General Psychology
Psyc 2301.391 (Triad I)
Spring 2015

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Phone: 361-825-2390

Class Location: MWF 11am, BH 103

Office Hours (BH 318): M/W 10a-1050a, 12noon-1250pm; M 3p-4p; T/Th 930a-1030a

Theme: TBD
The theme of this learning community this semester reflects the importance of being able to understand, appreciate, and articulate complicated issues which often times have no simple answer. Through this course, as well as the others that you are registered in (Composition II and/or First Year Seminar), we will explore well beyond the surface of issues to read, research, and understand concepts from multiple perspectives.

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.

Additional Communication Channels
A Facebook group page has been set up for this Triad that I hope you will all consider joining. Further details will be provided on how to join this group. Additionally I have set up a Psychology Facebook page where I will post articles and links to interesting things relevant to General Psychology. That page can be found at https://www.facebook.com/doczocc. If you are interested in keeping up with what is going on within the psychology department, especially if you are a psychology major, consider “liking” our department page as well (https://www.facebook.com/pages/Texas-AM-University-Corpus-Christi-Department-of-Psychology-Sociology/334128353345477)
**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.

**OPTIONAL COMPREHENSIVE EXAM:**
In addition to the four required exams, there will also be an optional comprehensive exam (OCE) 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 OCE to replace your lowest exam performance. It cannot hurt you to take the OCE, if you do worse on the
OCE than your lowest exam score, your grades will remain as if you had not taken the OCE. **If you miss a regular exam for any reason, you must take the OCE 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 may 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%.

**INTEGRATIVE ASSIGNMENTS:**
In conjunction with your seminar course, you will have two integrative assignments that demonstrate your understanding of the principles of psychology by applying it to your life outside of the classroom. Each assignment will be worth 10% of your final grade. Papers will be due on the dates specified on the course calendar. More details will be provided in class and on Blackboard at a later date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of total grade</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60%</td>
<td>Exam average = _____*.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Integrative Assignment #1 = _____*.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Integrative Assignment #2 = _____*.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Homework/Activities/Quizzes = _____*.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Total= Exams + Homework + Integrative Assignments</td>
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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 Dishonesty**
All forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. This includes, but is not limited to: handing in another’s work as your own, using unauthorized notes in an exam, copying another’s answers for 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. It is expected that ideas and information used in your work, which are not part of your own personal experience, will be appropriately referenced (seek help if you do not know how to reference your sources; I can help you, and there are other resources available on campus). If academic dishonesty is suspected, I will follow the disciplinary guidelines in the TAMUCC student code of conduct.

**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. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

**DISABILITY SERVICES**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116.
If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**GRADE APPEALS PROCESS**
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’s Office.
# Course Calendar (Tentative)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/21 and 1/23</td>
<td>Intro to Course; The Science of Psychology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/26</td>
<td>The Science of Psychology/The Biological Perspective</td>
<td>1,2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/2</td>
<td>The Biological Perspective</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/9</td>
<td>Sensation and Perception</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/9</td>
<td>Exam #1 (Friday – Feb. 13)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/16</td>
<td>Learning</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/23</td>
<td>Memory</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>2/23</td>
<td>Assignment #1 Due (Monday – Feb. 23)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/2</td>
<td>Memory (con’t)/Consciousness</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/2</td>
<td>Exam #2 (Friday – March 6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/9</td>
<td>Consciousness/Cognition</td>
<td>5,8</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/16</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/23</td>
<td>Motivation and Emotion</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/30</td>
<td>Personality</td>
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<td>3/30</td>
<td>Exam #3 (Friday – April 3rd)</td>
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<td>4/6</td>
<td>Psychological Disorders and Therapy</td>
<td>12,13</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/10</td>
<td>Last Day to Drop Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/13</td>
<td>Psychological Disorders and Therapy</td>
<td>12,13</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/13</td>
<td>Assignment #2 Due (Monday – April 13)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Social Psychology</td>
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<td>4/27</td>
<td>Catch up Week</td>
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<td>5/4</td>
<td>Exam #4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam Week</td>
<td>Optional Comprehensive Exam</td>
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