General Psychology
PSYC 2301.001
Fall 2014

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General Psychology Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/doczocc

Class Location: TR 930a-1045a  BH 104
Office Hours (BH 318): M/W 12n-1p; T/Th 11a-12n; T 530p-630p and by appointment

Contacting Me
The best way to contact me is through email. I generally will respond to email within 24 hours, except on the weekends. I am always ready and willing to make myself available to help you succeed in this course. I highly encourage you to come to me with your questions and concerns at any point that you need the assistance. I am very good at answering email and many of your questions could probably be answered in that way. For more complicated concerns, I encourage you to drop by my office or make an appointment so we can discuss whatever it is that is causing you to struggle. I advise you to identify and remedy any concerns as early as you can during the semester – the more time we have to address it – the more likely it is we will be able to resolve it in a way that allows you to be successful. If you wait until the end of the semester, there is little I can usually do to help at that point.

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

Course Description Student Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes for this course will include the students’ ability 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:


Orion Plus (access included with text) is an online student class support system. As such, it is designed to provide you with supplemental lessons, videos, and exercises that are designed to help you master the material. More importantly, Orion Plus allows the opportunity to do self-assessments as you prepare for exams. Orion Plus is REQUIRED for this section of General Psychology.

**Blackboard:** This course will use Blackboard. Please check it regularly, as announcements will be posted there, as well as any changes to the syllabus or assignments. If you do not know your login information for Blackboard, please contact the IT Help Desk, (361) 825-2692. If there are issues within your Blackboard course, please contact me first, as typically the instructor is the only one who can make changes/fix issues within a course. If you are having technical difficulties, please contact the IT Help Desk or your Internet Service Provider.

**EXAMS:** You will take four multiple-choice exams during the semester. The exams will cover material that is presented in the lectures or covered in the assigned readings. The average of the four exams will make up 80% of your grade.

**FINAL COMPREHENSIVE EXAM:**
In addition to the three required exams, there will also be a final comprehensive exam (FCE) on the assigned final exam date. Please note that this exam will be given on the finals date assigned to this class. You may choose to take the FCE to replace your lowest exam performance. It cannot hurt you to take the FCE, if you do worse on the FCE than your lowest exam score, your grades will remain as if you had not taken the FCE. **If you miss a regular exam for any reason, you must take the FCE to replace the missed exam grade; there will be no make-up exams.**

**CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:**
Note: All assignments must completed by the assigned due date. *Late assignments will not be accepted.*

Weekly Homework, in-class activities, and pop attendance quizzes will be assigned throughout the semester. These assignments are graded and will count toward your final course grade. Pop quizzes are typically worth 5 points each, while homework and class activities are typically worth 10-15 points each. Although the exact total of assignments may vary, the amount toward your final grade will be 20%.

% of total grade | ASSIGNMENTS:
80% Exam average = _____*.80
20% Homework/Activities/Quizzes = _____*.20
100% Total = Exams + Homework/Activities/Quizzes

90-100% = A
80 – 89% = B
70 – 79% = C
60 – 69% = D
less than 60% = F

**Expectations**

Class will start on time every day, and you should expect it to run the full period. Please avoid disturbing other students (by arriving late, leaving early, talking with a neighbor, etc.). Make sure that your electronic devices are turned off.

I expect students to make every effort to attend each class. Should you find it necessary to miss class, please note that you will be held responsible for all material covered during the missed class. It will be your responsibility to speak with a classmate about the course content you missed.

**Academic Integrity/Plagiarism**

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a zero for the assignment or exam.

**Dropping a Class**

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Friday, November 7th is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.
**Classroom/professional behavior**

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

**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 Appeals**

Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.

**Disabilities Accommodations**

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 #116, at 825-5816.
If you need disability accommodations for this directed independent study, please see the instructor as soon as possible.

Statement of Academic Continuity

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

Course Calendar (Tentative)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/28 and Week of 9/2</td>
<td>Intro to Course; The Science of Psychology</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/9</td>
<td>The Science of Psychology/Neuroscience and Biological Foundations</td>
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<td>9/16</td>
<td>Neuroscience and Biological Foundations/Exam #1 (9/18)</td>
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<td>9/23</td>
<td>Sensation and Perception</td>
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<td>9/30</td>
<td>Learning</td>
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<td>10/7</td>
<td>Memory</td>
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<td>10/14</td>
<td>Memory/Exam #2 (10/16)</td>
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<td>10/21</td>
<td>Motivation and Emotion</td>
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<td>11/4</td>
<td>Personality/Exam #3 (11/6)</td>
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<td>11/7</td>
<td>Last Day to Drop Class</td>
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<td>11/11</td>
<td>Psychological Disorders and Therapy</td>
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<td>11/18</td>
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<td>11/25</td>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
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<td>12/2</td>
<td>Exam #4</td>
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<td>Tuesday 12/9 8am</td>
<td>Final Comprehensive Exam</td>
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