

Syllabus for PSYC 2301-General Psychology

Begins 08/22/2011 Ends 12/09/2011

Instructor: Raynie Gibbs
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Class Day/Time: MWF 9:00-9:50 AM
Section: 2
Classroom: Wilkerson Hall 234, Face to Face
Office Hrs: M-Th 1-2:45pm / T 10am-12pm

Course Description:

This course is intended to present a basic understanding of psychological terms, theories, and methodologies. This scientific discipline focuses studies on behavior and mental processes, cognitive abilities such as problem solving, decision making, and communication, affective states like building self-esteem and sociability, and behavioral events where one participates as a group member. Information acquisition, interpretation, and communication of a psychological nature are the basis on which this course is predicated. In this way, psychological principles are understandable in the context of biology, the brain, neurotransmitters and hormones, personality theory, learning principles, lifespan development, relationships, abnormal psychology and therapies. A wide application of topics is the focus of this introductory course.

Prerequisites/Co-Requisites: none

Course Objectives:

Students will gain a basic understanding of psychological terms, theories, and methodologies in the scientific discipline that studies behavior and mental processes. Key terminology will be emphasized because knowledge of the terminology is essential to an understanding of the basic concepts of psychology. In this way, psychological principles are understandable in the context of biology, the brain, neurotransmitters and hormones, personality theory, learning principles, life-span development, relationships, abnormal psychology, and therapies.

Required Textbook:

Carpenter, S & Huffman, K. (2010). Visualizing Psychology-2nd Ed. Hoboken, NJ: J Wiley & Sons, Inc. ISBN: 978-0-470-41017-2

Additional Supplies:

- 1) 5 Scantron Sheets (one for each test to be given during the semester)
- 2) #2 pencil on test days
- 3) Note-taking materials for each class period

COURSE CALENDAR - Week of:

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| August | 22 | Course Introduction, begin Chapter 1 |
| | 29 | Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 |
| September | 5 | LABOR DAY , Chapter 4, Review for Test #1 |
| | 12 | TEST #1 (Chapters 1-4) , Chapter 5 |
| | 19 | Chapter 6, Learning Styles |
| | 26 | Chapter 7, Review for Test #2 |
| October | 3 | TEST #2 (Chapters 5-7) , Chapter 8 |
| | 10 | Chapter 11, 20/20 Video "Gender" |
| | 17 | Chapter 9, Receive Autobiography Instructions |
| | 24 | Chapter 10, Review for Test #3 |

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| November | 31 | TEST #3 (Chapters 8-11) , Chapter 12, Personality Test |
| | 7 | Chapter 13, Personality Disorder Group Project |
| | 14 | Video "A Beautiful Mind", Review for Test #4, PD Group Project Due |
| | 21 | AUTOBIOGRAPHY DUE , |
| | | TEST #4 (Chapters 12-13) |
| | 28 | Chapter 14 & Chapter 15, Review for Final Exam |

FINAL EXAM WILL BE WED DEC 7 FROM 8:00-10:30AM

Personality Disorder Group Project:

You will work in groups to research a personality disorder, write up an APA format report, and present to the class.

Psychological Autobiography:

You will write a 5-7 page Psychological biography of yourself. The goal of this paper is for you to identify how you became who you are based on psychological influences in your life. You must have 3 sources for the psychological theories in your paper, including **at least one professional journal article**. The paper will be written in APA format, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font, with 1-inch margins. The paper will include a title page and Sources (Works Cited) page.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is important. If you are absent, your perception of the material is adversely affected. Please make every effort to attend and be on time.

Attendance will be taken by sign in sheet. **YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO SIGN IN ORDER TO RECEIVE CREDIT FOR ATTENDING FOR THE CLASS.** *Ten (10) points of your grade is based on your attendance. You will receive all 10 points with 2 absences or less. You will receive 5 points for 3-5 absences. After 5 absences, you will receive **NO** points.

Grades:

Grades will be calculated based on test grades, the Psychological Autobiography Paper, and attendance, and available on Blackboard.

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|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| ATTENDANCE* | 10 POINTS | _____ |
| TEST #1 | 10 POINTS | _____ |
| TEST #2 | 10 POINTS | _____ |
| TEST #3 | 10 POINTS | _____ |
| TEST #4 | 10 POINTS | _____ |
| Personality Disorder Project | 20 POINTS | _____ |
| AUTOBIOGRAPHY | 25 POINTS | _____ |
| FINAL EXAM | 15 POINTS | _____ |
| <u>TOTAL POSSIBLE</u> | <u>110 POINTS</u> | _____ |

Letter Grades for the semester will be assigned based on total points earned.

110-90 A 89-80 B 79-70 C 69-60 D 59 OR Below F

Late Work / Make-up Work Policy:

Anything handed in after the due date will receive a grade of zero (0). If for any reason you will miss a test, you must make arrangements with me **IN ADVANCE to make-up the test at a designated time**. I do not accept late work. Talk to me individually in emergency cases.

Earning a Grade of Incomplete Policy:

A grade of “Incomplete” may be given only if (1) the student has passed all work completed, and (2) he/she has completed a minimum of 75% of the required coursework. A grade of “I” will only be assigned when the conditions for completions have been discussed and agreed upon by the instructor and the student.

Academic Ethics and “The Honor Code”:

You are expected to do your work without cheating. Tests should reflect your own efforts and Psychology Autobiographies should reflect your own creativity. If unethical behavior is discovered, it will be forwarded to the department chair for disposition.

Special Needs:

Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have any special needs or issues pertaining to your access to and participation in this or any other class at Odessa College, please feel free to contact me to discuss your concerns. You may also call the Office of Disability services at 432-335-6861 to request assistance and accommodations.

Learning Resource Center (Library):

The Library, known as the [Learning Resources Center](#), provides research assistance via the [LRC’s catalog \(print books, videos, e-books\)](#) and [databases \(journal and magazine articles\)](#). [Research guides](#) covering specific subject areas, [tutorials](#), and the [“Ask a Librarian”](#) service provide additional help.

Student E-mail:

Please access your [Odessa College Student E-mail](#), by following the link to either set up or update your account: <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>. **All assignments or correspondence will be submitted using your Odessa College email.**

Student Portal:

Please access your [Odessa College Student E-mail](#), by following the link to either set up or update your account: <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>. **All assignments or correspondence will be submitted using your Odessa College email.**

Technical Support:

For Blackboard username and password help and for help accessing your online course availability and student email account contact the Student Success Center at 432-335-6878 or online at https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk_form.htm.

Important School Policies:

For information regarding student support services, academic dishonesty, disciplinary actions, special accommodations, or student's and instructors' right to academic freedom can be found in the [Odessa College Student Handbook](#).

***This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor’s discretion.