PSY 2012: General Psychology
Instructor: Dr. Bethany Young

Course Syllabus

Session A
Summer Semester 2024
Term Dates: 8 May 2024 – 2 August 2024
CRN: 50039 – 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:
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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

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 the physical and social environment.

The broad goals of the course include students learning and retaining a significant amount of information on human behaviors; mental disturbances using the principles of the major paradigms; Categorize and evaluate the stages of human development; demonstrate a general knowledge of the concepts of memory and cognition; develop critical thinking and deductive reasoning skills; and improving communication skills.

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.

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.**

Required Textbook: **Free online and downloadable textbook. Click the OpenStax link:** *Psychology 2e* from OpenStax **(Links to an external site.)** Also provided on the course Canvas page.

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.**

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.

Method of Evaluation:

Online Student Guidelines Quiz	**10 points**
Why Psychology? Essay	**50 points**
Exam # 1 (Midterm)	**150 points**
Exam # 2 (Final)	**150 points**
Discussion Boards/Writing Assignments	**360 points**
Final Essay	**50 points**
Total:	**770 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**

Assessment Instruments:

I.   The main purpose of this assignment is to review the student guidelines for this class, as well as make sure that LockDown Browser is working before the completion of the Final Exam. Complete the Online Students Guidelines Quiz on Canvas no later than 11:59 PM on 19 May 2024. (10 points)

II.   Why Psychology? Essay (50 points):

III.   Two Exams (150 points each):

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.

- Discussion Board: "Main" initial response = 20 points, and two "response" posts to classmates' posts = 5 points each, Total= 30 points

V.   Final Essay (50 points):

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 Office Contacts:
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Social Sciences Policies
2023-2024

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 is destructive to the spirit of an educational environment and therefore will not be tolerated.**
The following definitions will apply:

a. **"Cheating" includes but is not limited to use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests or examinations; dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; the acquisition without permission of tests or other academic materials belonging to a member of the College's faculty.**

b. **Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment.**

- **"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.**

- **Plagiarism also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.**

- **Plagiarism also includes overuse of an editing program like Grammarly or submitting work written by an Artificial Intelligence (AI) generator like ChatGPT.** **Make certain to consult your course syllabi for your instructors' guidelines on AI material.**

c. **Individual instructors or programs may provide students with additional academic integrity policy statements at the start of a semester.**

d. **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 zero) for the test, assignment, or activity to failure of the course, to suspension, or dismissal from the program or the college.**

e. **An instructor who believes that an incidence of academic misconduct has occurred will discuss it immediately with the student. If, in the judgment of the instructor, the student has committed an act of academic misconduct, or if the student admits that there has been misconduct, the instructor will assess the appropriate penalty.**

f. Instances of admitted or proven academic misconduct should be reported in writing to the Dean of Student Life. The purpose of this reporting is to track individuals who have repeated incidences. The Vice President of Academic Affairs reserves the right to pursue disciplinary action against a student if deemed necessary.

g. Students who think they have been treated unfairly may invoke the Student Academic Grievance Procedure.

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 in the GCSC Student Handbook.

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."