**PSY 2012 – General Psychology**

**3 Credit Hours**

**CRN 25482**

**Spring 2018 Course Syllabus**

Instructor: Kellie Kissell, MA

Office Hours: By appointment before class only

Email: kkissell@valenciacollege.edu

Classroom Location: 11-340

Class Meeting Days/Time: M, W 5:30 – 7:30

Office/Phone: N/A

**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 2017-2018, Course Description)

**Course Objectives:**

* To understand the history and evolution of psychology as a scientific discipline
* To learn how scientific reasoning is used to interpret psychological concepts
* To recognize the influence of diversity in psychological phenomena
* To demonstrate familiarity with the overarching themes and theories across the major areas of psychology and understand how these affect our daily lives

**Core Competencies:** Four Core Competencies comprise the learning outcomes of a Valencia graduate. These include:

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

**Communication:** Students are expected to check their student email account and course Blackboard site regularly, as information pertinent to success in this course may be posted at any time. It is important that you use Firefox as your web browser in order for the functions of Blackboard to work properly. Students will be expected to communicate professionally with the professor and other students. This includes all emails and other interactions. In particular, when sending emails, please be courteous, clear, concise, and check spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Emails must include the professor’s name, student’s name, course information (e.g. General Psychology M&W 5:30-7:30) and use proper English (no abbreviations, etc.). Any email that does not conform to these requirements may be ignored. Do not expect an immediate response. In general, 24-48 hours is considered a reasonable amount of time to receive a reply. Keep this in mind when sending time-sensitive information. Please note that students are expected to have access to a computer for any classroom needs.

**Course Prerequisites:** None

**Required Materials:**

* Feldman, R. S. (2017). *Understanding psychology* (13th ed.). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Education.
* Pencil or black ink pen for exams

**Attendance/Participation Policy:** Per Valencia policy, class attendance is mandatory. Please note that points are deducted from the attendance portion of final grades for missed time in class (including arriving late/leaving early; this will be recorded as missing half of the class). Three or more absences will result in a 50% reduction in the attendance grade. Five or more absences will result in a 0. I will take daily attendance for my records at the start of class. If you arrive late, it is your responsibility to inform me that you are present during a break or after class to be marked as present. Occasionally, circumstances arise that interfere with classroom attendance. If you must miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain the missed information. However, assume that no absence will be excused; excused absences will be left to the instructor’s discretion. Proper documentation must be provided in order for consideration of excusal (i.e., doctor note). Students who miss no more than one class the entire semester (including excused absences) and have demonstrated strong participation throughout the semester are eligible for rounding to be factored into his or her grade. Arriving on time, staying for the entire class, and staying engaged is considered present. If you have to leave the class often, text, or do anything else that demonstrates lack of attention to the class, you will be marked absent for the day. This is left entirely to the professor’s discretion.

**Course Evaluation:** Students will have the opportunity to earn a total of 1000 points during the semester. Final grades will be determined as follows:

900 – 1000 points       = **A**- 90% - 100%  
800 – 899 points         = **B**   - 80% - 89.9%  
700 – 799 points         = **C**   - 70% - 79.9%

600 – 699 points         = **D**   - 60% - 69.9%  
0 – 599 points         = **F**   - 0% - 59.9%

\*Rounding will not be factored into your grade unless you meet the participation requirement outlined above

**Course Assignments:**

Online Quizzes 100 points

Exam 1 200 points

Exam 2 200 points

Exam 3 200 points

Exam 4 200 points

Attendance 100 points

Final Exam\* 100 points

**Exams:** Examinations will include four in-class exams consisting of multiple-choice items drawn from required readings and any material discussed or presented during lecture. Students must arrive to class on time on exam days. Any student who arrives late or does not present to class will receive a zero for that exam. **There are no excused absences on exam days. This includes any emergencies.** Students are expected to bring their own writing instrument (i.e., pencil or black-ink pen) to class. Students who do not bring an appropriate writing utensil to an exam forfeit the right to take the exam and will receive a score of zero. Cell phones must be turned off and out of view. All materials (e.g., books, notes, backpacks) must be neatly organized under the desk. There should be no materials on the desk. Students will not be permitted to leave their seat once an exam has begun. No notes or books are allowed during the exam. However, you will be allowed to write on both sides of an **index card** (3”x5”) and bring the card with you to the exam. The card has to be handwritten by yourself. The professor reserves the right to confiscate cards or completely stop this policy at any point during semester. You must take all of the regular class exams, no exceptions. No makeup exams or alternative exams are offered. Failure to take an exam will result in a zero. On exam days, you may leave once you have finished your exam. However, the first hour of class may be reserved for lecture at the discretion of the professor depending upon class needs.

**Quizzes:** Weekly quizzes will be posted on Blackboard and will cover information from lectures and the textbook.

**Attendance:** See above

**\*Final Exam:** The final exam will be a cumulative/comprehensive exam and will cover the material covered during the entire semester. If you take the final comprehensive exam, the lowest score from your regular class exams will be dropped. However, the final exam is **optional**if you fit the following criteria: 1) You have taken all of the regular class exams, 2) You have at least a C average in the class, and 3) The professor has not told you that you must take the final

**The final exam cannot be made up or taken at an alternative time.**

**Late Work/Make Up/Extra Credit:** Work is not accepted late for any reason. This includes all course assignments (e.g., quizzes, attendance, and exams). Any online quiz that is not submitted prior to the submission deadline will receive a grade of “0”. **Students will not be permitted to make up quizzes for ANY reason.** This includes personal reasons, technological difficulties, illness, etc. Finally, no extra credit will be given under any circumstances.

**Withdrawal Deadline:** Per Valencia Policy 4-07 (Academic Progress, Course Attendance and Grades, and Withdrawals) a student who withdraws from class before the **withdrawal deadline of April 6, 2018** will receive a grade of “W.” A student is not permitted to withdraw from this class after the withdrawal deadline; if you remain in the class after the withdrawal deadline, you can only receive a grade of A, B, C, D, F. It is the responsibility of the student to withdraw themselves before the withdrawal deadline and to be aware of the date of the withdrawal deadline. The course instructor will not withdraw you from the course due to failure to show, attendance or grading, nor requests for withdrawal. 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. Students who receive forms of financial aid should consult an advisor before withdrawing from a course since there may be financial implications to withdrawing.

**Information for Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a Notification to Instructor (NTI) form from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with the professor, preferably during the first two weeks of class; accommodations will not be applied retroactively. West Campus SSB, Rm. 102; Phone: 407-582-1523; Fax: 407-582-1326; TTY: ([407) 582-1222](tel:407-582-1222); <http://valenciacollege.edu/osd/>

**Academic Honesty:** All forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited at Valencia College. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, acts or attempted acts of plagiarism, cheating, furnishing false information, forgery, alteration or misuse of documents, misconduct during a testing situation, facilitating academic dishonesty, and misuse of identification with intent to defraud or deceive. All work submitted by students is expected to be the result of the students' individual thoughts, research, and self-expression. Whenever a student uses ideas, wording, or organization from another source, the source shall be appropriately acknowledged. Academic penalties may include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following: loss of credit for an assignment, examination, or project; withdrawal from course; a reduction in the course grade; or a grade of "F" in the course.

**Specific Course and Behavior Policies:** A meaningful learning community requires respect, willingness to listen, and tolerance of opposing viewpoints. Every student is entitled to a classroom environment that facilitates learning. Therefore, appropriate classroom behavior is expected in addition to adherence to the classroom behavior standards outlined in the Student Handbook. Examples of behavior that will not be tolerated include, but are not limited to: excessive tardiness, leaving early, talking during class, or electronic disruptions (e.g., cell phones, web browsing). If these guidelines are not followed, the professor reserves the right to ask a student to leave for the remainder of the class period and an absence will be recorded. If the behavior is considered significantly disruptive or is representative of a pattern of disruptive behavior, the student may not be allowed to continue in the course, in which case the student will be required to withdraw themselves or receive an “F” in the course. NOTE: Students DO NOT have permission to record (audio, video, photo, text) communication sessions with the instructor. This includes taking photos of slides in class in lieu of note-taking.

**Student Code of Conduct: “**Valencia is dedicated not only to the advancement of knowledge and learning but also to the development of responsible personal and social conduct. As a registered student, you assume the responsibility for conducting yourself in a manner that contributes positively to Valencia’s learning community and that does not impair, interfere with, or obstruct the orderly conduct, processes, and functions of the college as described in the [Student Code of Conduct](http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policy/documents/Volume8/8-03-Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf)”. (College Policy: 6Hx28: 8-03).

**Campus Resources:**

Valencia College has several resources designed to help you succeed. If you need additional assistance in your courses or are having trouble dealing with psychological issues\* (e.g., stress, anxiety, time management, relationships, etc.), please feel free to look into these resources:

* 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
* Computer Access Lab – Bldg. 6, Room 101, Phone: (407) 582-1646
* Blackboard Help Desk: (407)-582-5600 or [onlinehelp@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:onlinehelp@valenciacollege.edu)  or OIT Help Desk: (407)-582-5554

**Disclaimer Statement:** The course schedule and syllabus are subject to modification at the discretion of the instructor. Changes will be announced in class. It is the student’s responsibility to make any adjustments.

**Course Schedule**

**PLEASE NOTE: This course schedule is a tentative outline that is subject to change at any time during the semester per the instructor’s discretion.**

**Quizzes are due every Sunday and will cover chapter(s) covered during the previous week. You are expected to complete the required readings before class.**

**Week Date Class Topic Due e**

Week 1 Feb 12 Syllabus & Intro to Psych

Feb 14 Introduction to Psychology Ch. 1

**Quiz 1(Intro) & 2 due Feb 18**

Week 2 Feb 19 Psychological Research Ch. 2

Feb 21 Neuroscience and Behavior Ch. 3

**Quiz 3 due Feb 25**

Week 3 Feb 26 **Exam #1**

Feb 28 Sensation and Perception Ch. 4

**Quiz 4 due Mar 4**

Week 4 Mar 5 States of Consciousness Ch. 5

Mar 7 Learning Ch. 6

**Quiz 5 due Mar 11**

Week 5Mar 12 **SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS**

Mar 14 **SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS** **Quiz 6 due Mar 18**

Week 6 Mar 19 **Exam #2**

Mar 21 Memory Ch. 7

**Quiz 7 due Mar 25**

Week 7 Mar 26 Cognition and Language Ch. 8

Mar 28 Development Ch. 12

**Quiz 8 Apr 1**

Week 8 Apr 2 **Exam #3**

Apr 4 Personality Ch. 13

**Quiz 9 due Apr 8**

**\*\*\*April 6 Withdrawal Deadline (to receive a “W”)\*\*\***

Week 9 Apr 9 Psychological Disorders Ch. 15

Apr 11 Treatment of Psychological Disorders Ch. 16

**Quiz 10 due Apr 15**

Week 10 Apr 16 **Exam #4**

Apr 18 **FINAL EXAM**

Week 11 Apr 23 **No Class – Finals Week**

Apr 25 **No Class – Finals Week**