General Psychology
Psych-2301.006
Fall 2016

Professor: Curt Johnson, Ed.S., NCSP
Office: BH 3rd Floor, cubicle A
Email: curt.johnson@tamucc.edu
Office Hours: Wed 6-6:45pm

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 Materials
Real World Psychology by Karen Huffman and Catherine Sanderson
ISBN: 9781118797655

Strongly recommended with Wiley Plus online access code ISBN: 9781119010098

The book is available through the bookstore, wiley.com, and various other outlets. The book is available to purchase as a hard copy, digital copy, or both. Any version of the textbook is fine for the requirements of this class, but please take moment to understand what you will be using it for before you make a decision on which version to purchase.

At the most basic level, you will need your book to read each assigned chapter prior to class each week. You will also need your book to study for and take your open-notes exams. Exams will all be taken in a lockdown browser that does not allow access to other sites or programs, so this may be influential in deciding which version to purchase. The online access to Wiley Plus provides valuable resources for further study, and will be required to access some of the extra credit offered.
**Blackboard**

This course will use Blackboard for most assignments and exams. Please check Blackboard regularly because required assignments and 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 ISP.

Grades will be kept current in blackboard so that you can stay on top of your semester average. You are encouraged to check your grades regularly and alert the professor to any suspected irregularities in a timely manner.

**Respondus Lockdown Browser**

All online exams will require the use of Respondus Lockdown Browser. This application is already installed on all computers on campus, but if you wish to take the exams from a personal computer you must install the software yourself. You can find the software at [https://iol.tamucc.edu/respondus.html](https://iol.tamucc.edu/respondus.html) and downloading the program on the right side, which is labeled as Respondus Lockdown Browser.

**Exams**

You will take three online multiple-choice exams during the semester. The exams will cover material that is presented in the lectures and/or covered in the assigned readings. The average of the three exams will make up 70% of your grade. Exams will be open online after class at 8:30pm on Wednesday and will remain open for 48 hours. Exams must be completed before the testing window ends. Exams will be time limited, and you should plan appropriately. No make up exams will be allowed. Online exams are open-notes but use of the internet or peers is strictly prohibited and will be regarded as cheating. All online exams must be taken using Responds Lockdown Browser.

**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. Unlike your 3 online exams, the final will be written and administered in class. 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 quizzes based on the reading 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 30%.

Only university-approved absences will be excused from deadlines, but these arrangements must be made ahead of time. Should you miss a deadline due to a university-excused absence but failed to plan this with me ahead of time, you will take a 0 on the assignment or exam. Please discuss any emergencies or other mitigating circumstances with me.

All online assignment submission must be formatted to PDF. If you are not sure how to format your assignment as a PDF please contact the professor before the assignment is due. Submissions made in other formats may not be compatible with blackboard and as such will not be graded.

Your overall grade will be calculated based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent of Total Grade</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70%</td>
<td>Exam Average = _____ * .70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Homework/Activities/Quizzes = _____ * .30</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 prepared to 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. Students are expected to read assigned chapters prior to class each week.

 ✓ 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.

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

 ✓ If you find it helpful to audio record lecture, you may do so without any further permission. You may not video record or photograph any portion of the lecture (this includes snapchat).

**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. Counseling services are offered free of charge to all students are part of the student insurance you have already purchased. Counseling services are located in the Driftwood Building and you can access their website at http://counseling.tamucc.edu/.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

We will use Blackboard for posting important class documents including information about tests, supplemental readings, assignments, instructions for various writing assignments, announcements, etc. You should also check email regularly to ensure that you do not miss any important announcements. Important notices and announcements will be sent to your islander email account. If you do not have a habit of regularly checking this account, you may want to set up email forwarding.

Email is the best way to get in touch with me. I generally respond to email immediately, and always within 24 hours. 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 are encouraged to drop by my office hours for any questions or concerns without appointment. I strongly advise you to identify and remedy any concerns as early as you can. The more time we have to address concerns, the more likely it is that we can 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. As a professor, I value problem solving. Should a difficult situation arise, approaching me with a plausible solution will more likely result in a successful remedy than addressing me solely with your problem. If you need to contact me by phone during the week, my off-campus office number is (361) 242-5626 x7029.

**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://
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.

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, gender-identity, 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. I will happily accommodate any ADA accessibility concerns after you provide me with documentation from Disability Services.

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 APPEAL 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, [http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html](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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8/24</td>
<td>Intro to Course; The Science of Psychology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8/31</td>
<td>The Science of Psychology</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Last Day to Add Class</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9/7</td>
<td>Neuroscience and Biological Foundations</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9/14</td>
<td>Neuroscience and Biological Foundations/ Learning</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>9/21</td>
<td>Learning</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>9/28</td>
<td>Stress &amp; Health Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Exam 1 (Ch 1, 2, 6, &amp; 3)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>10/5</td>
<td>Memory</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>10/12</td>
<td>Motivation and Emotion</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10/19</td>
<td>Thinking, Language &amp; Intelligence</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10/26</td>
<td>Thinking, Language &amp; Intelligence/Personality</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>11/2</td>
<td>Personality</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td><strong>Exam 2 (Ch 7, 10, 8, 11)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>11/9</td>
<td>Psychological Disorders</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td><strong>Last Day to Drop Class 11/11</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>11/16</td>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>11/30</td>
<td>Therapy</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td><strong>Exam 3 (Ch 12, 13, 14)</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>12/13</td>
<td>Final Comprehensive Exam</td>
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<td><strong>7:15pm - 9:45pm</strong></td>
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