

THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Social Science Department
General Psychology I, CRN 31363, Fall 2012
Monday's 6:30 p.m. – 9:15 p.m., Room D109

Instructor: Pam Kerouack-Warner, M.S., LPC

Office: D205W; Hours: Monday's 1:00 – 3:00; Thursday's 4:00 – 6:00 or by appointment

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COURSE OUTLINE

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.

Class time will be filled with a combination of didactic lecture, discussion, internet exploration, film and small group work. Please come to class prepared by having read the modules assigned for that class period as well as having completed The Learning Curve in order to fully comprehend our discussions and to be enabled as an active participant. You should have received an access code to the publisher's website with the purchase of your book. If you experience any problems registering for the website, please contact tech support at 1-800-936-6899 before the second class.

REQUIRED TEXT: *Psychology Tenth Edition in Modules* by David Myers

GRADING AND REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance and Class Participation	10%
4 Exams	40%
Quizzes	25%
The Learning Curve	15%
Reading and written assignments	15%

ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION: It is truly important to be present for the experience of class. It will help you to “get” the concepts so much more than just reading about them. Please attend class. If you cannot, please let me know in advance. Remember we are actually completing “2 classes in 1” as we only meet once per week.

EXAMS: All exams will be part multiple choice and short essay format. Do your readings and homework, attend class, and you should do fine. If you miss an exam—which I hope will not happen—you must make it up by the next class period or obtain a “0” on that test. Please make sure you call me as soon as possible so that you can take your test before the next class. In extreme emergencies, consideration will be given on a case-by-case basis.

THE LEARNING CURVE: Prior to class, read the module(s) assigned for that class and complete “The Learning Curve” for that module(s). You’ll be given credit for its completion only if it is done before class time. There is no letter grade assigned to this.

QUIZZES: On the publisher’s web site, www.worthpublishers.com/myers10einmodules you will find quizzes for each module. Please complete the quiz for the module(s) we have covered in class after the class in which the module was covered. Your quiz grades will be averaged out and will weigh 25% toward your overall grade. You will be allowed to take the module quiz only once and will only be able to take it up to the day of the next class period.

READING AND WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS: On1 occasion of your choosing, you are required to react to something you have seen or read outside of class that pertains to your experience in class. For example, if we are discussing learning, you might notice an article on learning in the age of the net. You would write a reactionary paragraph or two describing the article and your response. You would then email or call me and let me know you wish to present this in class. In class, you would report on your findings. This is an important exercise in application of your book knowledge; please take it seriously. This assignment needs to be completed by December 11th and can be completed by next week if you so choose. If you don’t complete the assignment by the due date, you’ll lose 10 points which will bring your grade down to a 90 prior to considering all other grades.

POLICY ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM: Personal integrity is an important quality—once it is lost, it is difficult to regain. Please do not copy from another student or cheat on exams or papers. Not only will you receive a “0” if you are caught, it will speak very loudly to you about who you are as a person.

READING/VIDEO ASSIGNMENTS: The majority of your reading comes from the texts. However, you will need to read or view newspapers, magazines, journals, television presentations and the like to complete your paragraph assignment.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- 08/27/12** Introduction to class
Review of pertinent information modules 1 through 3
Take quiz on modules 1 through 3
- 09/03/12** No class
- 09/10/12** Prior to class, complete the Learning Curve for modules 4 through 6
Module 4 Neural and Hormonal Systems
Module 5 Tools of Discovery and Older Brain Structures
Module 6 The Cerebral Cortex and Our Divided Brain
TAKE HOME EXAM ON MODULES 1-6
- 09/17/12** Prior to class, complete the Learning Curve for modules 11 and 12
Module 11 Behavior Genetics and Evolutionary Psychology
Module 12 Culture, Gender and Other Environmental Influences
EXAM 1 DUE IN CLASS
After class, do the quizzes for modules 11 and 12
- 09/24/12** Prior to class, complete the Learning Curve for modules 17 and 18
Module 17 Basic Principles of Sensation and Perception
Module 18 Vision and Perceptual Organization and Interpretation
After class, do the quizzes for modules 17 and 18
- 10/01/12** Prior to class, complete the Learning Curve for module 19
Module 19 The Non-Visual Senses
TAKE HOME EXAM ON MODULES 11-12; 17-19
- 10/08/12** Prior to class, complete the Learning Curve for modules 20 through 22
Modules 20 Basic learning concepts and classical conditioning
Module 21 Operant Conditioning
Module 22 Effects of Biology and Cognition, and learning by observation
EXAM DUE
After class, complete Quizzes for modules 20 through 22
- 10/15/12** Prior to class, complete the Learning Curve for modules 23 and 24
Module 23 Studying and Building Memories
Module 24 Storage: Retaining Information in the Brain

After class, complete the Quizzes for modules 23 and 24

10/22/12 Prior to class, complete the Learning Curve for modules 25 and 26
Module 25 Retrieval
Module 26 Forgetting, Memory Construction, and Improving Memory
TAKE HOME EXAM ON MODULES 20-26

10/29/12 Prior to class, complete the Learning Curve for module 32
Module 32 Basic Motivational Concepts and Hunger
EXAM DUE
After class, complete the quiz for module 32

11/05/12 Prior to class, complete the Learning Curve for modules 33 and 34
Module 33 Sexual Motivation and the need to belong
Module 34 Motivation at work
After class, complete the Quizzes for modules 33 and 34

11/12/12 NO CLASS

11/19/12 Prior to class, complete the Learning Curve for modules 35 and 36
Module 35 Introduction to Emotion
Module 36 Expressed Emotion
After class, complete the quiz for module 35

11/26/12 Prior to class, complete the Learning Curve for module 37
Module 36 Expressed Emotion (continued)
Module 37 Experienced Emotion
After class, complete the Quizzes for modules 36 and 37

12/03/12 Prior to class, complete the Learning Curve for module 38
Module 38 Stress and Health
After class, complete the Quiz for module 38

12/10/12 Prior to class, complete the Learning Curve for module 39
Module 39 Promoting Health
After class, complete the Quiz for module 39

12/17/12 In class exam on modules 33 – 39