

**General Psychology**

 **Spring Term 2017, Credit hours: 3**

# PSY 2012 W 5:30-8:15 pm

# CRN 26486

## Professor: Dr. Hani Freeman

Email: hfreeman4@valenciacollege.edu

Office: Building 11-348

Office Hours: Available by appointment only. Email me to setup an appointment.

Phone: Behavioral and Social Science Division, Jonnel Morgan: 407-582-1833, please leave a message with Jonnel and I will return the call later.

**Email is the best and preferred way to contact me in a timely manner.**

**Pre-requisites/Co-requisites:**

There are no pre-requisites or co-requisites required for this course.

**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.

**Objectives and General Purpose of the Course**

The general purpose of this course is to provide students with a basic understanding of the factual and conceptual foundations 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 20014-2015, Course Description)

**Core Competencies**

1. Apply -An applied and theoretical basis of general psychology
2. Think -How multiple psychological factors are interdependent and intertwined within the psychological forces influencing our psyche
3. Implement -Various theories presented on general psychology, and their impact/application on our everyday lives.
4. Understand- Practical understanding of the various psychological principles in all facets of our lives i.e., interpersonal relationships, social behaviors
5. Aware -Introduction and promotion of the CLAST, General Learning Outcomes, and Valencia Core Competencies

**Communication/Code of Conduct**

Please be aware that students are expected to be able to behave and communicate in a professional manner with the professor. This includes in-class interactions as well as phone messages and emails. Specifically, emails must include the professors name, students name, course information (e.g. General Psych W 5:30-8:15) and use proper English (no texting abbreviations etc), any email that does not conform to these requirements may be ignored. Further, behavior is expected to abide by Valencia's code of conduct policies as well as general classroom politeness, any violation of this expected conduct may be grounds for removal from the class.

**Attendance and Tardiness Policy**

**Attendance**: Attendance will be taken each class period. Due to the fact that a large portion of this class will involve class discussions and class activities, attendance is required. If you must be absent due to an illness or family emergency, you must provide documentation. **Any unexcused absence will result in the loss of 15 points per class missed.**

**Tardiness**: You should be in class when it begins at 5:30 pm (with the exception of exam days when you should be in the room by 6:45 if you are not attending the review period). If you are not in class by 5:30 pm, please enter the room quietly and find a seat in the back in order to cause as least disruption as possible. **Any student who is late more than two times will receive a deduction of 5 points per class missed**.

**Required Textbooks**

Feldman, Robert. (2013). Understanding Psychology, 11th Edition. McGraw Hill. With Connect Plus. The bookstore allows you to purchase the book with the Connect Plus access. Connect Plus Access is required.

**Class Exams**

There will be 3 class exams given during the semester. The material will be from the required readings, lecture material, any material discussed or presented, and any video's shown. Exams may be a combinations of fill-in-the-blank, multiple choice, short answer, or essay questions. Exams will be administered during class time.

**You will be given 1.5 hrs to complete each exam. On exam days the first hour of class will be a review period. The exams will be given from 6:45 pm – 8:15 pm.**

**The review period is optional to attend, but anyone not in the room for the exam at 6:45 pm will not be able to take the exam.**

- You must take all of the regular class exams, no exceptions.

- Failure of any exam will result in that exam not being dropped and the final being mandatory

- Failure of the final in finals week will result in that exam not being dropped or failure for the course overall

*Missing an Exam/Make Up Conditions*

If you have an excused absence due to an illness or emergency for which approved documentation is received or a conflict is known prior to an exam date and the professor is notified in person or in writing and a verbal or written response is received, the exam will be placed in the testing center for an alternate date of testing within one week of the original test date. This exam may be a different exam from the one the rest of the class was given. This is the only allowance for class examinations.

**Final Exam**

**The final exam will be given on April 26 from 6-9 pm.**

The final exam will be a cumulative/comprehensive exam and will be weighted on the material covered during the entire semester. Missing the final exam without meeting one of the requirements below will result in a 0 grade. However, the final exam may exempted from the requirement if you fit the following criteria (below). If you take the final comprehensive exam, the lowest score from your regular class exams will be dropped.

### Final Exam Exemption Criteria

-You have not missed above 4 hours of absences

-You have taken all of the regular class exams

-You have scored an 80% (average) on all regular class exams

-The professor has not told you that you must take the comprehensive final

**Student Evaluation**

**Grading:**

Regular Exams 3 exams @ 200 pts each 600 points

Homework Assignments 10 assignments @ 10 pts each 100 points

 TOTAL 700 points

Extra Credit max 20 points

 Final Exam 1 exam @ 200 pts each 200 points

Grade assignments will be based on your point total.

**Final Grades**:  The final grade in the course will be assigned according to the following points and percentages of the total points possible. Rounding will not be factored into your grade.

A  630 – 700 points     90%-100%
            B  560 – 629 points     80% - 89.9%
            C  490 – 559 points     70% - 79.9%
            D  420 – 491 points     60% - 69.9%
            F   0 - 419 points     0% - 59.9%

**Homework Assignments:**

There will be ten homework assignments given during this course. One during each class period when an exam is not given. Each homework assignment will be due by the start of class the next week. Late assignments will be given a grade of 0 without exception.

Homework assignments will include activities such as online assignments/quizzes through Connect Blackboard (see below) or short response papers to questions or videos or class activities. Detailed information for each homework assignment will be posted on Blackboard when it is assigned.

**Connect Assignments*:*** There will be several assignments that will be completed online in Connect Blackboard. These assignments will take three forms:

1. *Interactive Exercises:* Interactive demonstrations followed by a few multiple-choice questions relating to each demonstration. Scores are calculated based on number of correct answers given to multiple-choice questions.

2. *LearnSmart Modules:* Interactive “flashcards” designed to help you review the material learned in each chapter. The LearnSmart system adjusts to your level of knowledge; scores are assigned based on a mastery percentage. a. Go here to download the **iphone app:** http://ax.itunes.apple.com/us/app/learnsmart/id365879172?mt=8

3. *Practice Quiz:* A practice quiz is given for each unit; this quiz will give you a short example of the types of questions that you may find on the exams. The practice quiz can be taken multiple times, until the desired score is achieved.

**Extra Credit:**

 There will be several opportunities to earn up to 20 points of extra credit throughout the course. Extra credits could entail activities such as attending a psychology group meeting on campus, service learning opportunities through volunteer work or finding news articles/books/films related to discussions of psychology. The details of each extra credit will be posted on Blackboard when they are assigned along with the due dates. Late extra credit will not be accepted.

\*\*\*Plan to take the Final Exam during the scheduled time. DO NOT MAKE PLANS TO LEAVE FOR THE BREAK BEFORE THE EXAM, OR YOU WILL MISS THE FINAL EXAM AND WILL RECEIVE A GRADE OF ZERO FOR THE COURSE.

**Withdrawal from a Course Policy**:

A. A student is permitted to withdraw from a class on or before the withdrawal deadline, as published in the College calendar. A student is not permitted to withdraw from a class after the withdrawal deadline.

B. A faculty member is permitted to withdraw a student from the faculty member’s class for violation of the faculty member’s attendance policy with written notification to the student prior to the beginning of the final exam period, as published in the faculty member’s syllabus. A faculty member is not permitted to withdraw a student from his or her class as a response to student conduct which falls under the jurisdiction of the Student Code of Conduct (6Hx28:10-03).

C. A student who withdraws from a class before the withdrawal deadline will receive a grade of "W." A student who is withdrawn by a professor will receive a grade of "W." A student who is withdrawn for administrative reasons at any time will receive a grade of "W" or other grade as determined in consultation with the professor. Any student who withdraws or is withdrawn from a class during a third or subsequent attempt in the same course will be assigned a grade of "F". The grades of “WP” and “WF” are eliminated.

D. A student who receives a grade of “W” will not receive credit for the course, and the W will not be calculated in the student’s grade point average; however, the enrollment will count in the student’s total attempts in the specific course.

E. If a student withdraws from a class, the student may, upon request and only with the faculty member’s permission (which may be withheld at any time in the sole discretion of the faculty member), continue to attend the course. If a student is withdrawn by a faculty member or is administratively withdrawn, the student is not permitted to continue to attend the class.

F. **Date to Withdraw for SPRING 2017 is March 31st**

#### Other Information

**Information for Students with Disabilities:**

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the appropriate office. The disabilities office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

<http://valenciacollege.edu/osd/>

**Academic Honesty:**

No form of cheating will be tolerated. Any student guilty of cheating or plagiarizing will be given the 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 and University files. Students must also adhere to the following Honor Code:

http://catalog.valenciacollege.edu/academicpoliciesprocedures/studentcodeofconduct/

**Cell Phone and Laptop Policies:**

 Cell phone usage and texting is not permitted during class time. Please reserve your cell phone usage to breaks or outside of class.

Laptops are permitted in class, but only for taking notes or related class content. If it becomes clear that laptops are being used for anything other than class work, I will ask you to stop using them for that class period. If laptops are repeatedly used for outside of class activities during class I will revoke the privilege of allowing laptops during class. I will make these decisions on a case-by-case basis.

Failure to comply with these rules will result as follows:

1. First offense - cell phone or laptop will be confiscated for class
2. Second offense - student will be asked to leave class and absence will be recorded
3. Third offense - student will not be allowed to continue in the class and will be required to withdraw themselves or receive an F in the course

**Course Style and Participation**

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 and understand the application of the material. Some of the covered material will include the following: Gender, Birth and Death, Sexuality, Phobias, Disorders and other as appropriate.

If you are uncomfortable with any of these topics you may inform the instructor at any time, and time out of class during these lectures will be provided. If assistance is needed regarding course content or any other matter (personal problems, questions, etc.) I (Hani Freeman) may be contacted at any time.

Participation in classroom activities is required. Please speak with me if you are uncomfortable with any of the activities.

**Computer/Equipment Policy**

It is expected that each student will have access to a computer for any and all classroom needs. It is also expected that students will utilize necessary equipment for checking of communication emails or classroom materials as required through the course.

**Disclaimer Statement**

This syllabi is subject to change without notice or warning as needed and at the discretion of the course instructor. The course instructor also has the right to modify necessary elements of the syllabi as needed.

**Campus Resources**

Valencia College has a number of on-campus 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 resources:

* Ellen Rendle - (Social Sciences) Program Advisor, Phone: (407) 582-5675, email: lrendle@valenciacollege.edu
* West Campus Tutoring Center - Bldg. 7, Room 240, Phone: (407) 582-1633
* West Campus Writing/Communications Center - Bldg. 5, Room 155, Phone: (407) 582-5454
* West Campus Advising Center - SSB, Room 110
* West Campus Library - Bldg. 6, Phone: (407) 582-1432
* BayCare Behavioral Health & Student Assistance Program (SAP) - Phone: (800) 878-5470

**Introduction to Psychology Course Outline**

NOTE:  The schedule of events is tentative and subject to change at any time during the course of the semester.  Several planned interactions and exercises will accompany the text material at various times during the course of the semester, which may influence the rate at which other material is covered.

Important Dates can be found here: http://valenciacc.edu/calendar

Date Chapter Breakdown:

January

11 Meet and Greet – Guidelines and Expectations;

Chapter 1 - Psychology Intro & Philosophy

 18 Chapter 2 – Psychological Research (Homework 1 Due)

 25 Chapter 3 – Neuroscience and Behavior (Homework 2 Due)

February

1 Chapter 4 – Sensation and Perception (Homework 3 Due)

8 **Review: 5:30 – 6:30.** **Exam 1: Chapters 1 – 4 (6:45 – 8:15 pm)**

15 Chapter 6 – Learning (Homework 4 Due)

 22 Chapter 7 – Memory; (Homework 5 Due)

March

 1 Chapter 8 – Cognition & Language (Homework 6 Due)

 8 **Review: 5:30 – 6:30.** **Exam 2: Chapters 6, 7, & 8 (6:45 – 8:15 pm)**

 15 Spring Break - No Class Today

 22 Chapter 12 – Development (Homework 7 Due)

 29 Chapter 14 – Health Psychology: Stress, Coping, and Well-Being

 (Homework 8 Due)

April

 05 Chapter 15 – Psychological Disorders (Homework 9 Due)

12 Chapter 17 – Social Psychology (Homework 10 Due)

 19 **Review: 5:30 – 6:30.** **Exam 3 Chapters 12, 14, 15 & 17(6:45 – 8:15 pm)**

Final Exam April 26 6:00 – 9:00 pm Cumulative Exam

Last Day to Withdraw from course: March 31st