

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 your self. 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 thoroughly read it before next class.

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 be more than three classes, you may be dropped depending on how quickly you accrue them. Poor attendance can also result in a loss of points. 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. You should be able to contact at least one of your classmates in order to find out what you missed in case you are absent. You should read the chapter in advance of the lecture.

Your textbook is Psychology: Modules for Active Learning, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition (custom), 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 about ten of them. Most questions will be covered in class lectures, but you are responsible for the material in the chapter. Quizzes are objective and multiple choice. 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. 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 the tests and also the details of your paper. The minimum length is five full pages not including title page. 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

A word on class conduct. Once class begins, talking to other students is not permitted. It is very disruptive to those students who are trying to listen and learn. It is more disruptive to your professor. If you do talk, the error of this behavior will be pointed out to you immediately. Should it occur again, there will be consequences such as loss of points. Further violations of this policy may result in your being removed from class for the day. The last thing I want to see is for any student to have problems resulting from not being able to control his/her talking but each and every one of you has a responsibility to keep our learning environment free of disruption. Your cooperation is required and is greatly appreciated.

- 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](mailto:leejeff@wlaac.edu). Be sure to include your class days and times with any message that you leave. Email is better but either way; include 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 is not acceptable behavior. 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.
- In a block class (one meeting per week) leaving at the break will be considered an absence. To avoid that, if you do have to leave early, please let me know.
- 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.
- Final grades can not 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.
- Sorry, no extra credit.

#### Additional Text Info

Effective in Fall 07, I have adopted a custom version of your textbook. This was done so that we could continue to have the same excellent textbook at a significantly discounted price (you save about 25-30%). 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. The only difference is that you will not be able to sell the regular version back to the bookstore at the end of the semester. If you happen to have the 11<sup>th</sup> ed., I can provide the 11<sup>th</sup> ed. Schedule for you.

#### Psychology 1 Learning Objectives (not in order of curriculum sequence)

- Illustrate and identify differences between classical and operant conditioning.
- Name the differences in training and orientation between counselors, clinical psychologists, and psychiatrists.
- Demonstrate how emotions influence thinking and vice-versa.
- Explain the relationship between psychology and philosophy.
- Identify and elaborate on the major goals of psychology.
- Compare and contrast the major theories of emotion.
- Describe and illustrate the major components of the mind per Freud.
- Compare and contrast clinical and experimental psychology.
- Differentiate between the major research methods and list advantages and disadvantages of each.
- Describe the anatomy and physiology of the major parts of the brain and nervous system.
- Describe neural transmission and the major of the neuron.
- Explain the meaning of abnormal in psychology.
- Discuss and illustrate heredity verses environment.
- Describe the major factors and theories of intelligence.
- Explain the medical model of mental illness and its advantages and disadvantages.
- Describe and explain the major fields of psychology.
- Describe and discuss the model of human declarative memory.
- Explain and discuss the elements of stress and stress management.

#### 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. Please contact Dr. Foster, director (310) 287 4450 for information and assistance.*