

# VALENCIA COLLEGE

## PSY1012H - General Psychology Honors Course Syllabus – 3 Credit Hours Fall, 2009

**Location:** Building 11, Room 999 (WC-11-999)

**Meeting Times:** DAY & DAY, 00:00am-00:15am

**Professor:** Sean P. Jennings, Psy.D.

**Phone:** Valencia (407) 582-1072

**Email:** sjennings6@mail.valenciacollege.edu

**Office:** Building 11 Room 103E

### **Communication:**

Students are strongly encouraged to check their Atlas email accounts regularly, as this system will be utilized to distribute abrupt changes, as well as for notification of pertinent information to individuals. Students are encouraged to routinely check the course's BlackBoard site, as assignments, handouts, quizzes, and take home examinations will be posted on the site throughout the semester. Students are encouraged to use office hours or employ email as a means of communicating with the professor concerning any questions or comments they may have regarding this course. Face to face meetings with the professor on campus may occur during the posted office hours, though if a more lengthy discussion is anticipated an appointment is suggested. Alternative meetings with the professor outside office hours may be arranged via telephonic conferences and/or email with advance notice and approval.

Please be aware, college level students are expected to be able to communicate in a professional manner with professors. Emails that do not include the professor's name, student's name, course information (i.e. General Psych T&R 8-11:10), and use proper English (no texting abbreviations, slang, etc.) may be ignored. If a student does not ask a specific question, the email may not receive a response. Please do not ask general questions that may be better answered by peers, such as "I was absent today, did I miss anything?", "Did you cover anything important today?", or "What did you talk about today? I wasn't there".

### **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 2009-2010, Course Description).

### **Text:**

#### **Required**

Feldman, R.S. (2011). *Understanding Psychology* (10<sup>th</sup> ed). New York: McGraw-Hill.

### **Course Objectives:**

This course is designed to provide a general overview of the science of psychology and explore the relevance and application of psychological principles to daily life to better understand ourselves and the world around us. The material will cover research, theories, and applications of a wide range of psychological concepts. Lectures, reading assignments, and activities are designed to assist the

# VALENCIA COLLEGE

introduction and reinforcement of the CLAST, General Learning Outcomes, and Valencia Core Competencies.

## **Specific general psychology objectives include:**

1. Understanding the scientific underpinnings of psychology by learning theoretical approaches and research methodologies relevant to the study of human behavior.
2. Develop a cursory understanding of the wide variety of disciplines and specialties studied within psychology such as the brain functioning, development, perceptions, emotions, learning, memory, intelligence, personality, abnormal behavior, interaction of psychology & health, therapy, social behavior, and applied psychology.
3. Develop students' critical thinking skills through meaningful synthesis and integration of information within and between psychological concepts.

## **The Valencia Student Core Competencies:**

Valencia has identified four core competencies 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 judgments and responsible commitments.
3. **Communicate:** Communicate with different audiences using varied means.
4. **Act:** Act purposefully, reflectively, and responsibly.

## **Evaluation:**

### **Optional Quizzes**

Class discussion is considered by this professor to be an important element in the learning process as it clarifies information and aids in synthesis of material. All students are expected to be prepared for class by having read the material and ready to contribute to class discussion. If it becomes apparent students are not prepared as a class, meeting their obligation as a learning partner with the professor, in-class quizzes may be utilized and implemented without notice.

### **Examinations**

Examinations will include an in-class examination consisting of multiple-choice, matching, and fill-in-the-blank test items and an online examination (when available). The online portion of the examination will be available prior to the examination date and will be relevant to material not covered during the class time lecture. Students are expected to take examinations at the specified time. Students are expected to be on time for examinations, though a 5 minute grace period will be employed. Students who arrive 5 or more minutes after class starts may not receive an examination.

**Make-up Examinations:** Rescheduling missed examinations will be allowed for in-class examinations only, online examinations cannot be rescheduled. The rescheduled examination must be completed at the **testing center** during the **last week of classes (12/05-12/09)**. It is the student's responsibility to email the professor **between November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 4<sup>th</sup>** exactly which in-class examination(s) is/are to be completed. Not emailing the professor by December 4<sup>th</sup> will result in the inability to make-up an in-class examination. Please write an email using the guidelines listed in the 'Communication' section of the syllabus or the email may be ignored and the student

# VALENCIA COLLEGE

will be unable to take the make-up examination(s). For missed examinations, the examination grade will be a '0' until the examination is completed.

**Final examination exemption:** If a student has not missed an examination, has an 85% average or better on examinations, has not missed more than 4 hours of class time, and has a 'B' average (80%) on the 9 highest quizzes, he/she has the option of not taking the final examination. **Unless a student has been approved for exemption, they must take the final examination or receive a '0' for the final examination grade and a '0' for attendance and participation grade.**

## Attendance/Participation

More than 4 hours of absences in this course will significantly affect the student's grade. If a student arrives late, it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor in order to be counted as present. Please make an effort to be on time and prepared for class. Since tardiness is disruptive to the class, it is advisable to enter the classroom as quietly as possible. Expected preparation for a college level course involves reading portions of the text prior to class discussion, as well as turning in required assignments on time. Arriving late or leaving early will not be counted in real time minutes, but rather rounded up to the nearest half-hour increment. **Texting, sleeping, reading non-course related material, or other behavior not related to learning the concepts of this course will be considered as not present behavior and the student will be marked as absent without notification.**

## Consultation / Research Paper

Each student will select one topic from the chapters covered on the syllabus that they are most interested in researching. Before researching the topic, the student will make an appointment and attend a consultation with the professor (building 11, room 208). Appointment times last 15 minutes. Prior to the consultation the student will have read the chapter related to the topic that they have selected. During the consultation the student and the professor will discuss research options, direction for the paper, and resources. The student will research the topic and write a 12-page, double spaced paper utilizing APA style with a minimum of five references. Five of the references **MUST** be professionally recognized and cannot be from the Internet. **Papers may not be emailed and late papers will not be accepted.**

## Presentation

Students will be randomly placed into groups. Each student will be assigned a specific topic that is interrelated with fellow group members' topics. This topic will be different from the topic for the research paper. Each group will be required to create a 15 minute power point presentation in which all students must speak. The group must demonstrate synthesis and integration of the topics in a meaningful manner and delivery as ONE presentation. Often this is accomplished by each member being an expert on his/her assigned topic and successfully teaching the other group members. The groups are responsible to end on time. An electronic copy of the power point presentation must be given to the professor, and is due the **MONDAY** prior to the day of the presentation. Students will be graded as a group and given a 'Group Presentation' grade. The 'Individual Presentation' grade will be derived from each student's presentation in the group as well as a short paper about his/her topic. Each student will also be required to write a short 'experience' paper due the next class period after the group

# VALENCIA COLLEGE

presentation in which she/he will describe the group experience and grade each group member's performance, including the student himself/herself.

## **Grading**

Examinations (4 grades Averaged)	50%
Final Examination	15%
Attendance & participation / Quizzes	10%
Research Paper	10%
Individual Presentation	10%
Group Presentation	05%

## **Grading Scale:**

90 - 100 = A
80 - 89 = B
70 - 79 = C
60 - 69 = D
Below 60 = F

\*Incomplete grades (I) are not offered by this professor.

## **Classroom Behavior:**

Appropriate classroom behavior is expected, and students are expected to adhere to the classroom behavior standards outlines in the Student Handbook. As the student body is mainly comprised of individuals in the early adulthood to middle adulthood developmental stages, behavior is expected to fall within developmental norms within a classroom context, for these age groups. Disruptive and disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated and include, but not limited to, excessive tardiness, leaving early, talking during class, or electronic disruptions (pagers, cell phones). Professor reserves the right to ask a student to leave for the remainder of the class period. If the behavior is considered significantly disruptive or is representative of a pattern of disruptive behavior, a meeting may be held to determine if the student is allowed to continue in the course.

## **Academic Dishonesty:**

Students are expected to abide by the college rules governing academic dishonesty. All forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited by Valencia Community College. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, furnishing false information, forgery, alteration or misuse of documents, misconduct during a test situation, and misuse of identification with intent to defraud or deceive. It is the students' responsibility to be knowledgeable of the policy (See the Student Handbook for complete policy). The Student Handbook states "Any student determined by the professor to have been responsible for engaging in an act of academic dishonesty shall be subject to a range of academic penalties (apart from any sanctions that may be imposed pursuant to the Code) as determined by the professor which may include, but not be limited to, one or more of the following: loss of credit for an assignment, examination, or project; a reduction in the course grade; or a grade of "F" in the course".

# VALENCIA COLLEGE

## Withdrawal Procedures:

The last day to withdraw from class and receive a "W" is November 4, 2011. If a student does not withdraw from the course and stops attending class meetings, the student will receive a letter grade (i.e. D, F) and it will be calculated at the end of the semester based on all expected gradable activities with 0's for all missed assignments, examinations, quizzes, and attendance & participation. Students can still be withdrawn, after the withdrawal deadline, by the college for violations of the college's code of conduct policies or for violation of a professor's attendance policy. 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."

## ASSIGNMENTS CALENDAR - GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY

*Disclaimer: Please be aware that the class schedule is tentative and subject to change at the discretion of the professor.*

Week	Date	Topic/Assignments
Week 1	Mon 08/29	Course Introduction/Syllabus Review, Chapter 1
	Wed 08/31	Chapters 1 & 2
Week 2	Mon 09/05	<b>COLLEGE CLOSED – No Classes</b>
	Wed 09/07	Chapter 2
Week 3	Mon 09/12	Chapters 2 & 3
	Wed 09/14	Chapter 3, post on-line exam
Week 4	Mon 09/19	<b>EXAMINATION 1, O.L. Exam (4) Due, Group Presentation 1</b>
	Wed 09/21	Chapter 6
Week 5	Mon 09/26	Chapter 6
	Wed 09/28	Chapter 6
Week 6	Mon 10/03	Chapter 7
	Wed 10/05	Chapter 7
Week 7	Mon 10/10	Chapter 9
	Wed 10/12	Chapters 9 & 8, post on-line exam
Week 8	Mon 10/17	<b>EXAMINATION 2, O.L. Exam (8 &amp; 5) Due, Group Presentation 2</b>
	Wed 10/19	Chapter 12
Week 9	Mon 10/24	Chapter 12
	Wed 10/26	Chapter 12
Week 10	Mon 10/31	Chapter 10
	Wed 11/02	Chapter 10
Week 11	Mon 11/07	Chapters 10 & 11, post on-line examination
	Wed 11/09	<b>EXAMINATION 3, O.L. Exam (11 &amp; 14) Due, Group Presentation 3</b>
Week 12	Mon 11/14	Chapters 13 & 16
	Wed 11/16	Chapters 13 & 16
Week 13	Mon 11/21	Chapters 15 & 16
	Wed 11/23	<b>COLLEGE CLOSED - No Classes</b>
Week 14	Mon 11/28	Chapter 15 & 16
	Wed 11/30	Chapter 17
Week 15	Mon 12/05	<b>EXAMINATION 4, Group Presentation 4</b>
	Wed 12/07	Final Exam Review & Exemption Status Reviewed
Week 16	Mon 12/12	<b>FINAL EXAMINATION *10:00am*</b>