General Psychology
PSYC 2301.W01
Fall 2015

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Phone: 361-825-2390

Class Location: Online

Office Hours (BH 318): TBD

Virtual Office Hours: TBD

I am available via email for any help that you might need throughout the day outside of my normal office hours. If you have a problem please contact me via email no matter what day or time. Usually during the daytime hours during the week I respond within a couple of hours. During the evening and weekends I do not check my email as often but will respond within 24 hours.

Contacting Me
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 to chat on the phone 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. 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:

*Real World Psychology* by Karen Huffman and Catherine Sanderson ISBN: 9781119010098
(Ebook plus binder ready text book with Orion Plus Access)

Wiley 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, Wiley Plus allows the opportunity to do self-assessments as you prepare for exams. Wiley Plus is REQUIRED for this section of General Psychology. See instructions online for setting up Wiley Plus in the course shell.

**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 4 exams during the semester. These will be non-cumulative and will only cover material since the last exam. They will be due by Sunday at 6pm in the week they are assigned (see weekly syllabus). In addition to the four 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.**

Exams will be worth 40% of your final 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 Sunday evening at 6pm in the
week that they are assigned. Your lowest quiz will be dropped at the end of the semester. Your average on these quizzes will be worth 20% of your grade.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**
Note: All assignments must completed by the assigned due date which is generally 6pm on Sunday of the week they are assigned. *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 a weekly discussion that you are required to participate in. Each discussion will be worth 30 points (with the exception of Week 1 Discussion 1 (20 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.

There are additional guidelines for writing your postings located on Blackboard. Please review those as well. It is expected that you will answer the discussion prompt and make your first posting of the week by Wednesday at 6pm (with the exception of Week 1) and have all of your response postings completed by Sunday at 6pm of the week that it is due (with the exception of the discussion starting the Week of Nov. 23. Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday and the short following week response postings must be completed by Tuesday, Dec. 1st at 6pm). No discussions will be accepted and graded after their due date and time. 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, November 6th 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, cla.tamu.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)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 27 (Wednesday)</td>
<td>Intro to Course; The History of Psychology</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 31</td>
<td>The Science of Psychology/Neuroscience and Biological Foundations</td>
<td>1,2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 7</td>
<td>Neuroscience and Biological Foundations</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 14</td>
<td><strong>Exam #1 (Chapters 1-3)/Stress and Health Psychology</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Sept. 21</td>
<td>Sensation and Perception</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Sept. 28</td>
<td>States of Consciousness</td>
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<td>Oct. 5</td>
<td>Learning</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 12</td>
<td><strong>Exam #2 (Chapters 4-6)/Memory</strong></td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 19</td>
<td>Cognition</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 26</td>
<td>Motivation and Emotion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 2</td>
<td><strong>Exam #3 (Chapters 7,8,10)/Personality</strong></td>
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<td>NOVEMBER 6</td>
<td>Last Day to Drop Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 9</td>
<td>Psychological Disorders and Therapy</td>
<td>12,13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 16</td>
<td>Psychological Disorders and Therapy</td>
<td>12,13</td>
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<td>Nov. 23</td>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
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<td>Nov. 26-27</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holidays</td>
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<td>Nov. 30-Dec.1</td>
<td><strong>Exam #4 (Chapters 11-14)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Scheduled Final Exam Time</td>
<td>Final Comprehensive Exam</td>
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