PSY 2012: General Psychology
Instructor: Dr. Bethany Young

Course Syllabus

Session A
Fall Semester 2023
Term Dates: 8/21/2023 -12/15/2023
CRN: 84062 – Online – 3 Credit Hours Prerequisites: None

For any syllabus posted prior to the beginning of the term, the instructor reserves the right to make minor changes prior to or during the term. The instructor will notify students via e-mail or Canvas announcement when changes are made in the requirements and/or grading of the course.

Online Courses at Gulf Coast State College: All online courses at GCSC utilize the Canvas Learning System. Students should read all information presented in the Canvas course site and should periodically check for updates--at least every 48 hours.

Remember: This course is not one in which students may work at their own pace. Each week there are learning modules, assignments, online lectures, online discussions, and/or online exams with due dates. Refer to the schedule within this syllabus for more information.

Instructor Contact Information:
Bethany Young, PhD
Adjunct Professor
Social Sciences Division
Byoung9@gulfcoast.edu

Office Hours: As this course is online, I have no set office hours. Just send me an e-mail and I will get back to you within 24 hours usually, 48 hours on a weekend, and we can schedule a time to meet.

Instructor Education:
   BA, Psychology, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN, 2014
   MA, Clinical Psychology, Palo Alto University, Palo Alto, CA, 2017
   PhD, Clinical Psychology, Palo Alto University, Palo Alto, CA, 2020

Social Sciences Office Contacts:
Dr. Robert Saunders, Chair
Social Sciences Division
Office 211 Social Sciences Building
(850) 769-1551, ext. 3826
rsaunder2@gulfcoast.edu

Social Sciences Senior Administrative Assistant:
Ms. Jody Walton
Social Sciences 210
850-872-3825
jwalton1@gulfcoast.edu

Required Textbook:
The textbook for this course, titled Psychology 2e, is a completely free, online, and downloadable textbook. Click the following link for the text:
https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology-2e

PSY 2012 Course Description and Broad Goals: This course is a study of the general field of psychology and is designed to provide an understanding of human behavior by studying the adaptation of the individual to his/her physical and social environment.

Teaching Techniques: The techniques used for content delivery in this course center on creative and engaging online discussions, textbook readings, and information from a wide range of other scholarly materials.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of PSY 2012, students will be able to:

- Categorize the various approaches, fields, and subfields of psychology along with their major concepts and important figures in these domains.
- Identify preeminent theories, principles, and research findings, and give examples of psychology's integrative perspectives and concepts by applying them to everyday life.
- Demonstrate an understanding of psychological theories regarding the relationship between physiology, cognition, and emotion.
- Explain how humans become self-aware, how we learn to interact with others, how we influence others, and how they influence us.
- Classify the strategies with which psychologists study human behavior and how this knowledge is used to explain, predict, and influence behavior.

UNIT 1 – FOUNDATIONS OF PSYCHOLOGY
- Evaluate psychological research using the scientific method and ethical guidelines.
- Select appropriate research designs for real-world problems.

- **Evaluate the accuracy and reliability of resources.**

UNIT 2 – BIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY
- **Differentiate the functions of multiple brain structures.**
- **Create an individualized optimal sleep plan.**
- **Evaluate the scientific merit of multiple dream theories.**

UNIT 3 – COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY
- **Assess personal intelligence using multiple models and types of intelligence.**
- **Evaluate the effectiveness of memory strategies.**
- **Identify examples of various types of cognitive bias.**

UNIT 4 – SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
- **Examine the impact of multiple forms of social influence.**
- **Analyze personal use of various types of behavioral attribution.**
- **Identify real-world examples of various types of prejudice and discrimination.**

UNIT 5 – DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY
- **Explain real-world examples of classical conditioning.**
- **Plan ways to effectively use operant conditioning in the real-world.**
- **Explain potential personal examples of epigenetic inheritance.**

UNIT 6 – PERSONALITY PSYCHOLOGY
- **Describe variations of gender identity and gender expression.**
- **Analyze major perspectives in personality theory.**
- **Evaluate the reliability and validity of multiple methods of personality assessment.**

UNIT 7 – CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY
- **Describe techniques psychologists use to prevent, diagnose, and treat mental illness.**
- **Recognize symptoms of various psychological disorders.**
- **Create treatment plans using a variety of appropriate psychotherapy techniques.**

Course Requirements. **Students enrolled in this course will be required to:**

- **Listen to and take thorough notes on the digital lectures assigned with each weekly Learning Module—I cannot overstress the importance of the digital lectures**
- **Read all of the textbook pages assigned with each Learning Module**
- **Contribute to the Discussion Boards when assigned**
- **Complete Writing Assignments when assigned**
- **Complete all required exams AS SCHEDULED (see the course schedule on Canvas).**
- **Contact the instructor via email at once with any problems or issues. I cannot handle problems unless you make me aware of them.**

Student Expectation Statement: **The student is expected to participate in the course via e-mail exchanges with the instructor, by listening to and taking thorough notes on all digital lectures, by reading the assigned readings, by submitting the required essays and writing assignments, by contributing to the Discussion Board, and by completing all required exams as scheduled.**

As this course is online, I have no set office hours. Just send me an e-mail and I will get back to you within 24 hours usually, 48 hours on a weekend, and we can schedule a time to meet. **Byoung9@gulfcoast.edu**

All assignments uploaded into a Canvas drop box will automatically be processed through the plagiarism software called Turnitin. Turnitin (TII) provides a score that indicates the degree to which the information in the submission matches information from millions of available sources. High TII scores indicate large amounts of material have been taken from other sources. All TII scores are checked to ensure that proper and appropriate citations are used for material taken from another's ideas, writings, theories, media, etc. In the event an assignment is found to not be properly cited, the material will be considered plagiarized and the submission will receive a zero. It is critical that students review their TII scores for each submission and make corrections or revisions. Canvas allows for multiple uploads into a drop box, so feel free to upload as many revisions as needed to address any issues or citation problems.

Assessment Instruments:

I. Upload signed Online Students Guidelines (see last page of syllabus) to Canvas no later than 11:59 PM on 15 January 2023. (5 points)

II. Why Psychology? Essay (50 points): The Why Psychology? Essay should be submitted as a Word document directly into Canvas no later than 11:59 PM on 22 January 2023. This brief assignment requires you to draft a 250–300-word essay about why you are taking this course and what you hope to learn. Must be uploaded using one of these four file types: .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf.

III.   Exams (150 points each):

   • All exams will be comprised of multiple-choice, true-false, and short answer questions. Each exam will be available for a specific time period.
   • The exams will be delivered online via Canvas.
   • The exams will be timed; each is strictly closed book and closed notes.
   • The final exam will be comprehensive with stronger focus on modules not covered by previous exam.

IV.   Writing Assignments/Discussion Board Contributions (360 points): Most weeks will either have a writing assignment or Discussion Board contribution. Exam weeks will have neither.

   • Writing Assignment: See prompts in Canvas for topics of writing assignments. Assignment should be at least 200-250 words and submitted via word doc to Canvas. Writing assignments will be due Sundays by 11:59 PM
   • Discussion Board: On weeks assigned, "Main" initial response will be due by 11:59PM on **Wednesdays** to be eligible for full credit to allow time for others to respond, and the remaining two required "follow up" posts are due before midnight the following **Sunday**. All contributions should add substantively to our discussion and generate further discussion and additional in-depth analysis. Discussion board posts will be graded in the following manner: DB assignment worth 30 points will be graded in this way: "Main" initial response

to the primary DB prompt = 20 points, and two "response" posts to classmates' posts = 5 points each, Total= 30 points

V. **Final Essay (50 points): In at least 450-500 words, pretend you are a psychotherapist and have appointments today with TWO clients. You will have an opportunity to diagnose and provide two therapeutic strategies to help each of your "clients". See Canvas for more details. The Final Essay should be submitted as a Word document directly into Canvas no later than 11:59 PM on 28 April 2023. Must be uploaded using one of these four file types: .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf.**

VI. **There will be no "individual-only" extra credit offered; occasionally, I will offer extra credit only for all students in a class. I typically offer at least one opportunity for extra credit throughout the semester.**

Technology Requirements for this Course: PSY 2012 requires that students have regular and open access to a computer and that they maintain reliable internet service.

Technical Assistance:

- **Technical support is available by phone 24 hours a day 7 days per week by calling (850) 913-3303.**

- **Technicians are available on the Panama City Campus from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday.**

Attendance Policy: Although physical class meetings are not part of this course, participation in all interactive learning activities is required. Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help to promote success in college. Attendance in an online CANVAS class is defined as logging in, reading course materials, and submission of completed written assignments, quizzes, or discussion posts. Simply logging on to a CANVAS class is not sufficient for attendance purposes. All assignments in an online course will have a posted due date. (Please see additional information on defining attendance, participation, and logging in to the course).

IMPORTANT! Students MUST log in and complete the "Why Psychology?" essay within the first week of the semester to be "counted" as present in the course. Students NOT adhering to this policy will be counted as a No Show on the course roster, which can have a negative impact on a student's academic record, in addition to problems with any grants or loans one has acquired. A student email expressing intent to participate does not count as "participation". Please contact me via email with any questions or concerns about this policy.

Make-Up Work Policy: Missing any part of this schedule may prevent completion of the course. If you foresee difficulty of any type (i.e., an illness, employment change, etc.) which may prevent completion of this course, notify the instructor as soon as possible. Failure to

do so will result in failure for an assignment and/or failure of the course. If I have not heard from you by the deadline dates for assignments, exams, or forums, no make-up work will be allowed (unless extraordinary circumstances exist, such as hospitalization). Requests for extensions must be made in advance and accompanied by appropriate written documentation. "Computer problems" is not an acceptable excuse.

Social Sciences Policies
2022-2023

The following policies apply to all GCSC Social Sciences courses and should be included on all course syllabi.

Division Policies Regarding COVID-19: The health and safety of students and faculty are a priority. If you are sick with COVID symptoms, please stay home to protect others. Notify your professor of your condition by phone or email. If you test positive for the COVID virus, please inform your instructor(s) to make arrangements for course requirements and David Thomasee, Campus Safety & Security, at 873-3582. You will receive additional instructions at that time. Confidentiality will be maintained.

This information is subject to change. For the most recent information, please refer to the Gulf Coast State College website regarding COVID-19: https://www.gulfcoast.edu/covid-19-coronavirus.html.

Academic Integrity Policy - Honest participation in academic endeavors fosters an environment in which optimal learning can take place and is consistent with the college's mission. Academic misconduct, including cheating or plagiarism, is destructive to the spirit of an educational environment. Social Science professors report every instance of student academic misconduct to the college for inclusion on the student's records. "Cheating" includes but is not limited to use of any unauthorized assistance in completing course work. "Plagiarism" includes, but it not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment as well as the purchase of papers or projects. "Self-plagiarism" occurs when a student submits the same or considerably similar document to fulfill requirements in different classes. For example, if a student submits a term paper in Religion they originally wrote for an English class, this is self-plagiarism. Once a paper receives a grade in one class, it cannot be submitted again for another class. Sanctions for incidences of academic misconduct, depending on the severity of the incidence and/or its repetition, may range from receiving an F grade (or 0) for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the college.

Student Accessibility Statement - Gulf Coast State College supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the

documented needs of the student. For information regarding the registration process, email sar@gulfcoast.edu or call 850-747-3243.

Recording Lectures - In accordance with federal and state privacy laws, students may record class lectures for their own personal educational use, in connection with a complaint to the college, or as evidence in internal or external legal proceedings. Students may not publish or upload the recordings or any components thereof without the knowledge and written permission of the faculty member. Failure to obtain permission to publish could lead to the students' having to pay damages, attorney fees, and court costs. For more information about what can be recorded, please see the guidelines on pages 36-38 in the GCSC Student Handbook: https://www.gulfcoast.edu/current-students/student-handbooks/2021-2022-student-handbook.pdf

Email & Voicemail Response Time - Instructors will check and respond to messages sent to their gulfcoast.edu email within 48 hours during scheduled workdays, barring illness or emergencies. The instructor may not check email during holidays or weekends. This policy also applies to messages sent via Canvas, as well as voicemails left on a provided phone number.

Attendance - Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help to promote success in college. In face-to-face courses, students are required to be in class at the beginning of each class session, as attendance will be taken at this time. If a student arrives late, it is his/her responsibility to inform the instructor after class of his/her presence. Failure to do so may result in the student being marked as "Absent." Attendance in an online/hybrid CANVAS class is defined as submission of complete written assignments prior to their posted deadline.

Withdrawals - Students may withdraw themselves from any course until the published withdrawal deadline for that term in the Gulf Coast State College catalog. Students wishing to withdraw from a course and receive a "W" must complete a withdrawal form and submit this to the Office of Enrollment Services prior to the scheduled withdrawal date as published on the college calendar. Social Sciences instructors do not withdraw students from their individual courses under any circumstances. If you feel you have a unique situation that warrants removal from all of your courses for a term after the withdrawal deadline has passed, you may contact the Vice President of Student Affairs to discuss your situation.

Consequences of Withdrawals - Two withdrawals are permitted per credit course. After that, a grade will be assigned. Please be concerned about withdrawals. When admitting students into certain programs, universities may calculate withdrawals as grades. It is your responsibility to verify the effects of enrollment and/or withdrawal upon your financial assistance (financial aid, scholarships, grants, etc.).

Incomplete Grades - Grades of Incomplete in any Social Sciences course can only be assigned to students who have an emergency arise during the last two weeks of the course.

To receive an Incomplete, students must:
- Submit a written request to the instructor prior to the last face-to-face class meeting. For online courses, a written Incomplete request must be received no later

than the week before the Final Exam period begins.
- **Have completed no less than 60 percent of the course requirements and be passing the course at the time the request for an Incomplete is submitted.**

Important Note: The Incomplete option provides 30 days from the date grades are due to make up any missing work; if work is not submitted during this period, the grade will automatically change to an "F" in Lighthouse.

Method of Evaluation:
Online Student Guidelines	**5 points**
Why Psychology? Essay	**50 points**
Exam # 1	**150 points**
Exam # 2	**150 points**
Discussion Boards/Writing Assignments	**360 points**
Final Essay	**50 points**
Total:	**765 points**

Assignment of Grades: All grades will be posted in the student grade book in Canvas and will be assigned according to the following scale:
A 90%-100%
B 80%-89%
C 70%-79%
D 60%-69%
F 59% and below

<p align="center">**Online Student Guidelines**</p>

PLEASE PLACE A <mark>CHECK MARK , X, BOLD or HIGHLIGHT THE STATEMENT YELLOW,</mark> BESIDE EACH POLICY STATEMENT TO VERIFY THAT YOU HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE STUDENT GUIDELINES. Upload the checked and signed (if done electronically, your typed name signifies your signature) guidelines into the assigned drop box. This is a graded assignment.

1) _____I understand that all modules will open Mondays, at 12:01a.m. and will close Sundays, 11:59 midnight. **All assignments then, unless explicitly and otherwise cited, are due NLT Sunday, midnight.**

2) _____I understand that, ultimately, **my learning IS MY RESPONSIBILITY.** Effective learning includes studying, reading the course materials, routinely accessing the class website to obtain or review any existing information or any new material or information that has been added, and completing all course requirements.

3) _____I understand that the Canvas grade book is set up as a placeholder ONLY for my grades and should not be used to determine my current or final grade in the course. I know the syllabus explains this aspect of grading, in addition to detailing how to compute my grade at any point in the semester.

4) _____The scoring procedure for assignments, tests, participation, and the final course grade is shown in this syllabus, and I understand how my performance in this course will be assessed.

5) _____If I am concerned about my performance in the class OR if there is an ongoing problem in my personal or professional life that I feel is impacting my performance in this course, I should contact the instructor *as soon as possible*. Please Do Not wait until the end of the semester. When students are proactive about any potential "grade buster" issues, there is a much greater chance of success than if a student waits until all is almost lost before he or she addresses the issue with the instructor.

6) _____When extra credit is offered, it will be offered only to the entire class. No individual extra credit will be offered or allowed during or after the semester.

7) _____I understand that late submission of an assignment will result in the loss of 5 points per day, up to all points.

8) _____I understand that my written work will be assessed not only for content, but also for accuracy of composition, spelling, and grammar.

9) _____I understand that cutting and pasting material from other source materials is considered highly inappropriate and, when there is no attempt to cite sources, this process is considered plagiarism and will be dealt with according to class and GCSC policies (see #17).

10) _____I understand that all assignments uploaded into a Canvas drop box will automatically be processed through the plagiarism software called Turnitin. Turnitin (TII) provides a score that indicates the degree to which the information in the submission matches information from millions of available sources. I also understand that a submission with more than 20% match in TII is of concern and I should evaluate the submission for proper citation of sources.

11) _____I understand that the discussion board posts are composed of two components, 1) the main response and 2) two reply posts (minimum).

12) _____The main response to each DB prompt (question/assignment) is due by 11:59PM on Wednesday to be eligible for full credit, and the remaining two required "follow up" posts are due before midnight the following Sunday.

13) _____Assignments MUST be type written (unless otherwise noted) and must be uploaded using one of these four file types: **.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf.** Assignments found not to be in one of these formats will not be accepted or graded. Moreover, submissions and files generated from a phone will also not be graded.

14) _____I understand that there are computers, scanners, and printers available for my use on GCSC's campuses in the library and the ATC., so barring a very unusual circumstance, the

instructor will not accept any excuses for lack of technology to complete/upload assignments, for access Canvas, for access to my GCSC email, or any related course activities that require technology provided by the college.

15) _____I understand if I am experiencing technology problems with Canvas or technology otherwise related to my academic work, I should contact the IT Helpdesk at 850-913-3303 or by email: webadmin@gulfcoast.edu

16) _____I understand that new modules open each Monday,12:01 a.m. and end (that week's module closes out) the following Sunday, 11:59 p.m. **Sunday, then, is the default due date** for all work assigned in the module for that given time period. Thus, work for a given week turned in past the Sunday due date will be considered late and penalized points according to the policy in the syllabus.

17) _____I understand the class rules for academic dishonesty and that academic dishonesty will ***not be tolerated***. Anyone who is caught engaging in any form of academic dishonesty (including plagiarism) will incur consequences in accordance with the policies and procedures of GCSC. Possible penalties include having one's name submitted to GCSC's VP for student affairs, in addition to receiving a zero on an assignment or an F for the course, to name a few. I should review the GCSC Student Handbook for further information about academic dishonesty.

I have read the entire syllabus this course and fully understand the content of study the grading requirements and the class rules, as well as the assignment schedule set forth for this course.

Name_____ **Date**_____