Psychology 2301: Introduction to Psychology
Spring 2011 (1/18/2011 to 5/12/2011)

COURSE INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS:

Instructor: Gary W. McCullough, Ph.D.
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Phone: 432.556.1325
Office Hours: Following class meeting
Class meeting: 2:00 p.m. to 3:20 p.m. Monday
Classroom: 239 Wilkerson Hall

Required Textbook: Carpenter, S., & Huffman, K. (2010). *Visualizing psychology*, 2nd Ed. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley and Sons.

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.

Prerequisites/Corequisites
None

Course Objectives
Define psychology and its four primary goals.
Explain the origins of psychology and the seven major perspectives that have emerged from its study.
Describe the scientific method and key ethical issues in psychological research.
Describe the advantages and disadvantages of four research methods.
Describe and define neurons and how they communicate information.
Describe the organization of the central and peripheral nervous system.
Identify and explain the roles of the lower level brain structures.
Describe the cerebral cortex, including its four cortical lobes and two hemispheres
Discuss how behavioral genetics and evolutionary psychology explainbehavior
Define and differentiate sensation and perception.
Understand the principles of sensation (i.e., processing, thresholds, adaptation
Describe the mechanisms of vision and hearing, including physical structures and key terms
Describe olfaction, gustation, and kinesthetic sense
Explain perception through the principles of selection, organization, and interpretation*
Define and describe consciousness
Explain what happens to consciousness when we sleep
Describe how psychoactive drugs affect consciousness

Explain how altered states of consciousness such as hypnosis and meditation affect consciousness

Define classical conditioning and its relevance in everyday life.

Explain how operant conditioning works and how it can be used to affect behavior .

Describe how and when we learn, according to the cognitive-social theory.

Identify the neurological changes that occur with learning.

Explain how prejudice, marketing, medical treatments, and phobias are influenced by conditioning and learning.

Summarize the four major memory models

Explain the biological aspects of memory, including how memories are formed and where they are stored

Describe how quickly we forget and theories of why of forget

Identify techniques for improving memory

*Summarize the three most important debates in developmental psychology.

Describe the physical changes that occur during prenatal, early childhood, and adolescent development.

Identify the major characteristics of Piaget's four stages of cognitive development

Explain how attachment affects social development.

Summarize Kohlberg's theory of moral development and Erikson's eight stages of psychosocial development.

Describe how gender differences are related to cognitive, personality, and social development.

Identify factors that influence realistic relationship expectations and life satisfaction.

Explain the three basic concepts about death and dying.

Summarize three biologically based theories of motivation.

Describe the internal and external factors that affect eating and sexual behavior.

Explain the physiological, cognitive, and behavioral components of emotion.

Compare the major theories of emotion and cultural influence on emotion

Define the big five personality traits.

Summarize the main contributions of Freud's psychoanalytic theory and those of subsequent psychodynamic theorists.

Describe the main premise of humanistic theory.

Identify Bandura's and Rotter's contributions to social cognitive theories.

Explain how biological factors such as brain structure, neurochemistry, and genetics affect personality.

Summarize the benefits and limitations of various personality assessment methods

Indicate four criteria for identifying abnormal behavior.

Describe the structure of the DSM-IV-TR.

Identify and describe four major anxiety disorders.

Differentiate between major depressive disorder and bipolar disorder.

Describe the common symptoms of schizophrenia as well as contributing biological and psychosocial factors.

Identify major characteristics of substance abuse, dissociative, and personality disorders.

Explain how gender and culture affect abnormal behavior

Some course objectives may or may not be covered due to time constraints. Syllabus may be changed at any time if deemed necessary by instructor. Assignments are to be submitted using the Blackboard system. Assignments must be submitted in rich text format. Tests will be given using the blackboard system. The final will be given in class.

Class Schedule and Assignments:

Week #	Date	Reading Assignment	Homework assignment	Exam due
MLK Holiday	1/18 -1/20	none	none	
2	1/25 - 1/27	Chapter 1	M/C for Chapter 1	
3	2/1 - 2/3	Chapter 2	M/C for Chapter 2	
4	2/8 - 2/10	Chapter 3	M/C for Chapter 3	
5	2/15 - 2/17	Chapter 4	M/C for Chapter 4	
6	2/22 - 2/24	Chapter 5	M/C for Chapter 5	
7	3/1 - 3/3	Chapter 6	M/C for Chapter 6	Ch. 1 - 5 due by 3/4
8	3/8 - 3/10	Chapter 7	M/C for Chapter 7	
Spring Break	3/15 - 3/17	Holiday	Holiday	
9	3/22 - 3/24	Chapter 8	M/C for Chapter 8	
10	3/29 - 3/31	Chapter 9	M/C for Chapter 9	
11	4/5 - 4/7	Chapter 10	M/C for Chapter 10	
12	4/12 - 4/14	Chapter 11	M/C for Chapter 11	Ch. 6 - 10 due by 4/15
13	4/19 - 4/21	Chapter 12	M/C for Chapter 12	
14	4/26 - 4/28	Chapter 13	M/C for Chapter 13	
15	5/3 - 5/5	Chapter 15	M/C for Chapter 15	
Finals Week	5/12/2011			Ch. 11 - 15 due by 5/12

Course Requirements

Lecture:

Attendance at all lectures is required. Two excused absences are permitted over the course of the semester. After that, ten points will be deducted from the final point total for the course. All students are expected to be prepared to answer questions regarding the assigned reading.

Online Discussion

The instructor will post discussion questions to Blackboard. All students must respond to the discussion question, and make at least two additional substantive posts in response to other student's posts. A post will be considered substantive if it:

Adds value to the discussion and avoids simply repeating, agreeing with, or answering yes or no to peers' comments;

Challenges comments in class, including those of the instructor;

Asks insightful questions;

Answers other student's questions;

Exemplifies the point with real-life events, when possible, making sure not to go beyond the boundaries of confidentiality; or

Makes comments that are relevant to the course content and objectives.

Homework Assignments:

The homework assignments for this class are to write a multiple-choice (M/C) question based on the assigned readings each week. These M/C questions must be turned in before class begins on Tuesday. These questions will be submitted through the Blackboard website. Each question will be worth 20 points. They will be evaluated based on how well they identify key elements in the assigned reading, as well as grammar, punctuation, and appropriate word usage.

A M/C question should be written by starting with four distractors that are somewhat similar. Two of the distractors should be fairly similar, the other two less similar to the original two distractors. For example: a) Odessa College; b) Midland College; c) University of Texas; and d) Texas Tech University. Then you write a question that distinguishes between the two distractors most similar: The institution of higher education in the Permian Basin with forty national sport championships is_____ . The question limits the possible choices to Odessa College and Midland College by indicating the institution has to be in the Permian Basin, then the choice is between these two. If the student has read the assignment the choice is easy. But if not, the choice becomes a 1-in-4 chance of getting the answer correct.

Writing M/C questions isn't easy. You have to read and think about the material to come up with four distractors that are somewhat similar, and then write a question that distinguishes between the two close options. After you have written the question, look it over for correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation. But also read it aloud to see if it sounds right. Put each of the distractors in as an answer to see if it is possible to be correct as well as the distractor you planned to identify with the question. For example, what is wrong with this question:

The institution of higher education in Odessa, Texas is ____.
a) Odessa College; b) UTPB; c) Midland College; d) Texas Tech University

As you can see, either a or b would be a correct response.

The best M/C questions from each week will be chosen for the three exams. The better you write your questions, the better chance your questions will be chosen for inclusion.

Exams:

The three exams will cover roughly one-third of the book. Each of these exams will be worth 100 points. The exams will be posted in Blackboard and you will have until Friday of the week following the included chapters to complete the exam online. The last exam will be due on the Final exam date for this class, May 12, 2011.

Grading

Multiple choice questions (14 assignments @ 20 points each)   280 points
Exams (3 exams @ 100 points each)   300 points
Participation online (14 weeks @ 20 points each)   280 points
         Total points available   860 points

Grade   **Range of points**

A	774 to 860
B	688 to 773
C	602 to 687
D	516 to 601
F	less than 515