General Psychology
PSY 2012 (3cr): T 5:30-8:15, BLDG 11, ROOM, 121

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Office hours: Tues 1-2:30, 3:45-5 & Thurs 1-2:30

Description:

A survey of methods, theories, and body of knowledge of contemporary psychology, including such topics as learning, motivation, sensation and perception, development, thinking, personality, social behavior, psychological adjustment, and methods of therapy. This class will cover the science known as psychology. It is designed to prepare you for future classes in psychology. The focus is on empiricism and rationalism as espoused by philosophers of science over anecdotal, subjective, or post-modernist perspectives.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. 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 learning, social, biological, and developmental theories of the discipline.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the standards of academic integrity and adherence to those standards in the academic environment.
3. Demonstrate effective project management through independent and responsible self-management and time-management in meeting academic expectations in a lower level college course.

Text:


Special Technology used by students: Low

Course Requirements and Grading:

Participation and Attendance: These two are inextricably linked. Without coming to class one cannot participate. When one comes to class he/she should have completed the reading assignments for that day and may even have questions prepared for the class. It may also be useful, but not required to bring your book to class. When and if it is essential to bring it you will be told through any number of communication channels. 10 point.
1. Absences due to imposed legal responsibilities (examples: jury duty, court appearance) shall be recognized as excused absences.
2. Absences due to the participation in extracurricular activities in which students are official representatives of the University shall be recognized as excused absences.
3. Absences due to serious illness, death, or serious illness within the student's immediate family, military obligations, or other sound reasons offered by the student may be accepted as excused absences.

Students must inform their instructor(s) of absences from classes prior to, or as soon as possible, after the absence. Instructors have the right to request verification for all excused absences. Students are held accountable for all assignments in each course, whether or not the assignments were announced during an absence.

Missed assignments: If you must miss an assignment you must contact me as soon as you know. If you cannot contact me before hand, then I expect to hear from you within 24 hours. Doctor’s notes or the like will be required to not lose points. For every late day you will lose 3 points on a given assignment.

Tests: There will be four tests. Test 1 is worth 15 points, the rest are worth 20 points each. These are multiple-choice exams. They are designed to test for general knowledge of the topic area and will be 50 questions each. The questions are applied, thus requiring you to have a full understanding of the topic area.

Paper: You will be required to write a 7-10 page research paper in a topic area of your choosing, with my approval, related to psychology. 15 points.

Class Procedures

I expect you all to act like adults. Respect me and each other. Use common sense. If I see this is being abused I will lay down stricter rules, but I tend to be an anti-rule and anti-control person. An atmosphere of mutual respect and one that is relaxed is essential for many people to learn. Any technology that you have on your person that beeps or rings MUST be turned off.

Most importantly we are all scientists here. All topics are up for discussion regardless of political or religious ideology. This classroom will be a setting for the free exchange of ideas.

Cheating/plagiarism: All of your work must be original. Plagiarism consists of submitting someone else’s work under your name or not citing the source of your information. Cheating consists of obtain information from someone other than the instructor during an exam, or on other assignments. At the very least the student will receive an “F” on the assignment but could lead to suspension or expulsion.

Expectations for Academic Conduct/Plagiarism Policy: As members of the University of West Florida, we commit ourselves to honesty. As we strive for excellence in performance, integrity—personal and institutional—is our most precious asset. Honesty in our academic work is vital, and we will not knowingly act in ways that erode that integrity. Accordingly, we pledge not to cheat, nor to tolerate cheating, not to plagiarize the work of others. We pledge to share community resources in ways that are responsible and that comply with established policies of fairness. Cooperation and competition are means to high achievement and are encouraged. Indeed, cooperation is expected unless our directive is to individual performance. We will compete constructively and professionally for the purpose of stimulating high performance standards. Finally, we accept adherence to this set of
expectations for academic conduct as a condition of membership in the UWF academic community, as defined in the UWF Student Handbook: http://uwf.edu/studentaffairs/documents/handbook.pdf.

**Assistance** Students will special needs, which require specific examination-related or other course-related accommodations should contact Barbara Fitzpatrick, Director of Disabled Student Services (DSS), dss@uwf.edu, (850.474.2387). DSS will provide the student with a letter for the instructor that will specify any recommended accommodations.

**Schedule**

Here is a rough sketch, subject to change, of our course.

**Topic 1: What is Psychology?**
- Discovering Science
- Psychology and Science

**Topic 2: Biological Psychology**
- Brain’s Building Blocks
- Incredible Nervous System
- Sensation
- Perception
- Sleep & Dreams
- Hypnosis and Drugs

**TEST 1**

**Topic 3: Cognitive Psychology**
- Classical Conditioning
- Operant & Cognitive Approaches
- Types of Memory
- Remembering & Forgetting
- Intelligence
- Thought & Language

**TEST 2**

**Topic 4: Social/Developmental Psychology**
- Motivation
- Emotion
- Infancy & Childhood
- Social, Cognitive, & Trait Theories
- Social Psychology

**TEST 3**

**Topic 5: Health Psychology**
- Freudian & Humanistic Theories
- Health, Stress, Coping
- Assessment & Anxiety Disorder
- Mood disorders/Schizophrenia
- Therapies

**TEST 4 and Paper Due**

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1 No test on this section.