

PSY 2012 - General Psychology

Course Syllabus – 3 Credit Hours

Fall Semester 2020 8/24/2020 – 12/13/2020

CRN# 15932 - Online

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

**Professor**: Elizabeth Brown-Jordan, MA

**Email**: ebrownjordan@valenciacollege.edu

**Office Hrs.:** Virtual Meeting by Appointment

Important Dates During Semester:

August 24 Classes Begin

August 31 Drop/Refund Deadline (11:59 p.m.)

September 7 Labor Day – College Closed

September 1-10 No Show Reporting Period

October 15 Spirit Day

October 30 Withdrawal Deadline – “W” Grade (11:59 p.m.)

November 6 Veteran’s Affairs Deferral Deadline

November 11 Veteran’s Day – College Closed (Credit Classes Do Not Meet)

November 25-29 Thanksgiving College Closed

December 6 Classes End

December 7-13 Final Exams – Tuesday December 8th, 5:00-7:30 p.m.

1. LEARNING MATERIALS

Required Materials/Textbooks:

* Feldman, Robert. (2019). Understanding Psychology, 14th Edition. McGraw Hill.
* McGraw Hill Connect Access Code (E-book included)

Recommended Supplies:

These supplies are not required but are strongly recommended. A student should own or have access to a current edition of a college-level dictionary and thesaurus. If you cannot obtain a copy, you should have access to a computer or smart phone with online capabilities; (www.webster.com, www.wiktionary.org, or www.dictionary.com are excellent starting points). I’d also recommend purchasing a flash drive (small portable USB storage device) to assist in storing papers. This is a helpful tool through the rest of college.

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION, LEARNING OBJECTIVES & COMPETENCIES

Course Description:

“This course is designed to provide students with an overview of theory and research in the major areas of psychology: biological, experimental, developmental, 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.” (Valencia Community College Online Catalog 2019-2020, Course Description)

Learning Objectives:

This course will enable students to achieve the following learning objectives:

1. Characterize the nature of psychology as a discipline including how psychology evolved as a science and the various ﬁelds that comprise it.
2. Identify and explain the major theoretical perspectives of psychology.
3. Use critical thinking and the scientiﬁc approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.
4. Demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts and empirical ﬁndings in the major areas of psychology.
5. Understand and apply psychological principles to individual, social, and career issues.
6. Recognize human diversity and understand that psychological explanations may vary across populations and contexts.

Students will demonstrate their understanding of learning objectives through engagement in various activities (e.g., multiple choice, fill-ins, short answer quizzes, mini-research exercises, and/or group projects and presentations).

The Valencia Student Core Competencies:

Valencia has identified four core competencies that are believed to be crucial to individual success in a variety of contexts. These competencies are instrumental in course design and implementation.

1. *Think*: Think clearly, critically, and creatively. Analyze, synthesize, integrate, and evaluate in many domains of human inquiry.
2. *Value*: Make reasoned value judgements and responsible commitments.
3. *Communicate*: Communicate with different audiences using varied means.
4. *Act*: Act purposefully, reflectively, and responsibly.

IV. COURSE POLICIES

Attendance:

Students need to log into the course and complete work at least once a week. Students who will be away from the course for longer than a week, will need to contact the professor. Absences of longer than a week, will require written documentation of a medical emergency or ongoing medical condition to be communicated upon the student’s return to class.

Course Participation:

Participation is essential to your success in this class. In an online format, students are required to participate just as if you were in a face-to-face course. Consistent failure to participate in class will result in a grade of “F” for the course.

This course will be taught from an applied perspective and the professor will attempt to utilize book examples, video examples as well as real life and/or everyday examples to provide an interactive and comprehensive presentation of the information in this course. As discussions arise, further topics may be explored to allow students to explore critical thinking skills as an aid to understanding and applying course material.

Computer Requirements:

Technology Requirements: You will need to have an up-to-date browser, operating system, and some additional software on your computer to take this class. Check this [Link to Distance Learning page](https://catalog.valenciacollege.edu/distancelearning/#Technology_Requirements) for hardware & software requirements. Some of the documents in this course will be available to you in PDF form.

Communication:

Please be aware that students are expected to be able to communicate in a professional manner with the professor and fellow students. This includes in-class interactions as well as phone messages, emails, and online discussions. E-mails must include the professor’s name, student’s name, course information (e.g. General Psych online), and use proper grammar.

Netiquette:

When posting on the discussion boards and chat rooms it is important to understand how to interact with one another online. Here are some basic points for communicating online:

* Be respectful of other’s views and opinions. If you disagree with someone’s opinion, do so in a polite manner.
* Be sensitive to the fact that there will be people of different cultural, linguistic, religious, and political backgrounds. Respecting diversity is a must.
* Use good taste when posting your responses. Avoid profanity and slang.
* Do not use all capital letters when composing responses. This is the equivalent of “shouting” on the internet and it is rude. Additionally, this text can be hard on the eyes for others trying to read your message.
* Use good grammar and punctuation. Please refrain from text talk and shortcuts.

If you violate the rules of netiquette at any point in the semester, the professor reserves the right to remove you from the course and issue you a failing grade.

Announcements:

Announcements will be posted in Canvas on a regular basis. They will appear on your Canvas dashboard when you log in and/or will be sent to you directly through your preferred method of notification from Canvas. Please make certain to check them regularly, as they will contain important information about upcoming assignments, deadlines, or class concerns.

Homework Assignments:

This course requires the use of publisher materials. You will need to use your access code to register with McGraw-Hill Connect in order to complete the assignments for this class. The standard homework assignment will consist of a SmartBook assignment, and a terminology quiz to be completed by the end of unit due date (see Course Calendar). There will be supplemental materials provided during the semester. These assignments require students to use critical thinking skills and to consider practical applications of psychological concepts.

Academic Integrity:

As with any college course, students are expected to exhibit academic integrity. No form of cheating will be tolerated. Any student guilty of cheating or plagiarizing will be given a grade of “F” for the course. In case of such an event, a written statement detailing the incident will be attached to the student's official College files. When referring to someone else’s writing, be sure to give credit to that author, otherwise you are plagiarizing. Any evidence of cheating – in or out of the classroom – will result in an “F” grade.

Make-up Exams:

Make-up exams are rarely offered for this course. The exception to this policy is in the event of situations that are unavoidable and well documented, and that the instructor has been notified in advance of the scheduled exam. Such an occurrence (e.g., jury duty, military service) requires presentation of official documentation, after which, at the discretion of the instructor, arrangements will be made for an alternative exam to be proctored by the Testing Center.

Special Needs and Learning Support Services:

Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a notification from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD), and must discuss specific needs with the instructor, preferably during the first two weeks of class. The OSD determines accommodations

based on appropriate documentation of disabilities.

Learning Support Services provides students with academic support through tutoring, library services and resources.  Tutoring is offered in most academic disciplines including math, science, and coursework specific to each campus. Online tutoring is offered through Smarthinking and can be accessed through Atlas. Assistance with library research can be accessed online through Atlas.

Note to International Students (F-1or J-1Visa):

Please be advised that withdrawal from this course due to attendance may result in the termination of your visa status if you fall below the full-time enrollment requirements of 12 credit hours. Consult the International Student Service office for more information.

Campus Resources:

Valencia College has several resources designed specifically to help you succeed academically, professionally, and personally. If you need additional assistance in your courses or are having trouble dealing with psychological issues\* (such as stress, anxiety, time management, relationships, etc.), please be sure to check out these online resources:

* Academic Advising
* Call: 407-582-1507
* Hours
  + Mon-Fri: 7 AM – 10 PM
  + Fri: 8 AM - 5 PM
  + Sat and Sun: - 10 AM - 10 PM
* Online tutoring and learning support is LIVE!
* To access from Canvas, select “Help” from the left menu.
* To access from Atlas under the “Courses” tab (select “Online Tutoring”)
* Toward the bottom of the landing page, you will find a video that provides instructions on how to use the online tutoring resource.

Exams: (worth 400 points)A midterm and a final exam will be administered to assess your understanding of material covered in the course. The exams will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and matching test items. The midterm exam will cover material from Units 1-2; the final exam will cover material from Units 3-5. The final exam is mandatory. Any student who does not complete the final exam will receive a grade of “F” for the course.

Terminology Quizzes: (worth 250 points) Five quizzes will be completed by the end-of-unit deadline.

Connect SmartBook Homework Assignments: (250 points) McGraw-Hill’s Connect is a web-based assignment and assessment solution required for this course. Connect is designed to assist you with your coursework based on your needs, and to enhance your understanding of course materials. SmartBook homework assignments are due by the end-of-unit due date. No extensions will be given.

Case Study Analysis: (worth 25 points) Students will analyze case studies of individuals with mental health disorders. Students will work in pairs and will share their analyses with the class.

Final grades will be based on the following point values:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ITEM | POINTS |
| Midterm Exam  Final Exam  SmartBook Assignments  Terminology Quizzes  Case Study Analysis  Mini-Paper | 200  200  250  250  50  50  1,000 |

Weighted Categories: Grading Scale and Evaluation:

Exams (Midterm and Final) 40% **A:** 90%-100% (900 - 1,000 points)

SmartBook Assignments 25% **B:** 80%-89.9% (800 – 899 points)

Terminology Quizzes 25% **C:** 70%-79.9% (700 – 799 points)

Case Study Analysis 5% **D:** 60%-69.9% (600 – 699 points)

Mini-Paper 5% **F:** 59% or less (590 points or less)

Total: 100.0%

Incomplete Grade Policy:

In general, only the above grades will be given. Incomplete grades (such as “WP”, “WF”,“I”, “X”, “H”, or “N”) are NOT given under any circumstances. Students having difficulties meeting the course requirements can withdraw from the course by the withdrawal deadline. Students

withdrawing from the course will receive a course grade of “W”. Further, students cannot withdraw themselves after the withdrawal deadline, **October 30th** (Valencia Withdrawal policy). Students who fail to withdraw before the deadline and are ineligible to continue in the class, will receive an overall grade of “F” for the course.

Disclaimer:

This syllabus is intended to give the student guidance in what may be covered during the semester and will be followed as closely as possible. However, the professor reserves the right to modify, supplement and make changes as the course needs arise.

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**PSY 2012 General Psychology**

**Fall Semester 2020 8/24/2020 – 12/13/2020**

**COURSE CALENDAR - CRN 15932 – Online**

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| **Weeks/Dates** | **Topics and Textbook Chapters** | **Homework**  **Due Dates** |
| 1 - 2  (8/24-9/6) | Unit 1: Introduction to the Course  Overview of course materials and syllabus; discussion on the goals, history, applications, profession, and subfields of psychology.  Ch. 1 – Introduction to Psychology  Ch. 2 – Psychological Research | Orientation Quiz  Due by 8/30/2020  SmartBook & Terminology Quiz  Due by 9/6/2020 |
| 3 - 6  (9/8-10/4) | Unit 2: Biological Psychology  Ch. 3 – Neuroscience and Behavior  Ch. 4 – Sensation and Perception  Ch. 5 – States of Consciousness | SmartBook & Terminology Quiz  Due by 10/4/2020 |
| 7 - 9  10/5-10/25 | Unit 3: Cognitive Psychology  Ch. 6 – Learning  Ch. 7 – Memory  Ch. 8 – Cognition and Language | SmartBook & Terminology Quiz  Due by 10/25/2020 |
| 10 – 13  10/26 - 11/22 | Unit 4: Developmental and Social Psychology  Ch. 12 – Human Development  Ch. 17 – Social Psychology | SmartBook & Terminology Quiz  Due by 11/22/2020 |
| 14 – 15  11/23 - 12/6 | Unit 5: Physical and Mental Health  Ch. 13 – Personality Psychology  Ch. 15 – Psychological Disorders | SmartBook & Terminology Quiz  Due by 12/6/2020 |
| 16  12/7 – 12/13 | Final Exam |  |