

Three Rivers Community College, Fall, 2008.

General Psychology I. Psy K111

Professor: Dov Kugelmass, M.A.

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Office: Room #26, Faculty Office Suite, Shop Wing

Office Hours: Mondays 2-3pm and 6:30-7:30, Wednesdays

5:30-6:00 (On Thames campus by appointment) and Friday

11am-12pm and by appointment.

Teaching Assistants: Brittany Langlois, Jessie Duthrie,

Janet Rubin.

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, cognition as well as emotion and motivation.” (Three Rivers Community College online catalog, 2006)

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: You will learn a basic grasp of the scientific methodology and various content areas of psychology. You will learn to apply psychological principles to both academic issues, as well as, a variety of everyday circumstances. Specifically you will learn about the above topics with a special emphasis on scientific methodology, memory, learning, and neuroscience. You will increase critical thinking skills by practicing them in class discussions, written assignments, and tests.

REQUIRED TEXT:

-Myers, D.G. (2007). Psychology: Myers in Modules (8th ed.). New York: Worth Publishers.

*You may use the hard copy or ebook (which is interactive and may save you money).

LEARNING RESOURCES:

-Blackboard Vista: <https://vista.ctdlc.org/webct/logonDisplay.dowebct>

You will need your banner ID and password. Whenever possible, assignments and grades will be posted on webct. The IT help desk (885-2334) can help you with webct problems.

-Study Guide: May be helpful.

-Web Site And PsychSim: See text for supplementary web site address/ebook and PsychSim. Though not required, some activities may help you study/comprehend material.

-Psychology Tutoring: Available in the TASC (located in library) and writing center.

TASC telephone: Mohegan campus 892-5745. Please see me if you think being assigned

a tutor at the start of the semester would be helpful (we have done this in the past and it has been very effective).

-Writing Center: TRWritingCenter@trcc.commnet.edu 892-5773

-Library Services: Rob Walsh is our new REFERENCE LIBRARIAN!

-Teaching Assistants (TA): This class has TAs to provide some lectures, help lead work groups, provide tutoring, review and score assignments, and provide extra help. If you do NOT want to work with a TA please notify me within the first week of class.

CLASS MEETING STRUCTURE:

-Class meeting times will consist of lectures and quizzes (generally on Mondays), seminars (Wednesday or Fridays), and “labs” (conducted independently). The purpose of this structure is to provide a broad range of learning experiences; full class, smaller groups, and individually initiated learning. We will talk about this more in class. However, it is important to realize that especially in “seminar” and small group activities active verbal participation is required.

ASSIGNMENTS:

-Reading assignments (see attached schedule) should be completed PRIOR to class so that we can have active discussions about the material both as a whole class and in small groups. There is a lot of reading and it is important to keep up. *If you're having trouble keeping up, or understanding the material, please speak to me right away.*

-Writing:

-You will write two short assignments individually and two assignments in group. More on this in class.

-Quizzes: There will be four quizzes. Quizzes will consist of in-class multiple choice, short answer, and/or brief essay. All makeup and retake quizzes will be administered at the final exam time.

-Final Exam: There will be a cumulative final exam.

-“MAKEUP QUIZ”: (after missing a quiz) will be given only with immediate notification and documentation of an emergency, may differ in format and may be MORE DIFFICULT. All makeup quizzes will be taken during the final exam period.

-“RETAKE QUIZ”: (To try to better comprehension and test performance on one section of the course). In the event that no make-up quizzes are scheduled, and you have put considerable effort into the class, you may retake a quiz to try to raise your grade. An average of the two quiz scores will be used to calculate the final grade.

-Class participation: Attendance *and* participation are required. This means coming on time to all classes, having done the assigned reading, and joining in class discussions. If you miss a class it is your responsibility to obtain notes from a peer, make up assignments, and/or note changes to the syllabus that are presented in class. Each class meeting you will fill out an activity sheet to document participation and suggest a grade. If you do not attend class or turn in the evaluation sheet a grade of 0 will be entered. More on this in class.

-Extra Credit: There will be three opportunities for extra credit. They are:

-Design part of a lecture for the “to be determined subject” (11/14)

-Participate in the “Teach-in”; Elections (10/11)

- New York Times science article review

GRADING:

Writing assignments (5% each): 20%
Quizzes (10 % each): 40%
Class Participation: 20%
Total: 100%

Numeric Grade Equivalents:

94-100 = A
90-93 = A-
87-89 = B+
84-86 = B
80-83 = B-
77-79 = C+
74-76 = C
70-73 = C-
67-69 = D+
64-66 = D
60-63 = D-
0-59 = F

STUDENT CONDUCT: All students are expected to behave as responsible and mature adults. This means participating in class discussions in a respectful, prepared, and thoughtful manner. Students will be encouraged to express opinions and beliefs in class. It is important that critical discussions and feedback are conducted in a considerate and scholarly manner. The work of others that is not properly credited is plagiarism. This is unethical and illegal and will result in referral to proper school authorities and/or a flunking grade for the assignment and/or course. The college recommends we include the following passage taken from the TRCC handbook (2006) “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.” We will discuss these issues in more detail at the start of the semester. If you have questions about what it means to be considerate and scholarly please be sure to ask questions and clear this up.

SPECIAL NEEDS: If you have any special needs related to the class (e.g. physical or learning challenges), please contact me at the start of the semester. Also, if any difficulties arise that may interfere with your full participation (such as not understanding course material, missed class, etc.), please contact me as soon as possible.

CLASS CANCELLATION: If class is cancelled (when the college is not) I will attempt to post an announcement on WEBCT and also leave a message on my college voice mail. If you would like to be part of a telephone tree in the event of unforeseen cancellation, please give contact info to a TA. If class will be cancelled for long periods of time, such as due to natural disaster, communicable disease quarantine, or martial law, we will attempt to conduct class via webct.

REGISTRATION and WITHDRAWAL: It is the responsibility of each student to manage their registration status. If you do not complete the course you must formally withdraw by 12/3 or you will likely receive an “F” final grade.

Week #1 starts 9/2

INTRODUCTION: overview, ground rules, definitions, methodology, history of psychology, introduction to memory; Atkins & Shifrin Model, study principles, and motivation.

- Reading; Modules 1(skim), 24, 34 and pgs12, 13, 19-23, 390,391. Grow handout.

- Research; gathering and reporting info; basics of sources and referencing; Plagiarism; scientific attitude and method: asking questions. **CRITICAL THINKING**

Week #2 starts 9/8

SCIENTIFIC METHODOLOGY; Research strategies, measures of central tendency, and probability. Critical thinking, hypothesis, operational definitions, surveys, case studies, naturalistic observations.

MEMORY; Encoding, Retaining and Retrieval of information, basic neuroscience of memory.

- Reading; modules 25, 26, 27,28.

- Research; source credibility, peer review journals, and source citation.

- Observational and qualitative research

- In-Class; TBA

- Written assignment (due beginning week #3); Applying psychological principles to studying with American Psychological Association (APA) citation guidelines.

Week #3 starts 9/15

MEMORY: Encoding, Retaining and Retrieval of information, basic neuroscience of memory. Forgetting and memory, neuroscience and memory. Correlational vs experimental design.

NEUROSCIENCE: Preview, cell organization, synapse physiology, action potential.

- Reading; Modules 4 (skim for 9/15) and module 3 pgs. 30-41

- Research; Finding sources/psychinfo, Overview of hypothesis, methodologies, ethics. more **CRITICAL THINKING...**

- In-class; searching for peer review journals; Rob Walsh, reference librarian.

Week #4 starts 9/22

NEUROSCIENCE: cell organization, synapse physiology, action potential preview, brain organization.

Reading; modules 4, (skim mod 5), review mods 2 & 3

Research; Survey and correlational research. Database search, due start of week #5

*Quiz #1 (9/17)

Week #5 starts 9/29

NEUROSCIENCE: Brain organization.

SENSATION and PERCEPTION: preview introduction to sensory systems; vision and hearing

Reading; Modules 5, 13, and mod 3 pgs 41-46.

Research; Experimental and quasi-experimental designs

Week #6 starts 10/6

SENSATION and PERCEPTION: sensory systems; vision and hearing. Preview perceptual organization and interpretation

Reading; Modules 12, 16, 17 (skim Mods 13, 14, 15)

Research; TBA

Week #7 starts 10/13

SENSATION and PERCEPTION: perceptual organization and interpretation

NEUROSCIENCE: Putting it all together; review and preview

Readings: review all neuroscience and sensation/perception

Research; Individual meetings

*Quiz #2 (10/15)

Week #8 starts 10/20

EMOTIONS: Models of emotion; physiology.

Reading; modules 38,39,40

Research; Ethics in research

!No class 10/24! Blackboard conference assignment instead

Week #9 starts 10/27

DRUGS: synapse physiology, addictions.

MOTIVATION: Intro and Hunger

Reading; Modules; 34, 35, 20.

Research; human subjects/IRB

Week #10 starts 11/3

MOTIVATION:

LEARNING: Preview Classical conditioning

Reading; modules 36, 37, 21

Research; TBA

Week #11 starts 11/10

LEARNING: Classical Conditioning, Operant Conditioning, Observational learning

Reading modules 21, 22, 23

Research; Single subject designs; ABAB

Week #12 starts 11/17

Quiz #3 11/17

OPEN TOPIC: CLASS VOTE TO DETERMINE SUBJECT:

Possibilities include; Educational psychology, positive psychology, biology of abnormal psychology, Forensic Psychology, biology of social psychology, developmental neuroscience, mind/brain issues, media psychology...others?

Reading; TBA

Research;

Week #13 starts 11/24

TBA:open topic

Thanksgiving break. No class 11/26

Week #14 starts 12/1

NATURE/NURTURE: genetic and environmental influences on behavior and intelligence.

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY:

Reading; Modules 33, 6, 7.

Research;TBA

Week 15 starts 12/8

11/26 + 11/28 THINKING/COGNITION: problem solving, critical thinking, expertise.

Reading; module 29 and handout reading on critical thinking.

Research;TBA

Week #16 starts 12/15

12/15: Final exam

12/16-12/22 blackboard vista becomes contact point due to college move.

Week #17 starts 12/22

Blackboard Vista

Have a nice Winter break!

SYLLABUS/SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. It is student responsibility to keep up with changes.

