COURSE DESCRIPTION AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

General Psychology provides an overview of the fundamental areas and concepts in Psychology. Topics include research methods of psychology, biological processes, learning and memory, personality and abnormal psychology, and social psychology.

After this course you should be able to:

- Describe psychological theories, principles, and concepts relevant to the following topics: history and methods, biological bases of behavior, cognition, social behavior, personality, and psychopathology.
- Apply basic psychological principles to current events and daily human experience.
- Understand the ways that psychological phenomena influence health.
- Understand the scientific principles that underlie psychological research.

Course Requirements


Website: MyPsychLab (www.mypsychlab.com). This is the website that accompanies your textbook. If you purchase the book from the TAMUCC bookstore, it will come with an access code to the website as well as instructions for how to create your MyPsychLab account.

Assignments

Exams: There will be three multiple choice exams on the dates specified on the course calendar. Please expect that anything presented in lecture or covered in the assigned readings may be included on the exams. Each test is worth 20% of your overall grade.

Quizzes: There will be in-class and out-of-class quizzes throughout the semester. Quizzes may be given randomly during class. Each quiz will cover the readings from chapter(s) assigned for that class day. It is essential that you read the chapter(s) prior to coming to class. Some of these assignments may be completed on MyPsychLab.com and Blackboard, so it is important that you learn how to use these sites. Please note that late work and make-up work for these assignments will not be accepted. The quiz grades will be averaged and count for 20% of your overall grade.

Paper: Each student will write a 3-5 page paper on a psychology experiment discussed in class. The paper is to discuss the premise/theory behind the experiment, the method of the experiment, and the results of the experiment, including what was discovered about psychology from the experiment results. The paper is worth 20% of your overall grade.
Grading

Each component of the course will be worth the following percentages of your final grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams (3 at 20% each)</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (Average of all quiz grades)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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</table>

Final letter grades will be assigned based on the following total percentages. If you have questions about your grade at any time, please come see me.

Over 90% = A  
80 – 89% = B  
70 – 79% = C  
60 – 69% = D  
Below 60% = F

Expectations

Class behavior: In a large class such as this, it is particularly important to minimize distractions. Please avoid disrespectful behavior, such as arriving late, leaving early, texting, talking, and other behaviors that interrupt class or cause distractions. Make sure your electronic devices are silenced during class. Class will start on time every day, and you should expect it to run the full scheduled time.

Late Work/Make-Up Work: Late work will not be accepted. Make-up work/exams will be permitted on a case-by-case basis at the sole discretion of the instructor and only for extreme emergencies. In those cases, you need to notify me within 24 hours of the missed class, and you will need to provide documentation, such as a doctor's note, to verify the reason for your absence when you return to campus. If you will miss class for university-related reasons (athletics, research conferences, etc), you need to inform me of your absence at least two days ahead of time, and we will make arrangements for you to complete work that you may miss. Additionally, no extra credit will be given in this course.

Attendance: Attendance is expected. If you miss a class, you will still be responsible for any notes, handouts, announcements, etc. that may have taken place during the missed class. The in-class quizzes will be given throughout the semester on random days. If you miss class on a day in which a quiz is given, you will not receive credit for that quiz. If you are late to class or leave early and miss an in-class quiz, you will not receive credit for that quiz and you will not be able to make it up.

Blackboard: You are expected to check Blackboard on a regular basis for class assignments, grades, and announcements (especially if you missed class). It is your responsibility to check your grades on Blackboard. If you believe there is a mistake with your grade, you must notify me within 2 weeks of the grade being posted. I will post the lecture slides on Blackboard either before or after each class. These slides are NOT a replacement for your attendance or for your own note-taking. They are merely an outline of the material covered in class that day.
**Contacting Me**

E-mail is the best way to get in touch with me. My e-mail address is listed at the top of this syllabus. My office hours will be 30 minutes prior to the start of class in my office. If you need to meet with me outside of office hours, please contact me in advance and I will be happy to schedule another time to meet with you. Remember that should you begin to struggle in this course, it is always better to talk to me about it sooner rather than later; if you wait until the very end of the semester there is usually little I can do to help you.

**Academic Dishonesty**

All forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. This includes, but is not limited to: using unauthorized notes in an exam, copying another’s answers on an exam, turning in the same papers for two different classes, purchasing or otherwise obtaining papers written by another and turning that work in as your own, as well as others. It is expected that ideas and information used in your work, which are not part of your own personal experience, will be appropriately referenced using APA style (seek help if you do not know how to reference your sources; I can help you, and there are other resources available on campus). Academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to the university policy (see the current University Catalog and Student Handbook). If you have any questions regarding whether or not something is considered plagiarism, please see me BEFORE turning it in.

**Students With Disabilities**

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Corpus Christi Hall Room 116, at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

**Academic Advising**

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E and can be reached at 825-3466.

**Grade Appeal Process**

As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.htm. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.
Course Calendar

This calendar is tentative. I will notify you of any changes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>9/4</td>
<td>The Science of Psychology/The Biological Perspective</td>
<td>Chapters 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>9/11</td>
<td>Sensation and Perception</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>9/18</td>
<td>Learning</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>9/25</td>
<td>Memory</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>10/2</td>
<td><strong>Exam 1 (Chapters 1-5)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>10/9</td>
<td>Consciousness and Cognition</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>10/16</td>
<td>Development Across the Life Span</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>10/23</td>
<td>Motivation and Emotion</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>10/30</td>
<td>Stress and Health</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>11/6</td>
<td><strong>Exam 2 (Chapters 6-9)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>11/13</td>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>11/20</td>
<td>Theories of Personality and Intelligence</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>11/27</td>
<td>Psychological Disorders</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
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<td><strong>Paper Due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>12/4</td>
<td>Psychological Therapies</td>
<td>Chapter 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>12/18</td>
<td><strong>Exam 3 (Chapters 10-13)</strong></td>
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