

Course Syllabus

Welcome to General Psychology, formerly known as Introduction to Psychology. I am pleased that you have decided to take this course. You will receive an overview of the major fields and issues in Psychology, which will also prepare you for more advanced courses in this most fascinating subject. Although you will find Psych 1 to be challenging, you may find the material to be of great value, not just as a student, but throughout your life because the information and techniques offered in this course can give you a new way to look at yourself. A good solid effort on your part is needed. Make a commitment!

Lots of info is in this syllabus. Think of it as a contract. Your enrollment in this class constitutes your acceptance and agreement of all college regulations and terms of this syllabus. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with it.

You should also consider that Psychology is about PEOPLE and since you are a person, your participation in class is highly encouraged. You will get much more from this course if you do.

This is an academic class and your consistent attendance is expected. If your unexcused absences should exceed three classes, you may be dropped. Poor attendance almost guarantees lower quiz grades. If you are having problems attending class, you should talk to me about it. It is your responsibility to keep ahead of reading assignments and to know dates of exams and due dates for papers even if you are absent. So get contact info from one or two of your classmates to find out what you missed and to obtain notes. Always read the chapter in advance of the lecture. You will remember much more from the lecture if you do.

Your textbook is Psychology: Modules for Active Learning, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition (custom or regular edition), by Coon & Mitterer (terrible title but a very good text). If you can, get it today. If you delay in getting your text, there is a copy on reserve in the library. Please see back page for more text info.

This is how your grade is established (%'s are approximate).

Chapter Quizzes	160 pts	(49%)
Stressay	10 pts	( 3%)
Term Paper	80 pts	(24%)
Final Exam (cumulative)	80 pts	(24%)

Everything you do is converted to points. Your letter grade is based on a certain percentage of 330\* possible points:

A=86% (284 pts)	B=76% (251 pts)	C=66% (218 pts)	D=56% (185 pts)	F=<56% (<185 pts)
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(\*assuming we have nine quizzes)

Quizzes are based almost entirely on material in your textbook. You can expect nine of them. Most questions will be covered in class lectures, but you are responsible for the material in the chapter. Quizzes are multiple choice format. You'll need to bring a (#882) scantron, a pencil and a pen for each quiz and for your final. Get your text yesterday!

Quizzes cannot be made up. Please do not request a make-up. I realize that something may come up that prevents you from getting to class on a quiz day. You will need to speak with me (in advance, if possible, or the next class day at the latest) if you wish to obtain an excused absence for that particular quiz. You may be asked to provide documentation. Unexcused quiz absences may lower your grade. Excused quiz absences do not lower your grade because you will have fewer possible points. A maximum of two excused quiz absences are possible. In addition, your lowest score will be dropped.

All students are required to submit a term paper. Your paper must be typewritten and double-spaced. The subject is ...you! Several personality tests will be given to you over the course of the semester and you will be asked to write about the results, comparing them with your own view of yourself. We will be spending considerable time in class on these tests and also the details of your paper. The minimum length is five full pages not including title page. Maximum length is nine pages. Do not include a table of contents. Your paper is due three weeks before your final exam. Please see the final exam schedule in the college class schedule for this semester. Late papers (submitted after the end of class on the due date) will not be accepted.

<u>Chapter Title</u>	<u>Chapter # and Readings</u>
Discovering Psychology (the "Big Picture")	1 modules 1.1-1.4
Research Methods	1 modules 1.5-1.7 plus Research pp. 22-24, Obedience pp. 643-644
Conditioning and Learning	6
Brain and Behavior (Biopsychology)	2
Memory	7
Health, Stress, and Coping (Stress Management)	12 omit Defense Mechanisms, pp. 522-524, Appraising pp. 513-515
Motivation and Emotion	9 omit pp. 410-412
The Lifespan and Human Development	3 omit pp. 127-135
Intelligence	8 module 8.4
Personality	11 plus Defense Mechanisms, pp. 522-524
Psychological Disorders (Abnormal Psychology)	13

**Class conduct**

- When class begins, cell phones must be turned off or put on silent. If your ringtone goes off during class, you will be required to leave for the day. There are no exceptions to this policy for either cell phones or the next item below.
- When class begins, students may not converse with one another. If I have to stop the class to deal with your talking, you will have points deducted from your next quiz. Both of these items are highly disruptive to students and your professor.

- I really want you to succeed in this class. If you are having any problem of any kind that you think is affecting your work or your attendance, do **talk to me**. Communication is extremely important and I support your efforts.
- Take advantage of my office hours. You can come by to discuss psychology, your progress in class, or just about anything else that concerns you. Office hours are posted on my door (CE 236) and on the top front page. My office telephone number is 310 287-4229. Feel free to leave a message. I'll be happy to return your call if needed, but if a message will suffice, please leave one. My email address is leejeff@wlaac.edu. Be sure to include your class days and times or your section number with any message that you leave. Email is preferable but either way you must include your section number or the days & times of your class.
- Please consider your classmates and your professor by not distracting us with conversations or cell phones. Please remember that talking to other students during a lecture or while another student is speaking is rude and violates West's student code of conduct. This issue was already discussed but it is worth repeating.
- **Ringin Cell Phones have absolutely no place in the classroom. If yours rings in class, you will be asked to leave for the day.**
- Anyone can be late on occasion. However, habitual tardiness is not acceptable and can reduce your grade.
- **Do not come to class if you are sick with a cold or the flu especially if you are contagious.** Your professor may remove you from class if you appear to be contagious. Do contact me via email about your situation.
- A maximum of two excused quiz absences can be granted.
- All written work submitted must be typed. Multiple pages must be numbered and stapled.
- Printer or computer problems do not constitute a valid excuse for late papers.
- Assignments may not be submitted electronically without making specific arrangements in advance and only under special circumstances.
- Final grades cannot be given out through my office telephone or by email.
- If you should decide to stop attending class, it is your responsibility to drop yourself at Admissions. If you just stop attending and do not file a drop card with admissions or drop yourself on-line, you may receive an F. You are responsible for knowing the last day that you may drop.
- Sorry, no extra credit. Participation is not factored into your grade but it is definitely encouraged.

#### Additional Text Info

In Fall 07, I adopted a custom version of your textbook. If you have acquired the regular version already, do not have a heart attack! The content is identical for both books and you may use either as long as it is the 12<sup>th</sup> edition.. If you happen to have the 11<sup>th</sup> ed., I will provide the 11<sup>th</sup> ed. syllabus to you. Consider renting your text; it has advantages.

#### SLO's:

Each student will learn to think critically about historical theories in psych and tie them to current research methodology and research outcomes.

#### Academic Dishonesty Policy

College study is the process of learning to be an independent scholar. All students are expected to do their own work. All forms of cheating and plagiarism are absolutely forbidden. This is the official policy of this class. Students found cheating will have their assignments marked 0 for failure and may receive a failing grade for this course.

Examples of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following:

- using unauthorized materials on exams
- copying other student exams
- submitting any assigned work that is not the student's own
- copying other written materials without proper credit to the original author
- downloading from computer networks without citation

All incidents of cheating will be reported to the Vice-president of Student Services.

*In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students requesting accommodation must register with the Office of Disabled Students Programs & Services and receive the appropriate paperwork from DSPPS..*