General Psychology Credit Hours = 3

Instructor: Kelley Forester
Email: kfforest@garlandisd.net
Office Phone: 972-494-8492
Office Hours: 2:45-3:30
Class Meeting Times: A3

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.


Course Drop Date: The course drop (withdrawal) date is ________________

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

Grading Policy:

Quizzes, Classwork, and Homework 50%
Unit Exams 50%

Supplies
3-5 subject Spiral notebook recommended for taking class notes

Course Content:
• **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.

• **Quizzes**
  In class vocabulary and reading quizzes will be given frequently.

• **Unit Tests**
  Tests will be given over each unit covered. The format will be part multiple choice and part free response.

• **Class Demonstrations and Exercises**
  Demonstrations and exercises may be carried out both in and outside of class.

• **Supplementary Reading**
  Materials to supplement our textbooks and assigned readings may 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. The recommended method in class is Cornell Style.

• **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 3 class meeting days of returning to class.

• **Late Work**
  Any assignment turned in after the due date will automatically receive a 25-point deduction. Please see the GHS late work policy for IB/AP/DC classes

• **Retake Policy**
  The GHS IB/AP/DC retake policy will be followed.

**Class Expectations:** A Dual Credit course is a college class. 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. 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.
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
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