
General Psychology I

Three Rivers Community College	PSY*K111 Section T8	Fall 2018
3 Credit Hours	Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-1:45	Room D105
Instructor: Kelly L. Richmond	krichmond@trcc.commnet.edu	krichmond@threerivers.edu
	Office hours by appointment	

PREREQUISITES: ENG*K101 or ENG*K101S placement or completion of ENG*K096 with a “C#” grade or better.

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, nature and nurture, human diversity, 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.

TEXTBOOK: Psychology in Modules 12th edition – David G. Myers and C. Nathan DeWall

Launchpad 12m Access Card

LEARNING OVERVIEW

The course will provide you with a broad introduction to psychological terms and concepts. Your instructor is present to help *you* create a great educational experience; my role is to provide support and assess your progress. You will have the opportunity to learn a variety of psychological theories and apply them to behavior and mental life. You will utilize the scientific method and research studies. You are encouraged to ask, “What is the evidence?” each time you encounter statements about human 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. We will delve into motivation, emotions and learning. 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.

Outside of class, utilize the textbook computer-based interactive learning activities. Keep current on global, national and local news, such events are often discussed in light of persons’ psychological functioning. Class time will be used in combinations of: didactic lecture, scholarly debate, writing, Internet exploration, film and small group work. You are encouraged to ask questions during class. “Judge a man by the questions he asks, rather than the answers he gives (Voltaire). Integrating the course into your work life, campus life and personal life is the goal.

REQUIRED READING

Myers, D. G. & DeWall, C.N. (2017). *Psychology: Twelfth edition in modules*. New York, NY: Worth. A dictionary is needed to support your reading and writing. Checking your college **e-mail** is essential.

THE READING ASSIGNMENTS

Concentration requires *practice*. 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://www.macmillanhighered.com/launchpad/myers11einmodules/3612354>

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.

ATTENDANCE

This course is based on teaching, learning and communication. Each of us has a responsibility to contribute to the learning of others through critical dialogue, and integrative and collaborative learning (Forando, 2009). Former students agree unequivocally that coming to class is essential for success in this course. If you miss more than 6 hours of class, regardless of the nature of the absences, you risk failure. 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 is discussed at the beginning of class and it shows respect for fellow learners. If you are repeatedly late, you will be marked absent. Absences affect your grade.

EVALUATION PROCEDURES - Grades determined as follows:

200 points	Exam # 1
200 points	Exam # 2
200 points	Exam # 3
100 points	Class discussion, group work, cooperation and preparedness
100 points	Unannounced and Announced Quizzes
100 points	LaunchPad learning activities
100 points	Paper – Thinking and Writing: Analysis of Learning in Social Contexts
TOTAL	1000 possible points

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.

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

LEARNING NEEDS

If you have difficulty with the course material, please see me or email me for an appointment. I am happy to clarify any questions you may have.

If you have special needs (such as a learning difference, physical condition, mental health condition, etc.) and require accommodations to enhance your participation in the class, please contact College Counselor, Matt Liscum or Advisor, Elizabeth Wilcox. 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 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://www.macmillanhighered.com/launchpad/myers11einmodules/3612354>.

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, **and** only to students who have contacted the instructor in advance of the exam. It is your responsibility to petition the Instructor for the *privilege* of a make-up exam. If a student misses an exam for an unacceptable reason, a **0** will be averaged into the student's grade.

WITHDRAWAL

If you choose to withdraw from this or any course, please notify the instructor via e-mail or telephone. Make sure you contact the Financial Aid and Registrar Office to complete the official procedures.

LEARNING OUTCOMES GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY PART 1

The goals for General Psychology 1 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. Describe human behavior and mental processes from various theoretical perspectives in the field of psychology

- Identify the interrelationship between human biology and psychology
- Identify the manner in which psychological research on memory relates to college study skills

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 psychology as an ever-changing discipline, based on contemporary research data

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
- Describe different research methods used in psychology
- Acquire knowledge about men and women whose research endeavors made significant contributions to the field of psychology
- Develop an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of different psychology research methods

ELECTRONIC PORTFOLIO / DIGICATION

Three Rivers students have the opportunity to maintain an online learning portfolio using software known as Digication. Through this electronic tool you will have the opportunity to monitor your own growth in college-wide learning. Sometimes when you review and reflect upon all of your scholarly work, you learn something additional and perhaps unexpected. During the semester you will learn which assignment to upload into a Digication template.

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

MODULES WE WILL COVER THIS SEMESTER:

Part 1. The Story of Psychology - Module 1

Part 2. Thinking Critically with Psychological Science - Module 2

Part 9. Memory – Modules 23, 24, 25

Exam 1: Modules 1, 2, 23, 24, 25

Part 3. The Biology of the Mind – Modules 4, 5, 6

Part 7. Sensation and Perception – Modules 17, 18

Part 8. Learning – Modules 20, 21, 22

Exam 2: Modules 4, 5, 6, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22

Part 12. What Drives Us: Hunger, Sex, Friendship, and Achievement – Modules 32, 33, 34, 35

Part 13. Emotions, Stress, and Health – Modules 38, 39, 40

Exam 3: Modules 32, 33, 34, 35, 38, 39, 40

Schedule of Assigned Readings and Discussion Topic

Introduction and PART 1. The Story of Psychology		
WEEK 1	8/28	Introduction to the course & to Psychology
	8/30	Module 1: What is Psychology?
PART 2. Thinking Critically with Psychological Science		
WEEK 2	9/2	Module 2: Research Strategies: How Psychologists Ask and Answer Questions (no objective 2-5)
	9/4	Module 2: continued A.P.A. style formatting
PART 9. Memory		
WEEK 3	9/11	Module 23: Studying and Encoding Memories
	9/13	Module 24: Storing and Retrieving Memories
PART 9: Memory <i>Continued</i>		
WEEK 4	9/18	Module 25: Forgetting, Memory Construction and Improving Memory (no objective 25-4)
	9/20	Exam preparation study circles outside of class – encouraged
EXAM 1 & PART 3. THE BIOLOGY OF MIND		
WEEK 5	9/25	Exam # 1 (Modules 1, 2, 23, 24, 25) on 9/25
	9/27	Module 4: Neural and Hormonal Systems (no objective 4-7)
PART 3. THE BIOLOGY OF MIND <i>CONTINUED</i>		
WEEK 6	10/2	Module 5: The Tools of Discovery, Older Brain Structures and the Limbic System (no objective 5-6)
	10/4	Module 6: The Cerebral Cortex (no objective 6-4)
PART 7. SENSATION AND PERCEPTION		
WEEK 7	10/9	Module 17: Basic Concepts of Sensation and Perception
	10/11	Module 18: Vision: Sensory and Perceptual Processing
PART 8. LEARNING AND PAPER DUE 10/16		
WEEK 8	10/16	Module 20. Basic Learning Concepts and Classical Conditioning; Paper DUE 10/16
	10/18	Module 21. Operant Conditioning (no objective 21-4)
PART 8. LEARNING <i>CONTINUED</i>		
WEEK 9	10/23	Module 22. Biology, Cognition, and Learning
	10/25	Exam preparation study circles outside of class – encouraged
EXAM 2 AND PART 12. WHAT DRIVES US: HUNGER, SEX, FRIENDSHIP, AND ACHIEVEMENT		
WEEK 10	10/30	Exam # 2 on Modules 4, 5, 6, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22 on 10/30
	11/1	Module 32: Basic Motivational Concepts
PART 12. WHAT DRIVES US: HUNGER, SEX, FRIENDSHIP, AND ACHIEVEMENT <i>CONTINUED</i>		
WEEK 11	11/6	Module 32 continued: Basic Motivational Concepts
	11/8	Module 33: Hunger (no objective 33-1)
PART 12. WHAT DRIVES US: HUNGER, SEX, FRIENDSHIP, AND ACHIEVEMENT		
WEEK 12	11/13	Module 34: Sexual Motivation (no objective 34-5)
	11/15	Module 35: Affiliation and Achievement
THANKSGIVING		
WEEK 13	11/20	Happy Thanksgiving ~ NO CLASS
	11/22	Happy Thanksgiving ~ NO CLASS
PART 13. EMOTIONS, STRESS, AND HEALTH		
WEEK 14	11/27	Module 38: Experiencing Emotion
	11/29	Module 39: Stress and Illness (not figure 39.4)
PART 13. EMOTIONS, STRESS, AND HEALTH <i>CONTINUED</i>		
WEEK 15	12/4	Module 40: Health and Coping
	12/6	Exam preparation study circles outside of class – encouraged
EXAM 3: MODULES 32, 33, 34, 35, 38, 39, 40		
WEEK 16	12/11	Exam 3: Modules 32, 33, 34, 35, 38, 39, 40 -- Congratulations!