

VALENCIA COLLEGE, OSCEOLA CAMPUS
PSYCHOLOGY 2012 – CRN 15010 (General Psychology)
Fall, 2016
Dr. Nancy Small Reed

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Nancy Small Reed

Office hours: The first 10 minutes of class and after class

Contact me: email me in **Blackboard** for our class, by posting in a Q&A type discussion topic, or by emailing me personally at nreed14@valenciacollege.edu . I check my email several times a day.

Classroom & time: 1:00 - 3:45 p.m. Fridays, Osceola Building 3, Room 115

Important Dates during the Semester:

Friday, September 2	First day of class
Monday, September 5	Labor Day, college closed
Tuesday, September 6	Drop/refund deadline, 11:59 p.m.
Friday, November 11	Withdrawal Deadline, 11:59 p.m.
Wed., Nov. 23 – Nov. 27	Thanksgiving Break (college closed, no class on Friday)
Friday, December 16	Required Comprehensive Final Exam, 12 – 2:30 p.m.

II. LEARNING MATERIALS

Pastorino, E., & Doyle-Portillo, S. (2016). *What is Psychology? Foundations, Applications and Integration, 3rd Edition*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Cengage. (REQUIRED). *What is Psychology? 3rd edition* (2012) is **NOT** acceptable.

Mindtap Online Learning Resource to accompany Pastorino & Doyle-Portillo, *What is Psychology? Foundations, Applications and Integration, 3rd ed.* Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Cengage. (REQUIRED). Mindtap is a very important part of the course and you will not do better than a C if you do none of the Mindtap assignments—even if you earn full points for every other assignment in the course.

Blackboard: Information for this class will be included in Blackboard, as will announcements, assignment information, makeup activities, etc. Be sure to check this at regularly, as I will be posting course assignments, additional readings, etc. Also, a question another student asks about an assignment in the discussion section may well help you complete an assignment. This is the best place to contact me.

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES

Why should you study psychology? Because not only is it a very useful discipline as it addresses so many topics of relevance to everyone's life, but it is also a fascinating discipline! While you may not find each topic equally interesting, and are perhaps unsure about the relevance of some topics to you right now, I am confident that you will find most, if not all, topics of relevance to you in future years.

Catalog 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. 3 semester hours credit.

The major topics/concepts/skills/issues for the course as identified by Valencia College include:

1. The nature of psychology as a discipline including how it evolved as a science and the various fields that comprise it.
2. The major modern theoretical perspectives of psychology.
3. Psychological research methods.
4. The principles of ethics when conducting research or therapy.
5. Biological influences on behavior.
6. Learning and developmental influences on behavior.
7. Cognitive influences on behavior.
8. Social and cultural influences on behavior.

The major learning outcomes as identified by Valencia College include:

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.

These will be addressed in course materials and exams, in the context of Valencia's core competencies of Think, Value, Act, and Communicate. Curriculum recommendations from the American Psychological Association will also be incorporated, as well as research on adult learners.

Here's a couple of examples of how we will study the learning outcomes:

1. "Meet a Psychologist" activity. You will write a short biography of a psychologist and share the information with classmates in a small group, including new information you gained, how this psychologist has contributed to society, and how you and others can apply the information you gained from studying this psychologist. We will discuss these in class. Topics addressed include the various fields of psychology, theoretical (or empirical) perspectives of psychology, major findings and the research approaches used. Valencia competencies addressed are Think, Value, and Communicate. You will be provided with detailed assignment guidelines and the grading rubric to guide your work.
2. "Personal Development Activity". You will follow a personal development process based on psychological research and application of adult learning and training methods, psychological research methods, and application of course topics. You will pick a skill to improve (many students address "time management skills", for instance), gather information about how to improve your skill, develop your plan, implement your plan, reflect on the success of your plan and steps for the future, and link to course topics. Valencia competencies addressed are Think, Value, Communicate and Act. We will

discuss these in class during the project and at the completion of the project. You will be provided with detailed assignment guidelines and the grading rubric to guide your work.

IV. COURSE POLICIES & COLLEGE RESOURCES

Attendance and class preparation: You are expected to do assigned prep work for class, typically reading the assigned chapter and doing the Mindtap learning assignment before class and Mindtap learning quizzes after class. This class meets only once per week. It is very important that you attend class, as we will be doing a variety of activities in class that will help you learn, remember and practice applying course content. Appropriate alternative activities will be provided per college policy and at the instructor's discretion, but you miss the benefits of your classmates' comments and questions and feedback on your own insights when you miss class.

Withdrawal: Attendance will be monitored, and this information is used in part to determine whether or not you must repay some financial aid and whether or not you will pay the full cost of tuition if you withdraw from the course more than once.

Official college policy wording:

Per Valencia Policy, a student is permitted to withdraw from a class on or before the withdrawal deadline of a term, as published in the College calendar. A student is not permitted to withdraw from a class after the withdrawal deadline. A student who withdraws from a class before the withdrawal deadline will receive a grade of "W."

A faculty member is permitted to withdraw a student from the faculty member's class up to the beginning of the final exam period, for violation of the faculty member's attendance policy, as published in the faculty member's syllabus. A faculty member is not permitted to withdraw a student from his/her class as a response to student conduct which falls under the jurisdiction of the Student Code of Conduct (6Hx28:8-03). A student who is withdrawn by a professor at any time before the start of the final examination period will receive a grade of "W."

For more information, please review the official Withdrawal Policy:
http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policy/default.cfm?policyID=75&volumeID_1=4&pcdure=0&navst=0

My personal interpretation of this policy is: You will be withdrawn from the class if you miss more than 2 classes without notifying me in writing (email is fine) that you wish to continue in the class. I am required to withdraw any student who has not attended class or made contact with me to makeup class activities prior to the "no show" period. For our class, this means you must be present by the second class meeting, or you will be withdrawn from the class. Students must withdraw/drop the class during Add/Drop in order to receive a refund.

Tardiness: The first 10 minutes of every class will be "office hours." If circumstances arise such that you will be more than 10 minutes late, please be courteous and take your seat quietly. It is far better to be late than to skip class. You might miss out on part of the class, but you will have the chance to benefit from the remaining learning activities, earn activity points, as well as interact with your classmates and me.

Conduct: Valencia is dedicated not only to the advancement of knowledge and learning but is concerned with the development of responsible personal and social conduct. By enrolling at Valencia, a student assumes the responsibility for becoming familiar with and abiding by the general rules of conduct. Psychology as a discipline is about respecting others and understanding the difference between opinions and truth for now. We won't all have the same opinion about a topic, particularly before we study the actual research ("truth for now") on that topic, but we are all required to be courteous to one another. We are all expected to express our comments in a manner that is not offensive to anyone of a different race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age or sexual orientation. When we are doing activities as a class rather than small groups, side conversations are not appropriate, as they are distracting. You may use laptops/netbooks/tablets/phones during class for some class activities (NOT for social media and not during quizzes or exams), and please set cell phones to vibrate only. You have the opportunity to check messages, etc. during class breaks. If a student engages in any prohibited or unlawful acts that result in disruption of a class, I may direct you to leave the class, and follow up with disciplinary action as appropriate. You will find the Student Code of Conduct in the Current Valencia Student Handbook and the in the Valencia Policy Manual (valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policy).

Make-ups and late assignments: Class attendance and participation are extremely important. Make-ups for exams and activities will be allowed per college policy and at the instructor's discretion. You need to notify me in advance where possible. Make-up exams may well contain more essay/short response questions than the in-class exam. Late assignments MAY be accepted for partial points, as late learning is better than no learning! When you are not prepared for a class activity, you deprive yourself and your classmates of your best participation during class activities. It is your responsibility to contact me if you have questions about assignments, have a problem with an exam date, etc.

Cheating and other academic policies: For some activities, you are allowed, even encouraged, to gather information and discuss an assignment with others. You are responsible for giving credit to your sources; otherwise, you are plagiarizing the work of others. Some assignments such as tests, will be designated to be your work only, and you may not seek assistance from nor supply assistance to, others – that will be regarded as cheating. If you are not sure about the circumstances, please ask me to clarify the situation. Evidence of cheating will result in 0 points for that activity and potentially an F in the course. Academic policies are addressed in the catalog and Valencia Policy Manual.

Special Needs: Per college policy "Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a notification from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with their instructor, preferably during the first two weeks of class. The OSD determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities." A typical accommodation is increased time to complete exams. Please check the students documentation guidelines at: <http://valenciacollege.edu/osd/DocumentationGuidelines.cfm>

Student Grievance: Usually class related issues can be resolved simply through discussion. However, should a student wish to pursue an issue, the official Valencia policy is:

Students have recourse through the Student Academic Dispute Resolution process to seek a fair determination for the assignment of a final course grade. However, final grades of "W" and "I" based upon the failure of the student to take the final examination, excessive absences, or other administrative reasons may not be grieved to the Student Final Grade Dispute Resolution Committee. For non-final grades and matters, each Campus President shall be responsible for designating a person or persons to assist

students who wish a review of decisions that are related to access to courses and credit granted toward the degree (excluding final grades).

Remember, it is your responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct and other college policies.

V. COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

Overview: You will be provided with a variety of ways to demonstrate your increasing achievement of course objectives and earn points towards your grade. This class meets just once a week, so it is essential that you allow adequate study time and attend class regularly.

There are no points earned for merely attending a class meeting. I will post your points earned throughout the semester in Blackboard, and provide a “points log” listing the points available for each assignment as the course progresses. Fill in the points you earn as the term progresses and note upcoming points earning activities. If you feel I have made a mistake in posting your points in Blackboard, have your supporting information available. **ALWAYS save a copy of any work you submit in case of computer problems, etc.**

Approximate %: Quizzes and Exams—50%, Mindtap—25%, and Other Assignments—25%. Your grade is based on the number of points you earn.

900 points and above = A
800-899 points = B
700-799 points = C
600-699 points = D
0-599 points = F

Exams: Exams will be primarily multiple choice but may also include short response and/or short essay questions. Exam 1 will be worth about 160 points, Exam 2 about 120 points, and the comprehensive final will be worth about 220 points (it's never too late to learn earlier course material to use in the future!). Exam content will include the full range of course material: syllabus information, textbook, mini-lectures in class, class activities, additional information provided in Blackboard, Mindtap assignments and in-class quizzes.

Quizzes: There will be a short, non-graded quiz at the beginning of non-exam classes to assess your preparedness for the class activities. These quizzes will include questions from assigned readings, directions for activities, prior class activities, and may also include whether or not you have done other required prep activities (completed a Mindtap activity, read information provided in Blackboard, made notes from an Internet search on a topic, etc.). We will often discuss misconceptions about questions and implications for applying course information in other courses and outside school in small groups. You will have numerous opportunities to become familiar with the types of questions I ask before the first exam, and I will explain why a particular answer is the “correct” answer as needed. *If you don't prepare and carefully reflect about items on these in-class quizzes, you won't do well on the Mindtap quizzes or class exams without considerable further study!*

Mindtap: The Mindtap Online Learning Resource assignments on the textbook publisher's website are an important part of the class and will typically feature an activity and/or quiz to expand or test your understanding of textbook material. These assignments are designed to help reinforce your understanding of textbook material and prepare you to benefit from in-class activities and do well on quizzes and exams. *If you don't do well on the Mindtap quiz for a chapter, you won't do well on the next exam without further study!* You will complete Mindtap activities and quizzes for several chapters. There will be no extensions unless there is a verified Mindtap system problem or you have an official Valencia excuse that covers much of the due date window (starting the assignment an hour before it is due and having a computer problem then will not earn you an extension). Due dates and points will be announced in class, posted in Blackboard, and specified in Mindtap itself. Course points are calculated based on the the percentage of Mindtap points earned for the assignment: suppose a quiz is worth 30 points in Mindtap and you earn 24 of the Mindtap points. The quiz is worth up to 20 points in the class. You earn 4/5 or 80% of the possible 20 class points for that activity—16 points.

It is very important that you register in Mindtap and begin assignments the first week! You can access Mindtap “help” directly from the website listed on the Mindtap registration handout or information provided on the Mindtap website or in Blackboard. You may find it easier to use computers on campus to do the Mindtap assignments, as someone will be available to help you with computer-related technical problems. Mindtap is available for free for a couple of weeks at the beginning of the term.

Other assignments: The “Meet a Psychologist” activity is worth up to 70 points, and the “Personal Development Activity” is worth up to 100 points. Other points earning assignments include such activities as completing and reflecting on surveys, writing short responses to questions such as “Three things I learned from this activity” or “Three ways I can apply chapter information”, writing about how you are achieving course outcomes, analyzing TV shows from the perspective of a psychologist, and an enhanced learning activity to address weak spots on an exam, etc. You may earn up to 80 additional points from these activities. Instructions, grading rubrics and samples will be provided in Blackboard as well as in class. We will spend class time discussing these assignments.

You will be provided with a written copy of the Semester Assignments List with due dates for assignments in writing and it will be posted in Blackboard. I will also remind you of upcoming assignments in class. **However, it is your responsibility to keep track of assignments and due dates and complete assignments on time.**

Support for Student Learning from Valencia:

Valencia College provides considerable services to support your college experience, including tutoring, financial aid, writing centers, counselors and many others. Valencia has a comprehensive program called Lifemap that provides links to programs and services as well as success indicators for each stage of your Valencia experience (introduction to college, progress to degree, etc.) at valenciacollege.edu/lifemap/ . If you are having problems dealing with time management, stress of classes, work and/or family life, feeling depressed, for example, Valencia has contracted with a private and confidential counseling service to assist you. 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 (as described in the online college catalog).

How can you support your own learning and performance improvement:

1. There is no substitute for reading and reflecting on assigned materials! Success in college and life

in general requires lifelong learning, and reading information about topics and techniques remains a very effective way to learn. Studies do not support the notion that you learn “enough” by “doing” something instead of reading about it; they support the importance of applying techniques and content to appropriate situations. This means BOTH reading and doing. As an individual, you likely have preferences about watching videos, listening to lectures, reading the book and other materials, engaging in discussions, writing papers, thinking of examples of how to apply course information in your day to day activities, making your own notes about a topic or technique, etc. You will be more successful when you use multiple methods to learn and practice applying new knowledge and skills. This is true whether the class is face-to-face, online, hybrid, or something you are studying on your own. For example, if you like to play computer games, you did not “beat” the game (or fellow players) the first time you played a game for every game. You probably have spent a lot of time learning the basic strategies of different types of games, observed the game behavior of other players and increased your skills and enjoyment of the games over time. While you may not have the same initial interest in a course topic, you have probably experienced the feeling of increased enjoyment in a course the better you understand the material.

2. Do the assignments on time! Do not wait until the last minute to get started, as some activities simply take more than an hour to complete and your professor is unlikely to be online and ready to answer your last minute questions at 11 p.m. at night. Procrastinating and worrying about the task often makes it seem much more difficult and time-consuming than if you simply just started it.
3. If you don't already use a planner of some type to keep track of assignments, work schedule, etc., start one and use it.
4. Practice explaining course material to a study partner, family member, etc. – if you can't explain it to someone else, you won't be able to apply the information or use the technique, whether on an exam, other class assignment, on the job or with friends and family. Explaining concepts to others can actually make them more memorable and more clear to you, as well.
5. Consider the following approach:
 - Write down your initial knowledge and skill with course topics and techniques (the key topics and outcomes provided on course syllabi are a good place to start).
 - Then write down how you want to improve and why (necessary for the next course as your work towards your desired major, something that will help you on your current job, something that will help you be a better parent or friend, something you simply find personally interesting).
 - Refer back to this list and update it as you learn and apply course information.

You may be surprised at how much you have achieved, and you should certainly celebrate your success! This information may be very helpful when interviewing for jobs—you will be able to present your skills in the context of specific products, whether grades on content tests, papers written, projects done, etc.

PSYCHOLOGY 2012 (General Psychology)
Dr. Nancy Small Reed
CRN 15010, Fall 2016
COURSE SCHEDULE*

Week	Date	Topic	Chapter(s)
1	Sept 2	Welcome to the course, “The Science of Psychology”	1
2	Sept 9	“The Science of Psychology” cont., begin “Applying Psychology in the Workplace”	1, Appendix B
3	Sept 16	“Applying Psychology in the Workplace” cont., begin “Learning”	Appendix B, 6
4	Sept 23	“Learning” cont., begin “Memory”	6, 7
5	Sept 30	“Memory” cont.	7
6	Oct 07	Exam 1	1, Appendix B, 6, 7
7	Oct 14	“Human Development”	9
8	Oct 21	“Social Psychology”	10
9	Oct 28	“Health, Stress and Coping”	12
10	Nov 04	Exam 2	9, 10, 12
11	Nov 11	“Personality”	11
	Nov 11	Withdrawal deadline, 11:59 p.m.	
12	Nov 18	“Cognition, Language and Intelligence”, begin “Neuroscience	8, 2
13	Nov 25	No class meeting, college closed Nov 23 - 27	
14	Dec 02	“Neuroscience” cont., begin “Mental Health Disorders”	2, 13
15	Dec 09	“Mental Health Disorders” cont, and Wrap Up	13
16	Dec 16	Comprehensive Final Exam, 12 – 2:30 p.m.**	all topics

*Specific details of the syllabus and schedule may be subject to change. Students will be notified of any changes in writing in Blackboard and verbally in class.

**The final exam is mandatory and comprehensive. You will receive a grade of F for the course if you do not complete the final exam, even if you already have enough points for the grade you want. The final is comprehensive, as you need to remember early course material if you are to use it in the future!