

Psychology 2012 Fall 2009

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Course Description: This is an introductory course on the field of psychology as a whole. We will cover topics ranging from the founding of psychology as a science to topics in social psychology. The course is structured to give a basic overview and understanding to psychology as well as looking at the daily application of psychological principles. Students will learn to think like a psychologist. This means that you will learn how to challenge conventional wisdom, think objectively and develop methods to test hypotheses. Regardless if you choose a career in psychology, the skills that you will learn will be applicable in any future field of study that you may choose. There is also an emphasis on written work in this class as a way of ascertaining your grasp of the course material.

Course Expectations: In this course there will be several things that are expected of you. You are expected to take an active part in this course. Psychology is a course that leads to many discussions and in class assignments to demonstrate different concepts. You will have an opportunity to learn from your fellow classmates by participating in-group activities. You are expected to take notes based on lectures and generate questions based off of lecture materials. You will be doing a large amount of reading from your textbook. You are expected to be ready for class by reviewing and reading the upcoming lecture materials ahead of time. As a means to check for this, unannounced quizzes will be a part of this course. This being a course that is more experiential in nature, it is essential that you make every effort to attend class on a daily basis.

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course you should be able to:

1. Identify key definitions and theories in the field of psychology.
2. Be able to discuss key figures in the founding of the field of psychology and describe their contributions.
3. Identify various psychological disorders and the appropriate methods of treatment for these disorders.
4. Create a timeline of the history of psychology from the Greeks to the present day.
5. Identify the major schools of thought in psychology and their positions on why people act the way that they do.

Required Text: Essentials of Psychology 4th Edition: Houghton/Mifflin
Douglas Bernstein & Peggy Nash

Course Outline:

1. History & Systems of Psychology
2. Biological Bases of Behavior

3. Human Development
4. Sensation & Perception
5. States of Consciousness
6. Learning & Memory
7. Thinking, Language, & Intelligence
8. Motivation & Emotion
9. Health, Stress, & Coping
10. Personality
11. Psychological Disorders & Treatment of Psychological Disorders
12. Social Psychology

Course Requirements & Grading: This course is designed to show how you integrate information. As a result, the majority of your assignments will be written. This gives the instructor a better understanding of your integration of the course material. Below is a list of the assignments that you will be responsible for throughout that semester.

1. *Vocabulary:* You will have list of vocabulary words given to you by the instructor. It will be your responsibility to define the words and find a pictorial representation for the definitions. Assignments turned in without the pictorial representations will receive a maximum grade of 70%.
2. *Reading:* You are responsible to stay current on readings that correspond with lecture content. Assignments are not solely based on lecture material. There will be assignments that came directly from your readings as well as from supplementary materials that will be provided for you by the instructor.
3. *Current Events:* You will be required to complete current event assignments for each chapter that is covered. Students will have access to psychological periodicals as well as local papers in completing this assignment. As an advanced class, students will need to demonstrate a higher level of writing than the standard who, what, when and where. Each current event will be worth 20 points. Late assignments will be accepted with a maximum value of 13 points.
4. *Chapter Presentations:* You will work in small groups to complete presentations on assigned chapters. You will present their information in a lecture style format. Presentations will vary in point value ranging from 75-100 points.
5. *Chapter Questions:* At the beginning of each chapter there will be questions pertaining to that chapter. You will complete those questions based on class lecture and your readings. Chapter questions will vary in length depending upon the chapter. Lat questions will be accepted with a maximum value of 65%.
6. *Chapter Reflections:* These will be 2-3 page papers in length that will focus in on your understanding of the chapter material. They will incorporate what you have learned as well as basic research of external sources. These papers will be in APA format. Each assignment will be worth 30 points. Late assignments will be accepted with a maximum value of 20 points.
7. *Mid-term & Final Exam:* The mid-term will cover material up to that point and the final exam will be cumulative in nature.

Questions regarding the content and criteria of assignments will be discussed on the first day of class. There will be no extra credit assignments available for this course. The grading scale is as follows:

100-90 = A, 89-80 = B, 79-70 = C, 69-60 = D, below 60 = F.

Attendance Policy: Even though you will be taking this course on campus, you are expected to attend all classes. This is a college class that you will be receiving college credit for. As such, your attendance becomes vital to your success in this class. Students, who miss more than 6 classes, including excused absences, may have their final grade lowered one letter grade. If there are circumstances that prevent you from attending class, it is your responsibility to communicate with me the situation. Your participation in the class is important.

Academic Honesty: Academic dishonesty is defined as but not limited to the following. Cheating on any test or quiz. All tests and quizzes are on the computer. It shall be considered cheating if you have any other tabs/web sites open while taking your test/quiz. Cheating on a test/quiz will result on a zero for that test/quiz with no chance of making that test/quiz up. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. All research papers are to be turned in to turnitin.com. There is no acceptable level of plagiarism. All papers will be reviewed with you individually and any issues of plagiarism will be addressed at that time. Copying of another's work is to be considered dishonest. If it is found that your work is identical/similar to any other students work in class both parties will receive a zero for the assignment with no chance of making the assignment up. Working on assignments with partners/friends is acceptable as long as all parties turn in individual assignments. If you do not answer your assignments in your own words, you must give your source credit for the information by adding a citation. All actions of academic dishonesty may result in a referral to the Dean of Student Affairs for disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from Broward Community College.