 03 November 05	Modules 21, 22 and 23 <i>Learning</i>
Week 12	November 10 November 12	<i>Continued – Learning</i> Modules 39 and 40
Week 13	November 17 November 19	<i>Emotion</i> <i>Continued - Emotion</i>
Week 14	November 24 November 26	Modules 34 and 35 Happy Thanksgiving -- College Closed
Week 15	December 01 December 03	<i>Motivation</i> <i>Continued – Motivation</i>
Week 16	December 08 December 10	Catch-up Class – Exam preparation study circles outside of class Exam # 3 -- Congratulations!

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Topic Schedule and Assigned Readings

Week 1	August 27 T	<i>Introduction to the course & to Psychology</i>
Week 2	September 01 September 03	Module 1 <i>The history of psychology and theoretical perspectives</i>
Week 3	September 08 September 10	Modules 2 and 3 <i>Thinking critically and research methods of scientific psychology</i>
Week 4	September 15 September 17	Modules 24, 25 and 26 <i>Memory</i>
Week 5	September 22 September 24	Modules 27 and 28 <i>Continued – memory plus forgetting</i> and Review for Test Exam preparation study circles outside of class – encouraged
Week 6	September 29 October 01	Exam # 1 Module 4
Week 7	October 06 October 08	<i>Memory Neuroscience of Behavior - Neural & Hormonal systems</i> Module 5
Week 8	October 13 October 15	<i>Neuroscience of Behavior - The Brain</i> Modules 12, 13 and 14
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Topic Schedule and Assigned Readings *K111 Psychology Spring 2010 9:00am-9:50am*

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 22 R	<i>Introduction to the course & to Psychology</i>
Week 2	January 25 January 27/29	Module 1 <i>The history of psychology and theoretical perspectives</i>
Week 3	February 01/03 February 05	Modules 2 and 3 <i>Thinking critically and research methods of scientific psychology</i>
Week 4	February 8/10 February 12	Modules 24, 25 and 26 <i>Memory</i>
Week 5	February 17 February 19	Modules 27 and 28 <i>Continued – memory plus forgetting</i> and Review for Test Exam preparation study circles outside of class – encouraged
Week 6	February 22 February 24/26	Exam # 1 Module 4
Week 7	March 01/03 March 05	<i>Memory Neuroscience of Behavior - Neural & Hormonal systems</i> Module 5
*****	March 7-13	Classes Not in Session
Week 8	March 15/17 March 19	<i>Neuroscience of Behavior - The Brain</i> Modules 12, 13 and 14
Week 9	March 22 March 24/26	<i>Sensation and Perception</i> Modules 15 and 16 <i>Continued – Sensation and Perception</i>
Week 10	March 29/31 April 05	<i>Continued – Sensation and Perception</i> Exam preparation study circles outside of class – encouraged
Week 11	April 07 April 09	Exam # 2 Learning-Modules 21, 22 and 23
Week 12	April 12/14 April 16	<i>Continued – Learning</i> Modules 39 and Modules 40
Week 13	April 19/21 April 23	<i>Emotion</i> <i>Continued - Emotion</i>
Week 14	April 26/28 April 30	Modules 34, 35, 36 Motivation
Week 15	May 03	Motivation/Sexuality

	May 05	Motivation/Sexuality
Week 16	May 07	Module 58 Prosocial Relations /Turn in journals
Week 17	May 10	Module 20 Drugs and Consciousness
	May 12	Review for Exam
	May 14	Exam
	May 17 th	Make-up exam (per approval of instructor)