PSYC 2301 Syllabus
Richland College

Instructor Information
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Course Information
Course Title: General Psychology
Course Number: PSYC 2301
Section Number: 81010
Semester/Year: Fall 2020
Credit Hours: 3
Class Meeting Time/Location: INET MTWRFSU
Certification Date: 9/5/2020
Last Day to Withdraw: Thursday November 12th, 2020

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

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. (3 Lec.) **This is a Texas Common Course Number. This is a DCCCD Core Curriculum Course. Coordinating Board Academic Approval Number: 4201015125**

Beware of my course because when you come in to my classroom you enter the “laugh” zone. If you don’t believe that you can learn while having fun, laughing, and enjoying each other’s company, then you may not want to take my class. Ha! **Or as you might say, LOL!** The objectives of this course will be achieved through small group discussions, individual and group exercises, video presentations, class lectures, reading of the text book, exams, peer teaching, and other assignments. Students will be a part of determining exactly what we do, and how we go about accomplishing our mission this semester. **You really will have fun in this class while you learn all about humanoids, strange behavior, secrets of the subconscious, and more to help you both in school and in your overall interaction with the world.**

**Student Learning Outcomes**

The successful student completing this course will be able to:

- Articulate the major topics of psychology, the study of behavior, and the factors that determine and affect behavior
- Gain an understanding of the cultural context in which we live and how it influences the ways we think, feel, and behave
- Understand the basic principles of research methodology
- Understand the basic principles and applications of conditioning, motivation, learning, and memory
- Better understand and be able to articulate the concepts of emotions, thinking, intelligence, and personality
- Gain an understanding of the altered states of consciousness, abnormal behavior, and social influences on behavior
- Better understand the basics of human development and human sexuality

**Texas Core Objectives**

The College defines essential knowledge and skills that students need to develop during their college experience. These general education competencies parallel the Texas Core Objectives for Student Learning. In this course, the activities you engage in will give you the opportunity to practice two or more of the following core competencies:

1. **Critical Thinking Skills** - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
2. **Communication Skills** - to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
3. **Empirical and Quantitative Skills** - to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions

4. **Teamwork** - to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal

5. **Personal Responsibility** - to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

6. **Social Responsibility** - to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

**Required Course Materials – Included as part of IncludeEd**

1. Textbook: *Real World Psychology, 3rd Edition* by Huffman and Sanderson
2. Note-taking materials
3. A Wiley Plus student account (details will be provided the first day of class)

*Note: A student of this institution is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the Richland College bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer. Only students who have opted out of the IncludeEd program must purchase their textbooks. For all students in the program, a digital textbook with Access Code will be provided at no additional cost.

**Graded Work**

The tables below provide a summary of the graded work in this course and an explanation of how your final course grade will be calculated.

**Summary of Graded Work**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/ <em>Three Things</em></td>
<td>15 weeks @ 20 points each</td>
<td>300 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection Journals</td>
<td>3 @ 50 points each</td>
<td>150 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WileyPlus Assignments</td>
<td>10 @ 10 points each</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol Paper</td>
<td>1 @ 50 points</td>
<td>50 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Assignment</td>
<td>1 @ 100 points</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer Teaching Presentation</td>
<td>1 @ 100 points</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>1 @ 100 points</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>1 @ 100</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TOTAL: 1,000 points

Final Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>900-1,000</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800-899</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700-799</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600-699</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-599</td>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Description of Graded Work

**Attendance:** Attendance points are earned by completing the *Three Things I Learned* forms submitting them in eCampus by Midnight each Sunday night.

**Reflection Journals:** Each of three reflection journals are to be written and submitted as attached Word documents in eCampus. Topics will be assigned and established due dates will be provided in the course calendar.

**WileyPlus Assignments:** Ten (10) online Wiley Plus (textbook publisher) digital assignments using the access code that comes with the textbook.

**Alcohol Paper:** An article about alcohol use and abuse will be provided to students and students will read the article and answer a series of questions about it.

**Critical Thinking Assignment:** Online critical thinking assignment completed and submitted in eCampus as an attached Word document by the established due date.

**Peer Teaching:** Students work together to create subject-specific presentations covering key content from the course to help all students learn and succeed. Specific instructions, format requirement, and content/topic prompts will be provided by the instructor. All of it is done virtually.

**Midterm Exam:** The midterm exam will consist of 50 questions; 25 true/false and 25 multiple-choice. Students will be able to take it “open-book” and have one week to complete the exam.
**Final Exam:** The final exam will consist of 50 questions; 25 true/false and 25 multiple-choice. Students will be able to take it “open-book” and have one week to complete the exam.

**Attendance and Your Final Grade**
Given that this course will take place in the online environment there is no “classroom” time. Instead, students work independently on their own and are required to complete each week’s work by Midnight Sunday night of each week. Students can manage their time as best works for them as long as they complete all assigned work by the respective due dates. If a student is unable to complete the course, she/he is strongly encouraged to talk with me personally to discuss possible options which may be available to help them finish the course successfully. Don’t just give up, I am here to help you. *A student who stops attending and does not withdraw officially will receive a grade of “F” in the course.*

**Late Work Policy**
*Assignments handed in after the due date:* are awarded a grade of half-credit (50%) of the total possible points. Use your syllabus as an action plan to complete all work in a timely manner. *Scheduled quizzes and exams may not be made up. Any quizzes or exams missed receive a grade of zero.*

**Other Course Policies**

**Withdrawal Policy and Withdrawal Date:**
If you are unable to complete this course, it is your responsibility to withdraw formally. The withdrawal request must be received in the Registrar’s Office by **Thursday November 12th, 2020.** Failure to do so will result in a performance grade, usually an “F”. If you drop a class or withdraw from the college before the official drop/withdrawal deadline, you will receive a “W” (Withdraw) in each class dropped. For more information about drop deadlines, refer to the current online Credit Class Schedule, contact the Admissions/Student Records office at 972-238-6100 or 6101 or the division office.

**Repeating a Course:**
Effective for Fall Semester 2005, the Dallas County Community Colleges will charge additional tuition to students registering the third or subsequent time for a course. All third and subsequent attempts of the majority of credit and continuing Education/Workforce Training courses will result in additional tuition to be charged.
Developmental Studies and some other courses will not be charged a higher tuition rate. Third attempts include courses taken at any of the Dallas County Community Colleges since the Fall 2002 Semester. See Third Attempt to Enroll in a Course at http://www.dcccd.edu/thirdcourseattempt/.

Obtaining Final Course Grades:
Final Grade Reports are not mailed. Convenient access is available online at www.econnect.dcccd.edu or by telephone at (972) 613-1818. Just use your identification number when you log onto eConnect, an online system developed by the DCCCD to provide you with timely information regarding your college record. Your grades will also be printed on your Student Advising Report, which is available in the Admissions and Student Records Office, T170.

ADA Statement:
If you are a student with a disability and/or special needs who requires accommodations, please contact the college Disability Services office at 972-238-6180 (Voice/TTY), visit Thunder Duck Hall, suite T120, or go to http://www.richlandcollege.edu/dso/.

Religious Holidays:
Absences for observance of a religious holy day are excused if you inform your instructor at the beginning of the course. A student whose absence is excused to observe a religious holy day is allowed to contract with the professor to take a make-up examination or complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.

Food, Drink, and Cell Phones in Classroom Statement of Responsibility:
Students who intend to bring drinks or food into the classroom must agree to take full responsibility to remove cans, bottles, trash, etc. from the learning environment and to deposit trash in appropriate receptacles outside the classroom. This right does not extend to classrooms/areas with or near computers, lab materials, equipment, and/or college-owned books – these are restricted from food and drink. Cell phones may be left on but must be in the silent or vibrate mode at all times while in the classroom. This does not apply to this semester as we will be conducting class online.

Financial Aid:
Failure to attend classes could result in loss of Financial Aid (FA). If you are receiving any form of financial aid, you should check with the Financial Aid Office prior to withdrawing from classes. Withdrawals may affect your eligibility to receive further aid and could cause you to be in a position of repayment for the current semester. Students who fail to attend or participate after the drop date are also subject to this policy.
Academic Honesty:

Scholastic dishonesty is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. As a college student, you are considered a responsible adult. Your enrollment indicates acceptance of the DCCCD Code of Student Conduct http://www.richlandcollege.edu/conduct.

Stop Before You Drop!! 6Drop

For students who enrolled in college level courses for the first time in the fall of 2007, Texas education code 51.907 limits the number of courses a student may drop. You may drop no more than 6 courses during your entire undergraduate career unless the drop qualifies as an exception. Your campus counseling/advising center will give you more information on the allowable exceptions. Remember that once you have accumulated 6 non-exempt drops, you cannot drop any other courses with a “W”. Therefore, please exercise caution when dropping courses in any Texas public institution of higher learning, including all seven of the Dallas County Community Colleges. For more information, you may access: https://www1.dcccd.edu/6drop.

The Texas Success Initiative (TSI)
The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) is a statewide program designed to ensure that students enrolled in Texas public colleges and universities have the basic academic skills needed to be successful in college-level course work. The TSI requires assessment, remediation (if necessary), and advising of students who attend a public college or university in the state of Texas. The program assesses a student’s basic academic skills in reading, writing, and math. Passing the assessment is a prerequisite for enrollment in many college level classes such as English 1301/1302, History 1301/1302, Math 1414, etc. Students who do not meet assessment standards may complete prerequisite requirements by taking developmental courses in the deficient area and passing them with a grade of C or higher. In some cases retesting will also be required. It is up to each student to be aware and informed about requirements that are subject to change. Additional information is available from the TSI Office in T170T or T170S (phone number 972-238-6115 or 972-238-3787) or at http://www.rlc.dcccd.edu/regi/resource/tsi.htm.

Inclement Weather:

In case of inclement weather, you may call (972) 238-6196 or visit the Richland College website to learn if the campus is closed. Call before coming to campus on days in question. This does not apply to this semester as we will be conducting class online.
Children on Campus:

Minors should not be brought to campus in lieu of appropriate childcare. A student will not be allowed to attend class when minors are accompanying the student. Minors should not be brought into classrooms, laboratories, the Test Center, Center for Tutoring and Learning Connections, Library, or Academic Computing areas because of disruption of instruction or study, exposure to material unsuitable for minors, and possible danger to minors. This does not apply to this semester as we will be conducting class online.

Campus Emergency Operation Plan and Contingency Plan

Campus Emergency Operation Plan: Richland College and the Dallas County Community College District have developed policies and procedures for dealing with emergencies that may occur on campus.

- To familiarize yourself with these procedures, please take time to watch the overview video: http://video.dcccd.edu/rtv/DO/emergency_dcccd.wmv.
- The complete Emergency Operations Plan can be viewed and printed at the following website: http://www.richlandcollege.edu/emergency.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Richland College Office of Emergency management. This office can be reached by phone at (972) 238-3794 or by e-mail at (rlcoem@dcccd.edu). This does not apply to this semester as we will be conducting class online.

Contingency Plan: Richland College has developed an Instructional Contingency Plan for Temporary College Closing for On-Campus courses. Please discuss this contingency plan with your instructor. For distance learning courses, your instructor will use email to contact students in the event of extended technology downtime. To assure work in the class continues, it is important for all students to have an accurate email address recorded in both eCampus and eConnect.

Privacy Restrictions: Posting of Grades/Distribution of Papers (Family Educational Right and Privacy Act of 1974)

In compliance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, the college may release information classified only as “directory information” to the general public without the written consent of the student. Directory information includes: (1) student name, (2) student address, (3) telephone number, (4) date and place of birth, (5) weight and height of members of athletic teams, (6) participation in officially recognized activities and sports, (7) dates of attendance, (8) educational institution most recently
attended and (9) other similar information, including major field of study and degrees and awards received. Students may request that all or any part of the directory information be withheld from the public by giving written notice to the Registrar’s Office during the first 12 class days of a fall or spring semester or the first four class days of a summer session. If no request is filed, directory information is released upon written inquiry. No telephone inquiries are acknowledged; all requests must be made in person. No transcript or academic record is released without written consent from the student, except as specified by law.

**Academic Progress:**
Students are encouraged to discuss academic goals and degree completion with their instructors. Specific advising is available throughout the semester. Check [www.richlandcollege.edu/admissions/process.php](http://www.richlandcollege.edu/admissions/process.php) for more details.

**Institutional Policies**
Institutional Policies relating to this course can be accessed using the link below. These policies include information about tutoring, Disabilities Services, class drop and repeat options, Title IX, and more.

[Richland Institutional Policies](http://www.richlandcollege.edu/syllabipolicies)

**Disclaimer Reserving Right to Change Syllabus:**
The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary. It is the student’s responsibility to stay up to date and aware of any such changes made once the professor indicates that amendments have been made.

**Email Response Policy**
I typically check my emails every four (4) hours during the week and twice a day on weekends. I will respond to your emails as soon as possible the same day or within twenty-four (24) hours. Make sure when you email me you include your name and course number so that I know who you are. Often email addresses don’t clearly identify the sender.

**Contacting Ron Stout:**
Feel free to contact me individually if I can be of further help. If you cannot see me during my office hours (listed on page one of this syllabus) you may arrange a specific appointment with me by calling me at my office (972) 761-6748, by texting me on my wireless phone at (972) 948-1877, or e-mail me at rstout@dcccd.edu. Always know that I am here to help you in any way I can. I truly love my students and look for ways to help them succeed as a part of my personal mission and commitment.
## Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings &amp; Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Neuroscience</td>
<td>Chapter 2 &amp; Alcohol Article assignment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Stress &amp; Heath Psychology</td>
<td>Chapter 3 &amp; Reflection Journal #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sensation &amp; Perception</td>
<td>Chapter 4 &amp; WileyPlus #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>States of Consciousness</td>
<td>Chapter 5 &amp; Reflection Journal #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Learning</td>
<td>Chapter 6 &amp; WileyPlus #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Memory</td>
<td>Chapter 7 &amp; WileyPlus #3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>Covers Chapters 1-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Thinking, Language, Intelligence</td>
<td>Chapter 8 &amp; WileyPlus #4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Lifespan Development</td>
<td>Chapter 9 &amp; WileyPlus #5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Motivation &amp; Emotion</td>
<td>Chapter 10 &amp; Reflection Journal #3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Personality</td>
<td>Chapter 11 &amp; CT DL assignment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Psychological Disorders</td>
<td>Chapter 12 &amp; WileyPlus #6, #7, #8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Therapy</td>
<td>Chapter 13 &amp; Group Peer Teaching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
<td>Chapter 14 &amp; WileyPlus #9, #10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Covers Chapters 8-14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>