

Three Rivers Community College

Spring 2011

PSY 112: General Psychology II

Stephen Weiss, Ph.D.	Office: D 205.6W
Office Phone #: 860-823-2819	Office Hours: M 4:00-5:00PM; TU 10:00-11:00AM; W 4:00-5:00PM; TH 10:00-11:00AM; & by appointment
E-Mail: sweiss@trcc.comnet.edu	Class Room: D 224
Class Schedule: TUTH 1:00-2:15 PM	Website: http://smw15.org/

Course Description: This introductory course provides an overview of the applied and social aspects of scientific psychology with an emphasis on: cognition, human development, personality theory and assessment, abnormal behavior, psychotherapy, sexuality and gender, social psychology, consciousness, and workplace psychology.

Student Learning Outcomes: The goals and objectives for General Psychology II 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

- Develop an understanding of the interrelationship between human biology and psychology
- Describe the interrelationship between stress, coping and health
- Develop an understanding of how social psychology informs a respect for diversity and humanity

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 how to apply ethical principles when using information pertaining to abnormal behavior, mental illness and psychotherapy

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
- Develop an understanding of the different research methods used in psychological science
- Describe various theories of personality and the research methods to measure personality attributes

Required Text: *Psychology*: Ninth Edition in Modules by David G. Myers

See my website for information concerning textbook purchasing options.

<i>Grading Criteria</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
5 Tests (lowest dropped; other four worth 100 pts each)	400	72.7%
Research Papers (each worth 75 points)	150	27.3%
Extra Credit		
Total	550	100%

Note: Above grading criteria is not subject to change.

Grading System:

Grade	%	Total Points
A	94+	517+
A-	90-93	495-516
B+	87-89	479-494
B	84-86	462-478
B-	80-83	440-461
C+	77-79	424-439
C	74-76	407-423
C-	70-73	385-406
D+	67-69	369-384
D	64-66	352-368
D-	60-63	330-351
F	-60	-330

Notes:

- (1) While class attendance will not be calculated into the above grades, excessive absences (6-7) will result in a decrease of a full letter grade (for example from C to D). 8-9 absences will cause your grade to be reduced by two full letters (for example from B to D). 10 or more absences will result in failure of the course.
- (2) If you do not complete this course, you must formally withdraw at the registrar's office by May 9th. Failure to do so will likely result in you receiving an F on your transcript for this course.

Extra Credit:

- **Experiment Participants:** There will be extra credit points given for involvement as research participants in my survey studies. While this extra credit opportunity will be an option for everyone in this class, your participation is voluntary.
- **There will be no individual extra credit opportunities.**

Tests: All tests will be part multiple choice, true/false and short answer format. There will be **no make-ups** for these exams - since I am dropping the lowest, if one is missed it will count as your low grade (unless, there is an emergency and I am informed immediately).

Reading Assignments: The majority of the readings will come from the textbook. Additional readings will be assigned as well.

Research Papers: You will be required to write two, 2-3 page papers (maximum three pages) during this semester. For this paper, you will need to determine a topic with psychological implications (positive attribute or mental disorder) to investigate and then write a brief summary of past research and a section with conclusions and opinions. **You must also conduct a structured interview with at least one individual and then include in your paper a summary of this interview** (see my website for more details on how the interview can be incorporated into your paper). Paper 2 is a continuation of Paper 1. Papers must be written in APA format. Since you have these assignments well in advance of the due date, I will strictly enforce a 10-point penalty for each day a paper is late (including weekends).

- ❖ Hard-copy submission of papers is required in class on day paper is due. However, on certain occasions I will allow for an electronic submission. Two rules must be followed concerning electronic submissions: (1) File submitted is from a Word document; (2) your submission is not official unless I have sent a confirmation return email of its receipt.
- ❖ If a hard-copy of your paper is left in my mailbox or office (and thus has not been handed to me in person) you must also send me an email informing me of this and your submission is not official unless I have sent a confirmation return email of its receipt.

See my website for guidelines to both papers.

Copy of article: A copy of your first journal article must be handed in (for my approval). There will be a five-point penalty attached to Paper 1 if this is handed in late. Due date: Feb 15th.

Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism: 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.

If I have determined that you have copied from another student or other source, you will receive a grade of zero on that assignment or exam. This zero cannot be counted as your lowest exam grade (it cannot be dropped). A second offense will result in failure of the course. See your student handbook for additional information concerning academic integrity.

Disabilities Policy: Students with a documented disability are provided supportive service and accommodations to assist them with their academic objectives. Services are strictly confidential. Disability services may include individualized accommodations, advising, advocacy, counseling, technical assistant and referral information. For further information read this policy in your student handbook.

Schedule of Classes

<i>Date</i>	<i>Tentative Topics</i>	Modules
Jan 20	Syllabus; Research Issues and Techniques; Library Database Tutorial	Module 3
Jan 25, 27	The Brain & Consciousness Sleep and Dreams	Module 7 Module 8
Feb 1	Hypnosis	Module 9
Feb 3	College Professional Day – No Class – Enjoy!	
Feb 8	Drugs & Consciousness	Module 10
	Reminder: Copy of Journal Article is due Feb 15th!	
Feb 10	TEST 1: Modules 3, 7-10	
Feb 15, 17	Nature & Nurture: Behavioral Genetics; Evolutionary Psychology; Environmental Influences	Modules 11-12
Feb 22	Life Span Development: Prenatal through Childhood	Modules 13-14
Feb 24	Life Span Development: Adolescence	Module 15
Mar 1	Life Span Development: Adulthood	Module 16
Mar 3	TEST 2: Modules 11-12, 13-16	
	Reminder: Paper 1 is due next class – Mar 8th!	
Mar 8	Thinking & Language	Modules 31-32
Mar 10	Intelligence	Modules 33-34
Mar 13-19	Spring Break – enjoy!	
Mar 22	Genetic & Environmental Influences on Intelligence	Module 35
Mar 24	Personality Psychology: Psychoanalytic Perspective	Module 45
Mar 29	Personality Psychology: Humanistic Perspective	Module 46
	Personality Psychology: Contemporary Research	Module 47
Mar 31	TEST 3: Modules 31-35, 45-47	
Apr 5, 7	Introduction to Psychological Disorders Anxiety Disorders Treatments for Anxiety Disorders CBT (pp.656-657) EMDR (pp. 665-666) Meds: Antianxiety Drugs (p. 672)	Module 48 Module 49 Module 53 Module 54 Module 55

<i>Date</i>	<i>Tentative Topics</i>	Modules
	Reminder: Paper 1 is due next class – Mar 8th!	
Apr 12, 14	Somatoform Disorders Dissociative Disorders Personality Disorders Treatments for Personality Disorders Group & Family Therapies (pp.657-658) Dialectical Behavior Therapy (see website)	Module 50 Module 53
Apr 19	TEST 4: Modules 48-50, portions of 53-55	
Apr 21	Mood Disorders Treatments for Mood Disorders Humanistic Therapies (pp.649-650) Cognitive Therapies (pp. 654-656) Light Exposure Therapy (p. 666) Meds: Antidepressants; Mood Stabilizers (pp. 673-674) ECT (pp. 675-676) Alternative Neurostimulation (pp. 676-677)	Module 51 Module 53 Module 53 Module 54 Module 55 Module 55 Module 55
Apr 26	Schizophrenia Treatments for Schizophrenia Meds: Antipsychotic Drugs (p.672)	Module 52 Module 55
Apr 28	Social Thinking/Social Influence	Modules 56-57
May 3	Antisocial Relations: Prejudice; Aggression	Module 58
May 5	Prosocial Relations: Attraction, Altruism, Peacemaking	Module 59
May 10	TEST 5: Modules 51-55, portions of 53-55, 56-59	
May 12	Extra Credit Options	