General Psychology
PSYC 2301.381
Spring 2017

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Class Location: MWF 11am CI 113

Office Hours (BH 318):
MW 930a-1030a
TR 830a-915a

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:


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.

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 **4 exams** during the semester. The exams will cover material that is presented in the lectures or covered in the assigned readings and will consist of multiple choice questions. These exams will be given **online** on the scheduled exam days (See Weekly Syllabus). The average of the four exams will make up 50% of your grade.

**OPTIONAL COMPREHENSIVE EXAM:**
In addition to the four required exams, there will also be an **optional comprehensive exam (OCE)**. Please note that this exam will be given **ONLINE** 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 25%.

**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.

- **% of total grade** | **ASSIGNMENTS:**
  - **50%**  | Exam average = _____ * .50
  - **10%**  | Integrative Assignment #1 = _____ * .10
  - **10%**  | Integrative Assignment #2 = _____ * .10
  - **20%**  | Homework/Activities/Quizzes = _____ * .25
  - **10%**  | Attendance = _____ * .5
  - **100%** | Total= Exams + Homework + Integrative Assignments + Attendance
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 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, April 7th 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

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 Calendar (Tentative)

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<tr>
<th>Week of</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/18 and 1/20</td>
<td>Intro to Course; The Science of Psychology</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/23</td>
<td>The Science of Psychology/The Biological Perspective</td>
<td>1,2</td>
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<td>1/30</td>
<td>The Biological Perspective</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/6</td>
<td>Sensation</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/13</td>
<td>Perception/Learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/20</td>
<td>Learning, Memory</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/27</td>
<td>Memory</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/6</td>
<td>Cognition</td>
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<td>3/13-17</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/20</td>
<td>Motivation and Emotion</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/27</td>
<td>Personality</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/3</td>
<td>Exam #3 (Friday – April 7)</td>
<td>12,13</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/7</td>
<td>Last Day to Drop Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/10</td>
<td>Psychological Disorders and Therapy</td>
<td>12,13</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/17</td>
<td>Psychological Disorders and Therapy</td>
<td>12,13</td>
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<td>4/24</td>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/1</td>
<td>Exam #4 (Monday – May 1)</td>
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Exam Week

Optional Comprehensive Exam