

Fall 12, Three Rivers Community College, Norwich, CT  
Course title: Introductory General Psychology PSY 1 K111 30302 (3 credit hours)

**The information contained in this syllabus may change  
with or without notice as circumstances warrant.**

Please keep this handout and refer to it throughout the semester it is also available online at the Blackboard site for this class and the textbook site as well.

### **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.

### **Instructor**

3RCC Psych Instructor: Mr. Charles Cocores / 860-304-2668 cell  
Educator in Residence /Certification Officer Connecticut College

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Office hours: by appointment before or after class or by arrangement at other times

Class time: **Wednesday 6:00-8:45 PM**    Location: room **C 101**

### **Required Reading:**

Myers, David Psychology Tenth Edition in Modules New York, NY: Worth Publishers, 2012.  
Use the text's Study Guide. See department policy below and note that our tests (as well as others activities and assignments) will be on the psych portal  
<http://courses.bfwpub.com/myers10einmodules.php>

## ***Options for Purchasing Myers' Psychology Tenth Edition in Modules for PSY 111 and PSY 112***

As a student taking General Psychology at Three Rivers Community College, you have options regarding the format of your required textbook and how to purchase class materials. The first choice offered to you is print versus electronic textbook. The second choice is from whom you will purchase the materials.

You are required to purchase 1) a PsychPortal access card which includes an e-Book. An eBook is the electronic, online version of *Psychology Tenth Edition in Modules* for \$70.25 in the TRCC bookstore or <http://courses.bfwpub.com/myers10einmodules.php> **or** 2) *Psychology Tenth Edition in Modules* (a print textbook) plus a PsychPortal access card for \$156. Purchasing the Study Guide is **not** required, but recommended.

The options below represent choices for purchasing the book and PsychPortal website access. If you receive Financial Aid “Book Bucks,” purchase your books through the College's eFollett Bookstore.

### **Not recommended - Buying a used textbook separate from the access card**

Once students select Three Rivers Community College and their course, they are given the correct modules [PSY 111 versus PSY 112]. Students that purchase the book with the one year card can switch their access to the 112 course – they purchased a book so they should get PsychPortal access for the whole year. Students who only purchased 6 months of access will need to repurchase access the second semester. Any student with an Incomplete grade or something that requires extended access can get a code granting longer access when requested.

### **The textbook's companion web site is listed in the book preface and below**

Other articles and resources (usually online) as the class progresses.

**Technology focus:** Student Internet assignments, Psych Portal, research, power point presentations and word processing.

**Computer Generated Assignments:** All papers are to be double spaced in 12 pt text written in Times New Roman with 1 inch margins on the sides and top and 1.5 inch margins on the bottom. The proper APA format should be used for citations and references.

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/workshops/hypertext/apa/>

### **Course Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will be able to demonstrate and apply knowledge of the history of psychology, the perspectives of psychology, and the research methods used by psychologists.
2. Students will be able to be a critically assess information they encounter.
3. Students will understand the breadth of psychology and what makes psychology a science;
4. Students will be able to demonstrate and apply knowledge of the biology of memory, the cognitive models of memory, memory aids and the shortcomings of memory
5. Students will be able to demonstrate and apply knowledge of the biology of behavior and how neurological research is done.
6. Students will be able to demonstrate and apply knowledge of the senses and main theories of sensation and perception and the errors our minds make in perception.
7. Students will be able to demonstrate and apply knowledge of the major theories of emotion and motivation.
8. Students will be able to demonstrate and apply knowledge of classical conditioning, operant conditional, and observational learning
9. Students will make systematic observations of and inferences about thought and behavior;
10. Students will accurately use psychological concepts to describe and analyze observations;

11. At a beginning level students will identify diverse patterns in thought and behavior and explain how biological, cognitive, cultural, and social factors contribute to their emergence
12. Students will practice basic skills of psychological research including the approved APA documentation & form

### **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 videos, 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/myers10einmodules.php>

Tests must be taken online *only* on the day(s) and times they are administered; if you miss a test 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.

**Attendance Students are expected to attend all classes.** If a class is missed, students are responsible for all work missed. Absences adversely affect your grade. **If you miss more than 6 hours of class, regardless of the reason,** you risk failure or withdrawal from the course. If you miss a class, **you** are responsible for contacting a fellow student to obtain the information discussed in that class (notes, changes in exam dates, etc.) By next week or so, consider introducing yourself to two classmates and note their e-mail or telephone number on this syllabus. Please let me know if you have any problems which cause an extended absence.

**Punctuality** Important information often is disseminated at the beginning of class. Arriving on time and staying to the end of class shows respect for your fellow learners. If you repeatedly come to class late, you will be marked absent.

## **Participation**

As an active learner participation is imperative to a great experience and a good grade. The class will value everyone's contributions and a steady rate of contributing based on reading and personal life experience will strengthen your grade.

## **Electronic Devices Policy**

*If students have in their possession a walkman, IPod, pager, or cell phone they must be turned off and kept in one's backpack or purse. Such electronic devices are not to be seen or heard during class. (Those who need to have a cell or pager on for extreme medical or family emergencies must first obtain permission from the professor and must leave the room to take the call.) If a student chooses to engage in text messaging during class, he/she will be asked to leave the classroom and an absence will be recorded. The use of laptops is also not allowed unless a student has a written request signed by his/her tutor, learning specialist or the director of the Resource Center. If students are using a laptop, they will be expected to submit their "notes" to the professor at the end of class.*

## **Evaluation**

Detailed information concerning the research paper/film/volunteer requirements will follow under separate cover. Examinations will encompass material from the assigned readings (whether discussed in class or not) and concepts we have explored in class through video, the Internet or group work. If a student misses an exam for an unacceptable reason, a 0 will be averaged into the student's grade for the missed exam.

**Three Rivers Community College ADA Statement:** In compliance with and in the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and applicable disability law, Three Rivers Community College is committed to addressing the educational needs of all students. If any student has a disability that is documented with the Learning Resource Center, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. The instructor will assist you to make appropriate arrangements. If you have a disability, but it is not documented with Three Rivers Community College please contact the Learning Specialist or Student Development Office ASAP. They will discuss the documentation required and the support services that may be available to you at Three Rivers Community College.

**Academic Honesty:** Any questions of academic honesty will be resolved via the Three Rivers Community College Academic Policies and Procedures.

**Sections of Study (with 5 Separate Assessments/Exams divided by the lines)**

<b><u>Section 1 History, Research &amp; Nature /Nurture</u></b>	<b><u>Modules 1, 2, &amp; 3</u></b>
<b><u>Section 2 Neuroscience &amp; the Biology of Behavior</u></b>	<b><u>Modules 4, 5, &amp; 6</u></b>
<b><u>Section 3 Behavioral Genetics / Evolution Mod 11 and Environment Mod 12</u></b>	
<b><u>Section 4 Sensation &amp; Perception</u></b>	<b><u>Modules 17, 18, &amp; 19</u></b>
<b><u>Section 5 Learning</u></b>	<b><u>Modules 20, 21, &amp; 22</u></b>
<b><u>Section 6 Memory</u></b>	<b><u>Modules 23, 24, 25, &amp; 26,</u></b>
<b><u>Section 7 Motivation</u></b>	<b><u>Modules 32, 33, &amp; 34</u></b>
<b><u>Section 8 Emotion &amp; Stress</u></b>	<b><u>Modules 35, 36, 37, 38, &amp; 39</u></b>

**Grading System:** Your grade will be computed according to a point system. This means that there are clearly stated standards for achievement that are stated beforehand. Additionally, this means that your grade depends only on your own performance, not on the performance of your class as a whole. Therefore, there will be no “curving” of grades. The distribution of possible points is as follows:

**Point Distribution**

5 Section Assessments: @ 200 points each =	1000 points
Section 1 Introduction Perspectives & Research Internet Assignment & Essay 100 points each	100 points
Section 2 Neuroscience, Genetics, Evolution, and Environment Internet Assignment & Essay 100 points each	100 points
Section 3 Sensation, Perception and Learning Internet Assignment & Essay 100 points each	100 points
Section 4 Memory and Motivation Internet Assignment & Essay 100 points each	100 points
Section 5 Emotion, Stress, & Happiness Internet Assignment & Essay 100 points each	100 points
Research Subject Writing Assignment or Food Inc. Assignment or Community Service (to be assigned)	500 points
Assignments and <b>Mastery Quizzes</b> from the text publisher’s Psych Portal	500 points
Class Participation, Attendance, and Punctuality	<u>500 points</u>
	<b>3000 total</b>

Grades will be assigned as follows:

(93.5% - 100.0%) of 3000	<b>A</b>
(89.5% - 93.4%)	<b>A-</b>
(86.5% - 89.4%)	<b>B+</b>
(83.5% - 86.4%)	<b>B</b>
(79.5%- 83.4%)	<b>B-</b>
(76.5% - 79.4%)	<b>C+</b>
(73.5% - 76.4%)	<b>C</b>
(69.5% - 73.4%)	<b>C-</b>
(59.5% - 69.4%)	<b>D</b>
	<b>F</b>

Topic Schedule and Assigned Readings –Fall 2012

Date	Topic	Assigned	Due
W 8/29	Introduction to Class & Introduction to Psychology, Contemporary Perspectives,		
W 9/5	Contemporary Perspectives, & Psychology Research	Modules 1, 2 & 3	<b>read &amp; quiz Online Exam 1 and Essay 1</b>
W 9/12	Neural and Hormonal Systems & Tools of Discovery	Modules 4 & 5	<b>read &amp; quiz</b>
W 9/19	Older Brain Structures & Cerebral Cortex and our Divided Brain	Modules 5 & 6	<b>read &amp; quiz</b>
W 9/26	Behavioral Genetics & Evolution/Environment	Modules 11 & 12	<b>read &amp; quiz Online Exam 2 And Essay 2</b>
W 10/ 3	Sensation and Perception/Vision and Organization	Modules 17 & 18	<b>read &amp; quiz</b>
W 10/10	Vision and Organization / Non Visual Senses	Modules 18 & 19	<b>read &amp; quiz</b>
W 10/17	Classical and Operant Conditioning	Modules 20 & 21	<b>read &amp; quiz</b>
W 10/24	Operant Conditioning & Observational Learning	Modules 21 & 22	<b>read &amp; quiz Online Exam 3 and Essay 3</b>
W 10/31	Building & Storage of Memory	Module 23 & 24	<b>read &amp; quiz</b>
W 11/7	Memory Retrieval, Forgetting, & Improvement	Module 25 & 26	<b>read &amp; quiz Online Exam 4 and Essay 4</b>
W 11/14	Motivation Hunger and Sex	Module 32 & 33	<b>read &amp; quiz</b>
W 11/21	No Class Thanksgiving Break	“Project” Due on the 28 <sup>th</sup> of November	<b>Research or Film or Volunteer</b>
W 11/28	Motivation: Sex, Belonging, and Work	Module 33 & 34	<b>read &amp; quiz</b>
W 12/5	Introduction to Emotion Expressed and Experienced	Module 35,36, & 37	<b>read &amp; quiz</b>

W 12/12	Stress, Health, Promoting Health and Happiness	Module 38 & 39	<b>read &amp; quiz Online Exam 5 and Essay 5</b>
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