General Psychology  
PSYC 2301.W02  
Summer 2015  

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Phone: 361-825-2390  

Class Location: Online  

Office Hours (BH 318): Monday and Wednesday 11-12noon  

**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**  
I have 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](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](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.

YOUR GRADE:

Your grade in this section of General Psychology will be a combination of your performance on weekly assignments, weekly discussions, quizzes, and exams.

EXAMS: You will take 2 exams during the semester – a midterm and a final exam. The midterm exam will be given during the 3rd week of class and must be completed no later than the end of the day on June 18th. It will cover chapters 1,2,4,6,7 and 8 as well as supplemental material on these topics. The final exam must be completed by the end of the day on July 2nd. It will cover chapters 11-14 as well as supplemental material on these topics. Exams will cover material that is presented in the lectures or covered in the assigned readings/videos and will consist of multiple choice and short essay questions. Each exam will be worth 20% of your grade.
**QUIZZES:** On the weeks you do not have an exam, you will have a quiz on the weekly material to be sure you are keeping up, as well as ultimately prepare you for the exam. These quizzes will consist of multiple choice questions and must be completed by Friday evening at 11:59pm in the week that they are assigned. Your average on these three quizzes will be worth 20% of your grade.

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

Weekly homework will be assigned throughout the semester. These assignments are graded and will count toward your final course grade. Assignments will range in length and difficulty and will be worth anywhere between 3 points (short video assignments) to 20 points (more thoughtful assignments involving writing). Although the exact total of assignments may vary, your average on these assignments will be worth 20% of your grade.

**DISCUSSIONS:** For each week of the semester, you will have 1-2 weekly discussions that you are required to participate in. Each discussion will be worth 30 points. For each discussion you are required to do two things. First – you must respond to the prompt with a well thought out, researched, and original response (20 points). You will be graded on both content and style so please proofread your work. Additionally, to foster collaboration between students, you must make a minimum of 2 response postings to other students in the class (5 points each). These responses should be well thought out and original as well. Postings of encouragement (e.g. “Great point”, “I agree”, etc.) are great and help to build a sense of community – but will not count toward the 2 required weekly response postings. Your average grade on these discussions will be worth 20% of your grade.

% of total grade | ASSIGNMENTS:
--- | ---
40% | Exam average = _____*.40
20% | Quizzes = _____*.20
20% | Homework = _____*.20
20% | Discussions = _____*.20
100% | Total

90-100% = A
80 – 89% = B
70 – 79% = C
60 – 69% = D
less than 60% = F
**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, June 19th is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**Statement of Civility**

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.

**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.

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, clatamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.
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<td>Intro to Class and Text/The Science of Psychology/The Biological Perspective</td>
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<td>(2) Discussions/Chapter Assignments/Quiz</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Sensation and Perception/Learning</td>
<td>Chapters 4 and 6</td>
<td>(2) Discussions/Chapter Assignments/Quiz</td>
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<td>Chapters 7 and 8</td>
<td>(1) Discussion/Chapter Assignments/Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
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<td>(1) Discussion/Chapter Assignments/Course Reflection/Final Exam</td>
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