General Psychology
Psychology 2301.393
Spring 2020

Professor: Lauren Denver-Potter, Ph.D.
Email: lauren.denver-potter@tamucc.edu
Office: BH315
Phone: 361-825-2394
Class Days/times: T/R 9:30-10:45am
Class Location: BH103

Office Hours (BH 315): Mondays/Wednesdays 9-10:30am
Tuesdays and Thursdays 8-9am
or by appointment

Theme: TBD
The theme of this learning community this semester reflects the importance of being able to understand, appreciate, and articulate complicated issues that 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 learning community 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 www.facebook.com/drfeelgoodldp. 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 (2nd ed)
ISBN: 9781119600688

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.

Top Hat Subscription: You will need to purchase access to the Top Hat platform either via phone app or through web access. This will be a required resource for use during class. The information is attached to the end of this syllabus for more information on how to purchase.

Laptop or tablet to take exams: You will need a laptop or tablet to take exams which will be proctored in the classroom on exam dates. You can use these devices for Top Hat during class as well. You may also use these devices to take notes if you wish.

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.
Course Evaluation

Readings
Assigned chapters from the textbook should be read before the class during which we will discuss them. You may also be assigned additional readings throughout the semester. Instructions on accessing assigned readings will be posted on Blackboard. These supplemental readings are designed to broaden your understanding of the subject material.

EXAMS (40% of final grade): 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. (See Weekly Syllabus). The average of the four exams will make up 40% of your grade. You MUST bring a laptop or tablet to take the exams within the classroom on the assigned exam dates. The only exception to this is if you are receiving accommodations through disability services and have authorization to take your exam through Exam Services in the round building.

OPTIONAL FINAL COMPREHENSIVE EXAM (averaged into exam grade if higher than one missed or low regular exam):
In addition to the four required exams, there will also be an optional final comprehensive exam (OCE). Please note that this exam will be given 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.

WILEY PLUS (25% of final grade):
To ensure you are keeping up with lectures and/or readings in class, chapter lecture quizzes will be due each week. Some chapters will have more than one quiz. You will have quizzes for each chapter we cover. All of these quizzes are each worth varying numbers of points that will be added up at the end of the semester for a total point maximum value of 100. These are completed in Blackboard within Wiley Plus. Quizzes will close at their respective due dates/times. There will be no make-up quizzes.

INTEGRATIVE ASSIGNMENTS (EACH 10% of final grade for total of 20%):
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.
CONVERSATIONS ABOUT CULTURE (10% of final grade):
This will be a journal assignment that you work on the entire semester that will allow you to explore different dimensions about culture through scripted conversations with your peers. More details will be provided in class and on Blackboard at a later date. Your 3 culture journals plus your final write up will be worth 10% of your grade.

Attendance (5% of your grade)
You MUST attend class on a regular basis. This is a face-to-face section, and you will miss important information when you miss class. To track attendance and participation, you will utilize the Top Hat application or Top Hat web access. More information on this will be given in class.
You get three freebie absences. After three absences over the course of the semester, you start losing 5 points per absence off this entire grade. If you are involved in university sports or functions, those absences are excused with proper documentation. If you have an emergency, you may contact me to discuss how to make sure you stay on top of class topics, though without documentation the absence may not be excused. If you are sick, if you bring a doctor’s note the absence is excused. Please take note of the health clinic available to students on-campus for free or discounted rates. Reference their webpage within the TAMUCC website for more information or to contact them.

Homework and in-class activities 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.

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.

More about attendance:
This is a face-to-face section, and you will miss important information when you miss class. To take attendance, every class period will require your log-in through the Top-Hat application (which will show up on the screen during class). Additionally, class activities and regular exams based on chapter lectures and readings will be conducted throughout the semester and missing class will be detrimental to your performance on those class requirements. As required by the Financial Aid and Registrar’s offices, if you stop attending classes, your name will be reported as a “stopped attending” student, which could cause ramifications to your student record and financial aid funds.
Attendance will be tracked by Top-Hat, the assignments, and exams you turn in. Once your activity in Blackboard has stopped and/or class log-ins have stopped, the last date will be noted and your name will be forwarded to required entities. Blackboard and Top-Hat are required resources for participating in course lessons and Blackboard/Top Hat are utilized to track your attendance. If you have an emergency, you may contact me to discuss how to make sure you stay on top of class topics.
Homework and in-class activities 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.

Situations which require you to miss a deadline must be discussed with me in advance, and will be decided on a case-by-case basis. 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>Online Regular Test 1</th>
<th>100 points each, Will average 4 highest test scores for the test average</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Regular Test 2</td>
<td>100 points each, Will average 4 highest test scores for the test average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Regular Test 3</td>
<td>100 points each, Will average 4 highest test scores for the test average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Regular Test 4</td>
<td>100 points each, Will average 4 highest test scores for the test average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam Optional (Comprehensive)</td>
<td>100 points possible totaled from all quizzes (total 25% of final grade)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter Lecture/Reading Quizzes</td>
<td>100 points possible totaled from all quizzes (total 25% of final grade)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Reflections</td>
<td>100 points possible (total 10% of final grade)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Four reflective writings about culture graded on 100 point scale then averaged</td>
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<tr>
<td>– more instructions to be given in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integrative Assignments 1&amp;2</td>
<td>Two in the semester with each one graded on 100 point scale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Each one worth 10% of final grade (total 20%)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>100 total points possible (total 5% of final grade)</td>
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<td>Download the Top Hat app or access in the web</td>
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**FINAL GRADE BASED ALL FOUR CATEGORIES ABOVE**

| 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. Please do NOT ask me what you missed.

- In addition to being present, you are required 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.

- Please respect your classmates’ desire to learn in an environment free from unnecessary distractions. Do not engage in any behavior that 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 will assume that you are not participating and may ask you to leave.

- Silence 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.

- If it is absolutely necessary for you to enter or leave the classroom once class is in session, do so in the quietest and least disruptive fashion possible.

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 skills, and teach you more effective strategies for all aspects of your life. Counselors can also help you to improve 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 are also encouraged to drop by my office during office hours or make an appointment outside of those hours so we can discuss more complicated concerns. I advise you 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.

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 your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. 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 class with an automatic grade of “W” this term is April 10th.

Grade Appeals
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to the 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.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the
course is taught or the Office of the Provost. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at:
http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.c0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf.

Statement of Civility
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.

Disabilities Accommodations
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 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.

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 report to the Associate Dean of Students Angela Walker along with a zero for that assignment.
Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

**Definition:** In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. Plagiarism is a violation of academic expectations, but it is sometimes difficult to understand what plagiarism actually is. Often, students commit unintentional plagiarism (not citing sources properly, for example), because they are unaware of the standards that apply. Plagiarism includes:

- Using the work of another as your own,
- Downloading or purchasing ready-made essays off the web and using them as your own,
- Using resource materials without correct documentation,
- Using the organization or language of a source without using quote marks and proper citation.
- Turning in a researched project without citing sources in an appropriate documentation style.

When you are confused about citation of quotes or ideas, please visit the Writing Center or me to get help. Information on MLA documentation rules and APA documentation rules is available at Purdue University’s OWL: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/), and from our local Writing Center at CASA.

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.
**COURSE SCHEDULE**  
*This is a tentative schedule, and is subject to change*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>CHAPTER READINGS</th>
<th>MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS &amp; EXAMS</th>
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</table>
| Week 1    | Welcome and Introduction to the course; Research Methods | Chapter 1        | Wiley Lecture/Reading Quiz Ch. 1 due 1/30  
Signed Syllabus and Email Contract Due 1/30 |
| Week 2    | Research Methods                      | Chapter 1        | Wiley Lecture/Reading Quiz Ch. 2 due 2/6                      |
| Week 3    | Neuroscience and Biological Foundations | Chapter 2        | Wiley Lecture/Reading Quiz Ch. 3 due 2/13  
Exam 1 – Thursday 2/13 Chapters 1-3  
Cultural Reflection 1 Due 2/20 |
| Week 4    | Stress and Health Psychology          | Chapter 3        | Wiley Lecture/Reading Quiz Ch. 4 due 2/20  
Cultural Reflection 2 Due 2/20 |
| Week 5    | Sensation and Perception              | Chapter 4        | Wiley Lecture/Reading Quiz Ch. 5 due 2/27  
Cultural Reflection 3 Due 2/27 |
| Week 6    | States of Consciousness; Learning     | Chapter 5; Chapter 6 | Wiley Lecture/Reading Quiz Ch. 6 due 3/5  
Exam 2 – Thursday 3/5 Chapters 4-6  
Cultural Reflection 2 Due 3/5 |
| Week 7    | Learning Continued                    | Chapter 6        | Wiley Lecture/Reading Quiz Ch. 7 due 3/19  
Cultural Reflection 3 Due 4/2 |
| Week 8    | Memory                                | Chapter 7        | Wiley Lecture/Reading Quiz Ch. 8 due 3/26  
Cultural Reflection 3 Due 4/2 |
| Week 9    | Thinking, Language and Intelligence   | Chapter 8        | Wiley Lecture/Reading Quiz Ch. 10 due 4/2  
Exam 3 – Thursday 4/2 Chapters 7, 8, 10  
Cultural Reflection 3 Due 4/2 |
| Week 10   | Motivation and Emotion                | Chapter 10       |                                                                 |

*All due dates imply a due date time of 11:59pm as the cut-off*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 11</th>
<th>Personality</th>
<th>Chapter 11</th>
<th>Last Day to drop a class – 4/10 Wiley Lecture/Reading Quiz Ch. 11 due 4/9</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/7, 4/9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Psychological Disorders</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
<td>Wiley Lecture/Reading Quiz Ch. 12 due 4/21</td>
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<td>4/14, 4/16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Psychological Disorders Continued; Therapy</td>
<td>Chapter 12; Chapter 13</td>
<td>Wiley Lecture/Reading Quiz Ch. 12 due 4/21</td>
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<td>4/21, 4/23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Therapy continued</td>
<td>Chapter 13</td>
<td>Wiley Lecture/Reading Quiz Ch. 13 due 4/30 Exam 4 – Thursday 4/30 Chapters 11-13 Final Cultural Reflection Due 4/30</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/28, 4/30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 15</td>
<td>Review of Chapters for Final</td>
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<td>Review in class</td>
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<td>5/5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date/time pending awaiting university exam schedule</td>
<td>Final Optional Comprehensive Exam</td>
<td>All Chapters</td>
<td>In Classroom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Top Hat

We will be using the Top Hat (www.tophat.com) classroom response system in class. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message.

You can visit the Top Hat Overview (https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Top-Hat-Overview-and-Getting-Started-Guide) within the Top Hat Success Center which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system.

An email invitation will be sent to you by email, but if don’t receive this email, you can register by simply visiting Blackboard
Note: our Course Join Code is 737802

Top Hat may require a paid subscription, and a full breakdown of all subscription options available can be found here: www.tophat.com/pricing.

Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time, due to the fact that they require specific user information to troubleshoot these issues, please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491.

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