

## Syllabus for PSY K111 General Psychology 1 Fall 2008

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**Welcome to General Psychology !!** 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 bases 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. It will foster your ability to comprehend a variety of psychological theories *and* apply them to behavior and mental life. You will utilize research logic and the scientific method. You may ask, “What is the evidence?” each time you encounter statements about 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. The manner in which organisms learn will be examined. You will scrutinize the basis of motivation and better understand emotions. 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 skills.

Class time will be used in combinations of: didactic lecture, scholarly debate, writing, Internet exploration, film and small group work. You are encouraged to visit the Blackboard Vista course web site found at <http://www.my.comnet.edu/> It is necessary for you to keep current on global, national and local news as such events are often discussed in light of persons’ psychological functioning. You are encouraged to ask questions during class; it is likely that a classmate too needs clarification. “Good thinkers are good questioners.” (King, 1994) Active learning is the goal.

### Required Reading

Myers, David Psychology Eighth Edition in Modules New York, NY: Worth Publishers, 2007.

A **dictionary** is needed to support your reading and writing. Use the text’s **Study Guide**.

## The Reading Assignments

The weekly 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*. This will bolster your written and oral communication skills as well as group work.

## 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
- 15% Unannounced Quizzes
- 15% Analysis Paper
- 100 Point scale

## Attendance

Former students agree unequivocally that coming to class is **essential** to succeeding 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 from a *classmate* information germane to that meeting (notes, changes in exam dates, etc.) 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.

Punctuality is *imperative*. Important information often is disseminated at the beginning of class and it shows respect for fellow learners. If you repeatedly come to class late, you will be marked absent. Absences affect your grade.

## Special 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.

## 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.

As adult college students, you are expected to behave as professionals – arrive prepared to work, display maturity and show respect to all. A tone of civility and good will is expected. We are here to learn from one another. Disrespect of your classmates and disruptive behaviors will not be tolerated.

**Conduct and Course Etiquette:** At Three Rivers Community College, we are committed to open, frank and insightful dialogue. Diversity has many manifestations, including diversity of thought and values. We encourage all learners to be respectful of that diversity and to refrain from inappropriate commentary. Respect for your fellow students' ideas is critical to everyone getting the maximum benefit from this online course. Flaming, profanity or demeaning comments will not be tolerated. Such comments will be deleted by the instructor and are grounds for removal from the course. (Barfield, 2006) **Cell phones conversations and text messaging** are prohibited during class.

### **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.

### **Examinations and Quizzes**

Information concerning the Analysis 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 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.

### **Topic Schedule and Assigned Readings**

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, based on the topic readings, will be assigned as the course unfolds.

Week 1	September 02 T September 04	<i>Introduction to the course &amp; to Psychology</i> Module 1
Week 2	September 09 September 11	<i>The history of psychology and theoretical perspectives</i> Modules 2 and 3
Week 3	September 16 September 18	<i>Thinking critically and research methods of scientific psychology</i> Module 4
Week 4	September 23 September 25	<i>Neuroscience of Behavior - Neural &amp; Hormonal systems</i> Module 5
Week 5	September 30  October 02	<i>Neuroscience of Behavior - The Brain</i> <b>and</b> Review for Test Exam preparation study circles outside of class – encouraged <b>Exam # 1</b>
Week 6	October 07 October 09	Modules 12, 13 and 14 <i>Sensation and Perception</i>
Week 7	October 14 October 16	Modules 15 and 16 <i>Continued – Sensation and Perception</i>
Week 8	October 21 October 23	Modules 24, 25 and 26 <b>Analysis Paper DUE</b> <i>Memory</i>
Week 9	October 28 October 30	Modules 27 and 28 <i>Continued – memory plus Forgetting &amp; memory construction</i> Exam preparation study circles outside of class – encouraged
Week 10	November 04 November 06	<b>Exam # 2</b> Modules 21, 22 and 23
Week 11	November 11 November 13	<i>Learning</i> <i>Continued – Learning</i>
Week 12	November 18 November 20	Modules 39 and 40 <i>Emotion</i>

Week 13	November 25 November 27	<i>Continued - Emotion</i> Happy Thanksgiving
Week 14	December 02 December 04	Modules 34, 35 and 36 <i>Motivation</i>
Week 15	December 09 December 11	<i>Continued – Motivation</i> Catch-up Class – Exam preparation study circles outside of class
Week 16	December 16	<b>Exam # 3 -- Congratulations!</b>

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