General Psychology
Psychology 2301.003
Spring 2017

Professor: Dr. Leslie Mills
Phone: 361-825-2729 Office: BH 326
Email: leslie.mills@tamucc.edu Class Location: CI 102 MWF 12 to 12:50pm
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesdays 10am to 11am, 1pm to 2pm
Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:30pm to 1:30pm

Course Description Student Learning Outcomes
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.

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 with WileyPLUS access. There are several options for purchasing this book. We will discuss more on the first day of class.

WileyPLUS (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, WileyPLUS allows the opportunity to do self-assessments as you prepare for exams. WileyPLUS is REQUIRED for this section of General Psychology.

Blackboard
We will use Blackboard for posting important class documents including information about tests, supplemental readings, specific instructions for the various writing assignments, announcements, etc. In addition, homework and project assignments will be posted on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to check Blackboard regularly to ensure completion of all required coursework. 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 ISP.

Exams
You will take four online 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 60% of your grade.
Final Comprehensive Exam
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.**

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. Credit for in-class work will be graded on accuracy, completeness, and how well it was used to prepare for and contribute to class discussions. Incomplete work or missing part of the class may result in loss of credit for that assignment. Although the exact total of assignments may vary, the amount toward your final grade will be 40%.

Situations which require you to miss a deadline must be discussed with me in advance. You are expected to attend class on time, as arriving late is disruptive and disrespectful. Please discuss any emergencies or other mitigating circumstances with me.

Your overall grade will be calculated based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent of Total Grade</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60%</td>
<td>Exam Average = _____ * .60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Homework/Activities/Quizzes = _____ * .40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Total = Exams + Homework/Activities/Quizzes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

90-100% = A indicates work of distinction, of consistent and exceptionally high quality
80-89% = B indicates good work, maybe not consistent or of distinction
70-79% = C indicates average work
60-69% = D indicates marginal work
Below 60% = F indicates unacceptable work

**VERY IMPORTANT – Late Work/Missed Exams**
No late assignments will be accepted. Emergency situations which require you to miss an exam/deadline must be discussed with me in advance or as soon as they arise.

**Classroom Expectations**
☑ Students are expected to arrive on time and attend and participate in all classes. If you miss a class, please arrange to get announcements, handouts, class notes, etc. from a fellow student. Also check Blackboard for new postings and/or assignments.
☑ In addition to being present, you are expected to actively participate in all aspects of the class. This means that, not only are you expected to contribute to class discussions and
group activities, but that your comments, questions, and contributions should indicate that you have read the assigned material and are prepared to contribute to class meetings.

✓ We are all adults and it is expected that we will treat other students, teaching assistants/graders, and the instructor with respect. During discussions, feel free to express your disagreement with ideas but refrain from criticizing or belittling anyone (including researchers, authors, etc.) with whom you disagree. Also, while I understand the demands on a college student’s life (social, work related, and academic), I consider sleeping in class and using cell phones disrespectful.

✓ Please respect your classmates’ desire to learn in an environment free from unnecessary distractions. Do not engage in any behavior which is disruptive to the class. This includes engaging in side conversations, talking on the phone, reading or writing that has nothing to do with class, surfing the web, sending or receiving text messages, etc. If I see this going on in class, I assume that you are not participating and may ask you to leave.

✓ Please silent all cell phones and electronic alarms before class begins.

✓ If there is a situation or issue that you know about ahead of time, please let me know. Please do not schedule other activities such as work or meetings during class time. You will not be excused from in-class work missed when you schedule other activities such as these during class meeting times.

Using Resources Outside of Class
There are a number of resources available to you outside of class and I strongly encourage you to contact me if you have any questions, difficulties, comments, or simply want feedback. I want you to succeed in this class.

I encourage you to set up study groups or work with a partner whenever appropriate. Discussing the textbook material together and talking about what we are doing in class can be a great way to test your ability to express the ideas you are developing.

You are also strongly encouraged to make use of the Center for Academic Student Achievement (CASA). CASA offers a variety of services including tutoring, writing assistance, and mentors. The personnel in the center are a great resource to help you with various aspects of academic and college life. You can access their website for additional information at http://casa.tamucc.edu/.

The Counseling Center can help you to better understand and address factors which may interfere with your academic success. Counseling can help to increase self-awareness, improve self-confidence, strengthen coping skills, and teach you more effective strategies for all aspects of your life. Counselors can also help you to improving study skills, reduce text anxiety, strengthen time management skills, and improve problem solving skills. They are located in the Driftwood Building and you can access their website at http://counseling.tamucc.edu/

Correspondence
Email is the best way to get in touch with me. Be sure to include your course & section number in the email subject line. I generally 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. While most questions can probably be answered via email, you may also schedule meetings
during office hours to discuss more complicated concerns. Be sure to identify and remedy any concerns as early as you can during the semester. The more time we have to address concerns, the more likely it is that 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.

I will also periodically send emails to your student islander account. If you haven't already, you are encouraged to sync your islander email with your phone so that you don't miss any important messages.

**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.) Make sure you are familiar with all the information on TAMUCC’s Academic Honesty Policy at [http://catalog.tamucc.edu/content.php?catoid=8&navoid=242#Academic_Honesty](http://catalog.tamucc.edu/content.php?catoid=8&navoid=242#Academic_Honesty) and if you have any questions or are unclear about anything, by all means please talk with me or contact someone at the Center for Academic and Student Achievement (CASA) at [http://casa.tamucc.edu/](http://casa.tamucc.edu/) before engaging in any questionable behavior. 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.

While all of your exams in this course are online and you may use notes/study guides, you are expected to complete these exams independently (i.e. not in groups). If for any reason as your instructor, I suspect your work is not your own or that you have not adhered to the university academic honesty guidelines in completing assignments, I reserve the right to challenge a test or any graded score. In case of suspected problems with performance, I will ask you to complete a random selection of oral items as a judge of knowledge of the material. If you are unable or unwilling to complete the requested items, an exam/quiz/assignment grade of zero for the activity in question will be given and you will be referred for an academic integrity issue.

**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. The last day to drop a course this semester will be November 11th.

**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. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. 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.

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.

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.

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.

Grade Appeals Process
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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 Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures (available at http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C2.01_student_grade_appeal_procedure.pdf). For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.
Course Schedule
This is a tentative schedule. Dates may change at the discretion of the Instructor.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>01/18 - 01/20</td>
<td>Intro to Course; The Science of Psychology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>01/23 - 01/27</td>
<td>The Science of Psychology/ Neuroscience &amp; Biological Foundations</td>
<td>1,2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>01/30 - 02/03</td>
<td>Neuroscience and Biological Foundations Stress &amp; Health Psychology</td>
<td>2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>02/06 - 02/10</td>
<td>Stress &amp; Health Psychology Exam #1 (02/10)</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>02/13 - 02/17</td>
<td>Sensation and Perception</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>02/20 - 02/24</td>
<td>Learning</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>02/27 - 03/03</td>
<td>Memory</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>03/06 - 03/10</td>
<td>Memory Exam #2 (03/10)</td>
<td>4, 6, 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>03/13 - 03/17</td>
<td>Spring Break NO CLASS</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>03/20 - 03/24</td>
<td>Motivation and Emotion Thinking, Language &amp; Intelligence</td>
<td>10, 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>03/27 - 03/31</td>
<td>Thinking, Language &amp; Intelligence Personality</td>
<td>8, 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>04/03 - 04/07</td>
<td>Personality Exam # 3 (04/07) Last Day to Drop Class (04/07)</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>04/10 - 04/14</td>
<td>Psychological Disorders</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>04/17 - 04/21</td>
<td>Therapy</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>04/24 – 04/28</td>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>05/01 - 05/05</td>
<td>Exam #4 (05/01)</td>
<td>12,13,14</td>
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Wednesday, May 10
11am to 1:30pm
Final Comprehensive Exam