GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Prefix/Number: PSY2012 (On-Line - eLearning) Term A -- Jan to April, 2013
Course Title: General Psychology PSY2012, Section 2180
Course Credit Hours: 3
Instructor Name and Contact Information:
Dr. Neil C. Davis Ph. (850) 941-0289 -- email ndavis@uwf.edu

Office Hours: By appointment for face-to-face meeting or telephone / email at any time.


Recommended TEXTS: (1) APA publications manual, 6th Ed.
(2) The psychologist's companion: A guide to scientific writing for students and researchers by Robert J. Sternberg or student's choice of similar guides to writing research papers.

Nature of the Course: The format of the course includes PowerPoints, on-line discussions, readings, weekly on-line quizzes, mid-term and final exam, one research paper, and one book opinion paper. The student is expected to have a working knowledge of the computer, i.e., word-processing, email. The course is taught on-line by eLearning, and will require a minimum of four to five hours per week on the computer. Access to the Internet off-campus is an advantage; otherwise the student must self-schedule at least 4-5 hours per week on campus computer station (library or bldg. 41 computer labs).

The General Psychology course is designated as a General Studies course. The General Studies curriculum at the University of West Florida is designed to provide a cohesive program of study that promotes the development of a broadly educated person and provides the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in university studies. This course has been approved as meeting the requirement in the “Behavioral” area. The General Studies learning outcomes for this course are Analysis/Evaluation and Academic Integrity.

If you are interested in a career in Psychology you should contact the School of Psychological and Behavioral Sciences at 850-474-2364. If you are undecided about your career field you should contact Career Services at 850-474-2254 and/or your academic advisor.

Required Orientation Quizzes
Under the “Quizzes: link on the navigation bar in eLearning you will see two quizzes at the top:

1. Academic Integrity Module
2. Syllabus Comprehension Quiz

Both quizzes MUST be completed in the first two weeks of the course. You have unlimited time and as many attempts necessary to receive the REQUIRED 100% grade on both quizzes. If you do not comply with these requirements you will not be able to take weekly quizzes 3 through 17 and will fail the course.

Student Learning Outcomes
For the General Psychology course, upon successful completion of the course, each student can expect to be able to demonstrate mastery of course content through the recognition and
application of the specialized terminology, concepts, and theories that characterize the research and knowledge base for the broad discipline of Psychology. This will include the following:

1. Be able to describe the basic methods employed in psychological research.
2. Be able to describe the professional ethical principles that apply to the practical applications and research activities of the discipline of psychology.
3. Be able to describe examples of the foundation of knowledge, theories, and applications of the learning, social, emotional, biological, cognitive, and developmental influences on behavior.
4. Characterize the nature of psychology as a discipline.
   a. Explain why psychology is a science.
   b. Identify and explain the primary objectives of psychology: describing, understanding, predicting, and controlling behavior and mental processes.

5. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding representing appropriate breadth and depth in selected content areas of psychology:
   a. theory and research representing each of the following four general domains:
      1) learning and cognition
      2) individual differences,
      3) personality,
      4) social processes, including those related to sociocultural and international dimensions
   b. biological bases of behavior and mental processes, including
      1) sensation,
      2) perception,
      3) motivation and emotion
   c. developmental changes in behavior and mental processes across the life span
   d. the history of psychology, including the evolution of methods of psychology, its theoretical conflicts, and its sociocultural contexts
   e. overarching themes, persistent questions, or enduring conflicts in psychology, such as the interaction of heredity and environment variability and continuity of behavior.
   f. free will versus determinism
   g. subjective versus objective perspective
   h. the interaction of mind and body

6. Use the concepts, language, and major theories of the discipline to account for psychological phenomena.
   a. Describe behavior and mental processes empirically, including operational definitions
   b. Use theories to explain and predict behavior and mental processes
   c. Integrate theoretical perspectives to produce comprehensive and multi-faceted explanations
**Grading / Evaluation:** The course grade will be determined as follows:

**Weekly Quizzes:** -- (17 quizzes – one for each Session/Chapter) **25%** of the final grade

**Mid-Term and Final Exam** — **25%** of the final grade (12.5% each)

**Research Paper** – **25%** of the final grade

**Book opinion paper:** -- **25%** of the final grade

Each Monday at 8:00AM a new session will be available to the on-line student. A session consists of:

- Chapter PowerPoint
- Learning Objectives
- Multiple Choice *Practice* Quiz
- True or False *Practice* Quiz
- Web Links
- Flashcards

Then take the Weekly Quiz for grade each week.

Note: the practice quizzes in this section are not recorded for final course grade. They are for your study to practice for the weekly quizzes. The weekly quizzes in the *Quizzes* section are graded and combined with mid- and final exam, research paper, and book opinion paper for the final course grade.

The weekly quizzes are available from 8:00AM each Wednesday through midnight (11:59PM) on Sunday. The quizzes consist of 15 multiple choice and 5 true and false questions and are open for 25 minutes. If the quiz is closed by the student before the 25 minute deadline and re-opened, 20 new questions will be presented and the instructor will be notified.

One way to look at the on-line course as opposed to the traditional campus course is instead of a class period lasting 50 minutes or an hour and 15 minutes, it lasts seven days. The student can enter the (computer) classroom at any time during that seven-day period. When the student feels sufficiently prepared, and this state of preparedness is verified by the self-assessment with the practice quizzes, he or she can open the weekly quiz any time after 8:00AM Wednesday. This availability period closes at midnight the following Sunday. If the student does not take the weekly quiz, a score of zero is recorded and averaged with the other 17 quizzes. **Missing a weekly quiz must be avoided.**

**Dropbox Assignment Deadlines:**

- **Jan 27** – Proposed Research Paper Topic
- **Feb 10** – Submit Book Title (see list on the last page of the syllabus)
- **Feb 24** – Research Paper Reference page
- **Mar 24** – Draft of Research Paper – note: the draft should be your best effort.
- **April 7** – Book Opinion Paper (Individually written - no co-authors permitted)
- **April 14** – Final Paper (note: this is the absolute deadline to submit your research paper—no late papers will be accepted. If the final paper is not submitted by this date a course grade of “I” (incomplete) will be awarded.