**Valencia College**

**West Campus**

**General Psychology**

**PSY 2012**

Instructor Name: Beth Isley, M.A., bisley1@mail.valenciacollege.edu

 or bethisley@yahoo.com

Term: Fall Semester, September 3rd-December 17th, 2015

Course Meeting Time: Thursday, 7:00-9:45 pm

 Building 11, room 348

Office Hours: Thursday evening after class

Text: Understanding Psychology

 Robert S. Feldman, 11th Edition

 *MH Connect* on-line learning resource

is also required for this course

Withdrawal Date: November 13th, 2015 ”W” no refund

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of theory and research in the major areas of psychology: biological, experimental, social, cognitive, personality, and clinical. This factual and conceptual foundation in psychology will help students understand behavior and apply psychological principles in a variety of settings and to their own lives.

**Major Learning Outcomes:**

 Characterize the nature of psychology as a discipline, including how psychology evolved as a science and the various fields that comprise it.

 Identify and explain the major theoretical perspectives of psychology.

 Use critical thinking and the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.

 Demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts and empirical findings in the major areas of psychology.

 Understand and apply psychological principles to individual, social, and career issues.

 Recognize human diversity and understand that psychological explanations may vary across populations and contexts.

**Grading System:** Students’ grades will be based on the following areas:

1. **Understanding of class material:**

During the term, four exams will be administered that account for 45% of the course grade. The exams will consist of multiple-choice questions. Each exam will count as equal weighting towards the final grade. The final examination (4th exam) will not be cumulative but is MANDATORY. Any student not completing the exam will receive a grade of F for the course.

2. **Homework Assignments:**

Students will be required to complete the MH Connect assignments associated with each chapter module covered in class. These questions will be assigned in Blackboard under the Content section and will account for 10% of the course grade. No late extensions will be given.

3. **Writing Assignment:**

A research paper, which will be due on December 3rd, will account for 20% of the course grade. Details will be provided at a later date.

4. **Presentation:**

Students will be required to present a psychological topic/historical study in psychology to the class using power point. The presentation will account for 15% of the course grade. If a student misses their assigned presentation date, they will automatically receive a 0 on the assignment. Presentations may not be made up at a later date.

 5. **Participation:**

Students will be required to participate in a group activity for chapters 5, 6, 13, and 15. These activities will account for 10% of the course grade. If students are absent on the dates for these participation activities, they will receive a 0 for the assignment.

**Attendance:**

You are expected to have an 85% attendance record. Therefore, attendance

will be monitored. If you miss more than 15% of scheduled classes prior to mid

semester, it is **your responsibility** to fill out the necessary withdrawal forms

 to receive a grade of W. You are responsible for all class announcements,

assignments, and lectures, even if that material is not in the text, so you are

strongly urged to attend class regularly. If you miss class, it is YOUR

responsibility to get any missed material.

**Tardiness:**

Class will start at the appointed time. Students who are more than 15 minute

late for an exam will not be permitted to take the exam (including the final

exam). If you are more than 15 minutes late for class, you will be considered

absent.

**Makeup Exams:**

**It is the policy of this instructor not to give make up exams. However, if you miss an exam and have documented evidence that clearly explains why you missed an exam you will be allowed to take a makeup within 1 week after the missed exam in the Testing Center in Building 11. Make-up exams will not be given for misses caused by vacations, over-sleeping, and illness that did not require medical attention or lack of preparation.**

**Academic Honesty:**

Each student is expected to be in compliance with the college policy on academic honesty as set forth in the admissions catalog and the student handbook. Any student cheating on an exam will receive a zero on the exam, which cannot be replaced by a make-up exam. The professor may initiate appropriate administrative and/or disciplinary penalties, which may include warning, probation, suspension, and/or expulsion from the college.

P**sychology 2012 (General Psychology)**

**Fall 2015**

**Course Calendar**

**Dates** **Topics**  **Readings**

9/3 Introduction/Psychology: Past and Present Ch. 1

9/10 Psychological Research Ch. 2

9/17 Neuroscience and Behavior Ch. 3

9/24 **Exam I/**States of Consciousness Ch. 5

10/1 States of Consciousness/Learning Ch. 5/6

10/8 No Class—College Night

10/15 Learning Ch. 6

10/22 Memory Ch. 7

10/29 **Exam II**/Development Ch. 12

11/5 Development Ch. 12

11/12 Social Psychology Ch. 17

11/19 **Exam III**/Personality Ch. 13

11/26 No Class--Thanksgiving

12/3 Personality Ch. 13

12/10 Psychological Disorders Ch. 15

12/17 **Final Exam: 7:45 pm**

Specific details of this syllabus may be subject to change

Instructor policy states that failure to show up for the final exam results in an F grade