DUAL CREDIT PSYCHOLOGY
RICHLAND COLLEGE (DCCCD)/GARLAND HIGH SCHOOL
SYLLABUS AND COURSE DESCRIPTION
SPRING SEMESTER 2015
PSYC-2301-83908  Credit Hours = 3

Instructor:   Kelley Forester
Email:  kfforest@garlandisd.net
Office Phone:  972-494-8492
Office Hours:  2:30-3:30 Mon – Fri
Class Meeting Times: B4

Course Description:
Survey of major topics in psychology. Introduces the study of behavior and the factors that
determine and affect behavior. The cultural context in which we live influences the way we
think, feel and behave. This class will explore the basic principles and theories of Psychology.
Topics include: research methodology, conditioning, motivation, learning, memory, emotions,
thinking, intelligence, personality, altered states of consciousness, social influences on behavior,
human development, abnormal behavior and human sexuality. This is a Texas Common Course
Number. This is a DCCCD Core Curriculum Course. Coordinating Board Academic
Approval Number:  4201015125

Prerequisite:
Developmental Reading DREA 0093 or English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 or have
met the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Standard in Reading.

Text

Course Drop Date:
The course drop (withdrawal) date is Nov. 18, 2014

Institution Policies:
For Institution Policies please refer to
www.richlandcollege.edu/syllabusinfo/syllabiInformation.pdf

Grading Policy:
  Homework  10%
  Class work  25%
  Quizzes  40%
  Tests  25%

Supplies
Spiral notebook
3x5 note cards and box to contain them
Folder with pockets for handouts and graded work
Pens and Pencils
Course Content:

- **Chapter Notes**
  Students will complete Cornell style notes for each chapter.

- **Audiovisuals**
  Recommended DVD’s and other AV materials will be frequently presented. The material presented in the AV’s is an important part of the course content.

- **Chapter Quizzes**
  In class quizzes will be given over most of the chapters covered.

- **Unit Tests**
  Tests will be given over each unit covered. The format will be part multiple choice and part free response, following the format of the AP Psychology Exam.

- **Class Demonstrations and Exercises**
  Demonstrations and exercises will be carried out both in and outside of class.

- **Supplementary Reading**
  Materials to supplement our textbooks and assigned readings will often be distributed to the class. The content of such materials forms an important part of the course.

- **Note Taking**
  Students MUST take notes every day, including demonstrations, experiments, videos, etc.

- **Assignments**
  All assignments are due on the date specified, unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

- **Makeup Tests**
  If you miss an exam due to absence, you must make up the test within a week of returning to class.

- **Late Work**
  Any assignment turned in after the due date will automatically receive a 25 point deduction.

- **Retake Policy**
  If a student makes below a grade of 70 on a test, he or she may retake the test for a 70. The student must attend a tutorial session before retaking the test. Strict deadlines will be given for retakes.

- **Review Sessions**
  I will be available for tutorials on most days after school until 3:30 in room 906. There will be special review sessions as we near the date of the AP exam. Attendance is strongly recommended.

Class Expectations:
There is a high expectation of academic responsibility on the part of the student. This class will be more demanding than a regular psychology course. There will be a large emphasis on the vocabulary and reading. Because this class is a mixed Dual Credit/Advanced Placement group, the assessments given will be in the format of the A.P. exam in order to better prepare the A.P. students. The final exam will be in this format as well. Many of the activities we do are fun and hands on, but will always serve as reinforcement to the material we are learning. Students will be expected to keep class notes and textbook notes. It is highly recommended that students make vocabulary flash cards over the vocabulary terms.
Website for Textbook:
You will need to create a student account with the website that accompanies your textbook. This is where you can take online chapter quizzes and access flashcards and chapter reviews. Occasionally there will be additional assignments given from this site as well.

http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/myers8e/

Course Outline:

I. History and Approaches
   a. Logic, Philosophy, and History of Science
   b. Approaches
      i. Biological
      ii. Behavioral
      iii. Cognitive
      iv. Humanistic
      v. Psychodynamic
      vi. Sociocultural
      vii. Evolutionary/Sociobiological

II. Research Methods
   a. Experimental, Correlational and Clinical Research
      i. Correlational (e.g., observational, survey, clinical)
      ii. Experimental
   b. Statistics
      i. Descriptive
      ii. Inferential
   c. Ethics in Research

III. Biological Basis of Behavior
   a. Physiological Techniques (e.g., imaging, surgical)
   b. Neuroanatomy
   c. Functional Organization of Nervous System
   d. Endocrine System
   e. Genetics

IV. Sensation and Perception
   a. Thresholds
   b. Sensory Mechanisms
   c. Sensory Adaptation
   d. Attention
   e. Perceptual Processes

V. States of Consciousness
   a. Sleep and Dreaming
   b. Hypnosis
   c. Psychoactive Drug Effects
VI. Learning
   a. Classical Conditioning
   b. Operant Conditioning
   c. Cognitive Processes in Learning
   d. Biological Factors
   e. Social Learning

VII. Cognition
   a. Memory
   b. Language
   c. Thinking
   d. Problem Solving and Creativity

VIII. Motivation and Emotion
   a. Biological Basis
   b. Theories of Motivation
   c. Hunger, Thirst, Sex and Pain
   d. Social Motives
   e. Theories of Emotion
   f. Stress

IX. Developmental Psychology
   a. Life-Span Approach
   b. Research Methods (e.g., longitudinal, cross-sectional)
   c. Heredity-Environment Issues
   d. Developmental Theories
   e. Dimensions of Development
      i. Physical
      ii. Cognitive
      iii. Social
      iv. Moral
   f. Sex Roles, Sex Differences

X. Personality
   a. Personality Theories and Approaches
   b. Assessment Techniques
   c. Self-concept, Self-esteem
   d. Growth and Adjustment

XI. Testing and Individual Differences
   a. Standardization and Norms
   b. Reliability and Validity
   c. Types of Tests
   d. Ethics and Standards in Testing
   e. Intelligence
   f. Heredity/Environment and Intelligence
   g. Human Diversity
XII. Abnormal Psychology
   a. Definitions of Abnormality
   b. Theories of Psychopathology
   c. Diagnosis of Psychopathology
   d. Anxiety Disorders
   e. Somatoform Disorders
   f. Mood Disorders
   g. Schizophrenic Disorders
   h. Organic Disorders
   i. Dissociative Disorders

XIII. Treatment of Psychological Disorders
   a. Treatment Approaches
      i. Insight therapies: psychodynamic/humanistic approaches
      ii. Behavioral approaches
      iii. Cognitive approaches
      iv. Biological approaches (psychopharmacology/psychosurgery)
   b. Modes of Therapy (e.g., individual, group)
   c. Community and Preventive Approaches

XIV. Social Psychology
   a. Group Dynamics
   b. Attribution Processes
   c. Interpersonal Perception
   d. Conformity, Compliance, Obedience
   e. Attitudes and Attitude Change
   f. Organizational Behavior
   g. Aggression/Antisocial Behavior