PSYC 111, GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY I, 3 CREDIT HOURS

FALL SEMESTER 2019

MOD 2: OCTOBER 23 – DECEMBER 11

**Instructor:** Dr. Robin McGovern

**Office Hours:** By appointment only

**E-mail Address:** [rmcgovern@threerivers.edu](mailto:rmcgovern@threerivers.edu)

**Class Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30 am – 12:20 pm, Room D206

**Required Text:** Myers, D. G. & DeWall, C.N. (2018). Psychology, twelfth edition in modules. New York, NY: Worth.

**Text Companion Site:** <https://www.macmillanhighered.com/launchpad/myers12einmodules/12496051>

**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, behavioral genetics, sensation and perception, stress, as well as emotion and motivation. As your instructor, I am here to facilitate **your** own learning experience; my role is to provide support and assess your progress. The course emphasizes written communication skills, questioning and critical thinking.

**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

**EVALUATION**

**Course Organization**

The course is organized into modules with approximately 2-3 modules (1 chapter) presented each class. Weekly assignments will involve reading from the text, and/or web supplements. There will be at least 1 assessment each week (quiz, exam, or writing assignment). Each module presentation (Power Point and Activity worksheet) used in class will be provided online prior to each class (in Blackboard) and will be available for access throughout the semester. Students are expected to thoroughly read each assignment prior to class and be prepared to actively engage in class discussions or activities related to the assigned readings.

**Course Evaluation:** ***Your final grade will be based on the total number of points you accumulate out of 550***, which can easily be converted to a percentage and letter grade. Your grade will be based on a combination of scores from Participation, Quizzes, Exams and “homework” assignments. The breakdown will be as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Task** | **Points per Task** | **Total Points** |
| Participation/Attendance | 5 | 70 |
| No Class Day Activities | 5-15 | 30 |
| 20 Launch Pad Learning Activities (2 freebees) | 5 | 100 |
| 6 Online Quizzes (drop lowest 1) | 20 | 100 |
| Psychology Myths Research Paper | 50 | 50 |
| Mid-Term Exam | 100 | 100 |
| Final Exam | 100 | 100 |
| **TOTAL** |  | **550** |

**What do I have to do to get and A?**

For this class: A: 89.5 - 100%

B: 79.5 – 89.4%

C: 69.5 - 79.4%

D: 59.5 - 69.4%

F: below 59.4%

**Attendance and Tardiness:** Per college policy, Instructional staff assigned to all sections of credit-bearing courses at Three Rivers monitor attendance. Thus, I will be taking attendance daily and your attendance in class will contribute to your final grade. Students are strongly encouraged not to miss any classes due to the pace of the course and amount of content provided each class. However, if you must miss a class, you are required to notify the instructor as soon as possible with supporting information and documentation on the absence. You are permitted to miss 1 class period with no penalization to your attendance grade. There are no differences between excused and un-excused absences. **Additionally**, a**ny combination of 3 late arrivals/departures will be the equivalent of missing an entire class period.**

**If you should miss a class, it is your responsibility to get notes from a classmate (it would be best if you got notes from a number of different students).** I suggest that you befriend a number of your classmates and exchange contact information on the first night of class. **DO NOT email me to ask me what you missed in class, I will not respond to these types of emails.**

**Course Withdrawal Policy**

Students withdrawing from the course BEFORE the withdraw deadline (Friday, November 22, 2019) will be assigned a non-punitive W. After this deadline, a punitive UF is assigned by the instructor based on course performance and forwarded to the Registrar’s Office for processing.

**Quizzes:** There will be quizzes on the assigned readings and topics that we have already discussed in class. Quizzes will be completed online, you will have 20 minutes to complete the quiz. The quizzes are designed to test your knowledge of reading assignments. You may use your book and notes for quizzes, but bear in mind they will be written such that you will not have time to look up all of the answers as you go. **No makeup quizzes will be given**. However, I will drop your lowest quiz grade.

**Exams:** Your exam grade will be based on the number of points you earn during a ***Mid-Term and Final Exam***. Exams may consist of objective questions (i.e. multiple choice, true/false and matching), fill in the blank, and short answer essays that may be answered with 3-4 sentences. The exams will cover material from the text (not necessarily covered in class), lectures, class room discussions, guest lecturers, films/movies, and other assigned readings. **Exams will be taken online and students will have approximately a 48 hour period in which to take the exam,** **exceptions will only be made to those with challenges documented with college administration.**

**Rubric for Classroom Participation (students will earn weekly participation grade):**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Exemplary (5 points)** | **Proficient (4 pts)** | **Developing (3 pts)** | **Unacceptable ( <2 pts)** |
| **Frequency of Participation** | Student initiates  contributions more than  once in each class.  Comes to class prepared with 2-3 questions from the chapters on which they need clarification. | Student initiates  contribution once in each class.  Comes to class prepared with 1 question from the chapters on which they need clarification. | Student initiates  contribution at  least in half of the classes.  Does not bring questions for clarification to class. | Student does not  initiate contribution  & needs instructor to solicit input.  Students listens attentively, but does not contribute to class discussions. |
| **Quality of Comments** | Comments always  insightful & constructive;  uses appropriate terminology. Comments  balanced between general  impressions, opinions &  specific, thoughtful  criticisms or contributions | Comments mostly  insightful & constructive;  mostly uses appropriate  terminology. Occasionally  comments are too  general or not relevant  to the discussion | Comments are sometimes  constructive, with  occasional signs of  insight. Student does not  use appropriate  terminology; comments  not always relevant to  the discussion. | Comments are  uninformative, lacking in  appropriate terminology.  Heavy reliance on  opinion & personal taste,  e.g., “I love it”, “I hate it”,  “It’s bad” etc. |
| **Preparation for Class and Listening Skills** | Student listens attentively  when others present  materials, perspectives,  as indicated by comments  that build on others’  remarks, i.e., student  hears what others say  & contributes to the  dialogue.  Student comes prepared with printed class materials | Student is mostly attentive  when others present ideas,  materials, as indicated by  comments that reflect &  build on others’ remarks.  Occasionally needs  encouragement or  reminder from instructor of focus of comment. | Student is often inattentive  and needs reminder of  focus of class.  Occasionally makes  disruptive comments  while others are speaking.  **Student does not come to class with printed materials.** | Does not listen to others;  regularly talks while others  speak or does not pay  attention while others  speak; detracts from  discussion; sleeps, plays on phone etc  . |

**CLASSROOM POLICIES**

**Special Accommodations:** If you have special needs that may affect your course-work, please come and speak with me. Accommodations per college policy will be made for those with special needs documented with the college administration.

**Email:** I will be communicating with the class via email. You should all have a Three Rivers email account that you check regularly (i.e., at least once a day); **this is the only email that I will use to communicate with you.** Email is also the best way to get in touch with me. If you email me, I will generally respond to your email within 24-48 hours during normal working hours (i.e., 8 am – 5 pm) Monday-Friday. You are expected to use proper salutations, grammar, capitalization and punctuation in all email communication with me; I will not reply to emails that do not use basic etiquette.

**Electronic Devices:** Per college policy, cell phones must be kept on silent and put away during class. You are also not to text message during class. If you are using a computer to take class notes, all sounds must be silenced. Additionally, you are not to use your computer for any activities other than those directly related to class during class time. **You will NOT receive any warnings about these infractions and I will not allow you to disrupt the class by taking time away from your peers to reprimand you, therefore, if you are caught texting or using your computer during class for non-course related activities, you will lose all of your participation points for that class period.** If you persist in playing on your phone for more than 2 class periods, you will continue to lose participation points and you will be prohibited from completing any extra credit assignments. If you are caught using your computer for “recreational” purposes during class time, you will no longer be permitted to use it during class to take notes.

**Course Materials:** All course (lecture) materials will be available on **Blackboad**. This folder is the only place where I will put course information. It is your responsibility to print lecture materials prior to class.

**General Class Room Behavior:** We are all adults in this course, and I will treat you as such and expect you to act accordingly.

* + - If you are using a computer to take class notes, all sounds must be silenced.
    - Do not to engage in activities that are not related to class, i.e., texting, other homework, chatting with neighbors, etc.
    - No headphones or portable listening devices are to be used during class.
    - Cell phones, pagers and Blackberry’s must be kept on silent and put away during class.
    - Be prepared for class, ***it is your responsibility to print the materials prior to each class.***

**ASSIGNMENT POLICIES:**

**Missed Exam policy**

1. Students who miss an exam without a legitimate excuse will automatically receive 0 points for that exam.
2. Only students with legitimate excuses will be allowed to make up missed exams.
3. There are only **five acceptable excuses** for an individual missing an exam:
4. **Illness**. I will need official certification from you doctor, typed on medical stationary (with their license # to practice medicine on it) certifying that you are now well enough to return to class.
5. **Funeral attendance.** I will need proof of funeral attendance with the date of the service clearly listed.
6. **Mandatory courtroom appearance.** I will need a copy of your official court summons with the date of your required attendance clearly listed.
7. **Three Rivers Community College event participation.** I will need a signed letter from the faculty sponsor for this event no later than one week prior to the day of the exam. Students who do not conform to this policy will not be allowed to make up the missed exam.
8. **Military Service Obligations.** I will need a signed letter from our command (CO, XO or CMC) with the date of your required attendance clearly listed.
9. All necessary paperwork which is handed in more than ten days after the date of the missed exam will NOT be accepted and you will receive 0 points for that exam.
10. I only allow one missed exam to be made up per semester. Any other missed exam will be assigned 0 points.
11. You must make up a missed exam within 5 days of the scheduled exam.

**Additional Policy Information**: Just for the record, the following excuses will NOT be considered as legitimate reasons for missing exams:

· Oversleeping

· Employment conflicts and/or work-related obligations of any kind (other than military service).

· Social, fraternity or sorority obligations

· Failure to obtain babysitters and/or problems/difficulties involving one’s children/dependents

· Alarm clock failure

· Elevator malfunction

· Domestic situations of any kind (involving but not limited to situations involving boyfriends, girlfriends, domestic partners, roommates, current or former spouses, children etc).

· Conflicts with other classes or exams (unless you make provisions with your instructor BEFORE the exam takes place).

· Failure to secure the necessary (ground, air and/or sea) transportation to be able to take the exam.

· Car failure (unless you have receipts from the tow truck operator and/or auto mechanic)

· Stress

· Forgetfulness

· Abduction by aliens

· Any other, domestic, social, financial, religious or geopolitical situation.

**In the interest of fairness, there will be NO exceptions to these rules.**

**Late Assignments:** Late assignments will not be accepted for any reason, unless previously discussed with Dr. McGovern.

**Academic Dishonesty:** All students should familiarize themselves with Three River’s code of behavior, definitions of academic dishonesty and be aware of the possible ramifications of academic dishonesty. *Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any form****.*** Anyone caught in any one of these forms of academic dishonesty will receive a “zero” for that assignment or exam with no opportunity to make up those lost points. Any subsequent violations will result in a grade of “F” for the course, and the dean and department chair will be notified of this behavior.

**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**

*Note: I will do my best to stick to this schedule, but changes may be made depending on how the students and instructor feel about the material.*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Topic** | | **Modules in Text** | **Assignments Due** |
| Wednesday  October 23 | Introduction to Gen Psych 111  What is psychology  Learning Objectives 1.1 - 1.3 | | Module 1 |  |
| Monday  October 28 | What is psychology  Learning Objectives 1.4 – 1.9  Critical thinking in psychology  Learning Objectives 2.1 – 2.10 | | Module 1  Module 2 | Learning Curve Modules 1 and 2 |
| Wednesday  October 30 | No Class  Supplemental Launch Pad Assignment due Wednesday, October 30 at 12:30 pm | | | |
| Monday  November 4 | Neural and Hormonal Systems  Learning Objectives 4.1 – 4.7 | | Module 4 | Learning Curve  Module 4 |
| Wednesday  November 6 | Subcortical Systems  Learning Objectives 5.1 – 5.3  The Cortex  Learning Objectives 6.1 – 6.4 | | Module 5  Module 6 | Learning Curve Modules 5 and 6 |
| Monday  November 11 | Learning: Classical Conditioning  Learning Objectives 20.1 – 20.6 | | Module 20 | Learning Curve  Module 20 |
| Wednesday  November 13 | Learning: Operant Conditioning  Learning Objectives 21.1. – 21.7 | | Module 21 | Learning Curve  Module 21 |
| Monday  November 18 | Learning: Observational Learning  Learning Objectives 22.1 – 22.5  Learning: Classical and Operant Conditioning Extra Instruction | | Module 22  Modules 20 and 21 | Learning Curve  Module 22 |
| **Mid Term Exam**  **Monday November 18 at 12:00 pm – Wednesday November 20 at 11:59 pm** | | | | |
| **Mid-Term Exam**  **“Chapters” 1, 2, 3 and 8**  **Modules: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 20, 21, and 22** | | **Topics Covered:**   * **What is psychology?** * **Critical Thinking in Psychology** * **Neuroscience** * **Principles of Learning** | | |
| Wednesday  November 20 | Sensation and Perception  Learning Objectives 17.1 – 17.6  Sensation and Perception: Vision  Learning Objectives 18.1 – 18.9 | | Module 17  Module 18 | Learning Curve  Modules 17 and 18 |
| Monday  November 25 | Memory: Basic Concepts and Encoding  Learning Objectives 23.1 – 23.8  Memory: Storage and Retrieval  Learning Objectives 24.1 – 24.6 | | Module 23  Module 24 | Learning Curve  Modules 23 and 24 |
| Wednesday  November 27 | No Class- Thanksgiving Break | | | |
| Monday  December 2 | Memory: Forgetting, Construction, and Improving Memory  Learning Objectives 25.1 – 25.5 | | Module 25 | Learning Curve  Module 25 |

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| Wednesday  December 4 | Motivation: The Basics  Learning Objective 32.1  Motivation: Hunger  Learning Objective 33.2  Motivation: Sex  Learning Objectives 34.1 – 34.7  Motivation: Affiliation and Attachment  Learning Objectives 35.1 – 35.3 | | Module 32  Module 33  Module 34  Module 35 | Learning Curve  Modules 32, 33, 34, and 35 |
| Monday  December 9 | Emotion: Theories of Emotion  Learning Objectives 36.1 – 36.5  Emotions: Expressing Emotion  Learning Objectives 37.1 – 37.4  Emotion: Experiencing Emotion  Learning Objectives 38.1 – 38.5 | | Module 36  Module 37  Module 38 | Learning Curve  Modules 36, 37, and 38 |
| Wednesday  December 11 | Emotion: Stress and Illness  Learning Objectives 39.1 – 39.5  Emotion: Health and Coping  Learning Objectives 40.1 – 40.8 | | Module 39  Module 40 | Learning Curve  Modules 39 and 40 |
| **Final Exam**  **Wednesday December 11 at 12:00 pm – Friday December 13 at 11:59 pm** | | | | |
| **Final Exam**  **“Chapters” 7, 9, 12 and 13**  **Modules 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, and 40** | | **Topics Covered:**   * **Sensation and Perception** * **Memory** * **Motivation** * **Emotion** | | |