**General Psychology ~ Valencia College ~ Spring 2014**

**PSY2012 ~ 25071 ~ M/W 8:30-9:45 am ~ Rm. 1-374**

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Text: King, L. (2011). The Science of Psychology. (2nd Ed.). McGraw Hill Publishers.

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Pre-requisites - none Credits – three (3)

**Class Schedule**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **CHAPTER** | **TOPIC** |
| Jan. M/6 | 1 | What Is Psychology |
| W/8 | 1 | What Is Psychology |
| M/13 | 2 | Psychology’s Scientific Method |
| W/15 | 3 | Biological Foundations of Behavior |
| M/20 |  | *No Class – MLK Day* |
| W/22 | 3 | Biological Foundations of Behavior |
| **M/27** |  | **EXAM ONE – Ch. – 1, 2, 3** |
| W/29 | 9 | Human Development |
| Feb. M/3 | 9 | Human Development |
| W/5 | 9 | Human Development |
| M/10 | 6 | Learning |
| W/12 | 6 | Learning |
| M/17 | 11 | Gender, Sex, Sexuality |
| W/19 | 11 | Gender, Sex, Sexuality |
| **M/24** |  | **EXAM TWO – Ch. 9, 6, 11** |
| W/26 | 12 | Personality |
| Mar. 3-5 |  | *Spring Break* |
| M/10 | 12 | Personality |
| W/12 | 13 | Social Psychology |
| M/17 | 13 | Social Psychology |
| W/19 | 13 | Social Psychology |
| M/24 |  | **EXAM THREE – Ch. 12, 13** |
| W/26 | 15 | Psychological Disorders |
| M/31 | 15 | Psychological Disorders |
| Apr. W/2 | 16 | Therapies |
| M/7 | 16 | Therapies |
| W/9 | 17 | Health Psychology |
| M/14 | 17 | Health Psychology |
| W/16 |  | **EXAM FOUR – Ch. 15, 16, 17** |
| **W/23** |  | **FINAL EXAM 7:00- 9:30 AM** |

**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.

**Respectful Classroom Behaviors.** Class will almost always run the full time period so plan to be here on time and stay throughout the entire scheduled class period. If this is going to be a problem for you, I strongly urge you to find a class that better suits your schedule. I also expect everyone to behave in a courteous manner in the classroom (e.g., not talking while others are talking, turning off cell phones, using laptops ONLY for note-taking). These are basic courtesies that contribute to an effective learning environment. If you do not follow these rules, I may ask you to leave the class, turn off your laptop, etc.

The following behaviors can have a detrimental effect upon my ability to teach and your ability to learn. I want you to know what these behaviors are so you will avoid engaging in them. If you decide to engage in these behaviors, it will be my responsibility to ask you to stop doing them, or leave the class.

• Allowing your cell phone to ring in class or, worse yet, answering it and engaging in a telephone conversation during class. Make sure your cell phone is off before you enter the classroom.

**Texting is prohibited in class**.

• Talking to your fellow students during class about things that are not related to the official topic of discussion.

• Arriving at class late or leaving class early.

• Packing up your books before the class is over.

• Failing to comprehend and/or follow instructions due to a lack of attention.

• Making distracting noises or movements. (yawning loudly)

• Sitting in the back of the classroom when there are seats available in the front.

• Behaving as if you are bored by or uninterested in the class material (falling asleep).

• Coming to class unprepared (without completing the reading or assignment that is due).

• Exhibiting academically dishonest behaviors (cheating or plagiarizing). This is grounds for failing the course.

• Intentionally refusing to participate in classroom activities.

• Doing things in class other than what is expected (doing homework for another class).

• Asking questions that are off the topic or that have already been answered.

• Treating your fellow students or professor with disrespect (insults).

I reserve the right to ask any student who does not adhere to these guidelines to leave the classroom.

**Participation/Attendance:** Regular and consistent attendance is necessary to do well in this class. Much of what you will learn will come from experiences we have in class and will require your participation. Attendance will be taken during each class period and arriving late or leaving prior to the end of the class may result in your having an absence recorded for that class period. You are allowed 2 absences without penalty after which each absence will result in a 5 point per absence deduction from your final point total at the end of the semester. You will receive 5 bonus points for perfect attendance. Perfect attendance is not missing any class session for any reason. Much of the learning in this class will come from in-class activities such as personal assessments, small group activities, videos, class lecture, etc. A student who misses a significant number of classes can have a negative impact on others’ learning experiences, particularly in the small groups, and will not have the same learning experience as students who attend regularly, thus I have the following policy related to excessive absences: *Any student having 5 or more absences will receive an "F" grade regardless of their performance on exams.*

**Communication:** It is YOUR responsibility to check your Atlas account email on a daily basis. I will communicate to you through this account and it is thus your responsibility to make sure you are up to date and check your Atlas email for announcements related to the course.

**Disability (ADA) Statement:** Valencia College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities.  This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request.  Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations.  No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the instructor to request accommodations.  Students who need accommodations must be registered with the Office for Students with Disabilities, Building 5 Room 216, before requesting accommodations from the instructor.

**Course Objectives:** My goal in this course is to help you think critically about psychology. Thus, the classroom is a place where we will be engaging in a free flow of ideas during the semester. I expect that we will treat each other with the utmost respect. Some of the topics we will be discussing may be sensitive for some of us, and therefore we must all behave courteously. I expect us to disagree at times, which is healthy, but we must engage in these intellectual debates in a polite and considerate manner. We will learn the following:

***Knowledge of Psychology*.**

1. Historical and cultural roots of psychology

2. Theoretical frameworks in psychology

3. Methods used to explore psychological questions

4. Current evidence in the major areas of psychology

***Scientific Attitudes and Skills*.**

1. Refuse to accept assertions based solely on authority

2. Be open to changing your own beliefs based on new information

3. Critically evaluate generalizations

4. Appreciate the limitations and tentative nature of scientific knowledge

5. Question the evidence and logic behind assertions

6. Think about the implications and applications of scientific findings

7. Express your thoughts clearly when speaking

***Personal Development*.**

1. Increased appreciation of the complexity underlying even our simplest behaviors, which may, in turn, lead to:

a. A decreased tendency to take your abilities for granted

b. An increased tendency to use your abilities/time wisely

c. An increased tendency to take better care of yourself

2. Increased understanding of the factors influencing human behavior, which may, in turn, lead to:

a. An increased understanding of your own behavior and that of others

b. An increased ability to effect positive changes in your own life as well as in the lives of others

***Fun.***

Learning about psychology is fun when you take an active role in your own education throughout the semester. Though not all topics we cover during the semester may be of interest to you, I challenge you to find something in every reading and in every class that makes you excited about psychology. I hope that we can have fun while learning the subject matter in a relaxed but mature atmosphere.

**Exams:** There will be four multiple choice exams during the semester. Each exam will be made up of 50 multiple choice questions, and each question will be worth two points. You may take each exam by yourself, or in a group of two or three students. However, you may only turn in one answer sheet. There will be no make-up exams. The lowest score will be dropped. The final exam will be cumulative, and made up of 100 questions, each worth one point. You may not drop your final exam grade. You must take the final exam on your own. You must bring two sharp #2 pencils with erasers to each test.

A = 90-100% Exam Scores: #1\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

B = 80-89% #2\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

C = 70-79% #3\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

D = 60-69% #4\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

F = 0-59% Average: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Homework:** Your homework is found on Blackboard. You must have a code from McGraw Hill for the homework assignments. All the information for homework is found on Blackboard.

**Grades:** Your final grade in this course is the average of your three section tests, your homework and your final exam. They are weighted equally. Additionally, class participation and attendance are also part of your final grade.

**One final note –** if you are having difficulty, do not wait until the end of the semester to come talk to me. Do not come to me at the end of the semester and plead for me to give you a B when your grade is an F or to give you extra credit. Please talk to me as soon as possible if you are having personal difficulties or are having a problem with course material. Remember – spend more time involved in your learning process than you would in pleading for a higher grade!

Valencia College is interested in making sure all our students have a rewarding and successful college experience.  To that purpose, Valencia students can get immediate help with issues dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, adjustment difficulties, substance abuse, time management as well as relationship problems dealing with school, home or work.  BayCare Behavioral Health Student Assistance Program (SAP) services are free to all Valencia students and available 24 hours a day by calling (800) 878-5470. Free face-to-face counseling is also available.

**Withdrawal: March 21, 2014** is the deadline for withdrawing from this course without penalty. You must notify the college if you withdraw.

*~ This syllabus is subject to change ~*