General Psychology (PSYC 2301-53285) Syllabus
El Centro College

Instructor Information

Name: Ebonii Nelson
Phone: 214.860.2080 (office); 469.275.4714 (practice)
DCCCD Email: etn0002@dcccd.edu
Division Office and Phone: Academic Transfer Division, 214.860.2227

Course Information

Course Title: General Psychology (PSYC 2301)
Course & Section Number: PSYC 2301-53285
Semester/Year: Spring 2020
Credit Hours: 3
Class Meeting Time/Location: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 AM – 10:40 AM
Certification Date: February 3, 2020
Last Day to Withdraw: April 16, 2020

Course Prerequisites

College level ready in Reading
One of the following must be met: Developmental Reading 0093 or English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 or have met the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) standard in Reading.
This course is reading and writing intensive. Students who have not completed one of the above classes are ineligible to take this class.

Course Description

General Psychology is a survey of the major psychological topics, theories and approaches to the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. Topics include the nervous system, perception, learning, motivation, personality, and psychological disorders. Methods of assessment and research
Student Learning Outcomes

For additional information, see THECB Core Curriculum standards.

**Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)** are based on the Core Objectives as indicated above. Outcomes specific to all psychology classes at El Centro College are as indicated below.

1. **Critical Thinking**: Student is able to:
   - a. Ask questions leading to identifications of problems or challenges;
   - b. Operationalize terms in concrete and absolute terms;
   - c. Determine if what is claimed, alleged, or stated is based on valid (empirical) evidence;
   - d. Investigate one's own biases and assumptions to assure they do not interfere with consideration of empirical evidence;
   - e. Avoid argument by anecdote in favor of evidence-based discussion;
   - f. Keep an open mind, and consider all empirical possibilities;
   - g. Avoid decisions based on emotion in favor of those based on empirical sources;
   - h. Acknowledge that evidence supports phenomena; it does not prove its existence.

2. **Communications Skills**: Students will communicate in both written (via homework assignments, term papers, and exams) and oral form (class discussion) with the Instructor and their classmates.

3. **Empirical/Quantitative Skills (Scientific Methodology)**: Student is able to
   - a. See potential relationships among observed phenomena;
   - b. Consider plausible outcomes (consequences) of observed phenomena, and offer alternative solutions;
   - c. Determine if conclusions are based on anecdote or scientific evidence.

4. **Social Responsibility**: Students will demonstrate social responsibility through ethical behavior in class in terms of displaying academic integrity. Students will engage in use of digital and electronic media for submission of assignments and taking exams by performing these activities via the BlackBoard Bb 9.1™ digital platform rather the use of traditional pen-and-paper formats, thus lowering their carbon footprint through use of digital technology.

5. In addition to the four learning outcomes mandated for the Social Sciences by the State of Texas, the Department of Psychology at El Centro College also requires the two following student learning outcomes.

6. **Theoretical Foundations of Psychology**: Student is aware of and understands the major perspectives from which psychology is studied (Psychodynamics, Behaviorism, Biological, Neuroscience, Humanistic, Cognitive, Humanistic, and Evolutionary), and can demonstrate knowledge of each perspective.
7. **Information Literacy:** Students will demonstrate their abilities in each of the following skills.
   a. Create research strategies using online academic and professional databases;
   b. Demonstrate understanding of plagiarism through correct use of appropriate APA style references in text and on References page(s) within a research project; and Integrate discipline specific relevant information from a variety of sources in writing homework assignments and research papers.

**Required Course Materials**

The primary textbook for this course is available online at no cost to the student through the generosity of Openstax (Rice University). Click [Psychology Textbook](#) to read the textbook online or if you prefer, the textbook can be downloaded to your computer or personal device for later viewing at the same website.

**Optional (but VERY helpful) textbook:**

This is a helpful reference when writing in APA Formatting Style.

**ADDITIONAL CLASS-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS:**

A WORKING EMAIL ACCOUNT WHICH THE STUDENT CHECKS DAILY
The best method in which Instructors can contact students is via email. Any emergency notifications from the Instructor to the students will be via email. Students are responsible for checking the email address showing for themselves in BOTH eCampus AND eConnect to ensure that the address is valid and is the one the student is currently using.

SUFFICIENT KNOWLEDGE OF Microsoft Word or a comparable word processing program to enable the student to complete assignments. If you need tutoring with word processing, the Learning Center is a useful resource for both online and on campus classes.

Note: A student of this institution is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from a university affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

**Course Requirements**

**Quizzes**
There will be reading quizzes throughout the course of the semester. Each quiz will consist of 10 questions (and two extra credit questions). You will have 15 minutes to complete each quiz.
Failure to complete a quiz will be assessed with zero (0) points. Anticipate seeing some of the same questions on the exams as you saw on the quizzes.

Exams
You will have four Unit Exams and one Final Exam. Each Unit exam is 100 questions and you will have one hour (60 minutes) to complete them. Each Unit exam will be worth a total of 100 points (plus any additional bonus points). Failure to complete an exam will be assessed with zero (0) points.

The Final Exam is cumulative and will consist of 100 questions (and four extra credit questions). You will have two hours to complete the exam during the designated finals window for courses during this time block.

APA Writing Assignments
You will be required to write two APA papers for this course along with an in-class practice writing assignment. All written assignments must be:

➢ Well-written, thoughtful, based upon information gathered on your topic
➢ Typed, spacing of 2.0, 12-pt font, and a Word document
➢ The written components are denoted in each assignment and should be adhered to. Information in excess of the noted paper count will not be read. Re-writes of assignments are not accepted.
➢ Papers should be formatted using the American Psychological Association format style (APA) unless otherwise noted by the instructor.
➢ Relevant research-based material can be accessed through the El Centro library site in their databases. PsychInfo and Psycarticles are great options. Google Scholar is also appropriate. Websites, blogs, and Wikipedia are not appropriate sources of information.

In-Class APA Introduction – Assignment #1
For this assignment you will select an article from a list of approved articles. You will read the article and then prepare a four-page APA formatted paper which will include the following:

• Page 1 – Cover page
• Page 2 – Abstract (blank)
• Page 3 – Introduction (write a 150 – 250 word summary of the article), Review (blank), Critique (blank)
• Page 4 – Reference

A sample and template will be provided to assist in preparation.

Psychology IRL (In Real Life) – Assignment #2
You will write a paper on the applications of psychology towards your major, desired profession and/or everyday life. Please include at least one (1) research-based journal article published within the last three (3) years. This paper should be at least three (3) full pages (excluding title and reference pages).
In addition to your paper, you will prepare a 2-minute presentation for your classmates to discuss your findings. Topics and presentation dates will be identified on the first day of classes, and a presentation outline should be submitted to your faculty no later than the class period before your scheduled presentation. Total assignment is worth 100 points. Rubric Attached.

Article Critique – Assignment #3
For this assignment, you will build upon your introductory APA assignment and craft a six to eight (6 – 8) page critique on the selected scholarly article. You have the option of changing your article, but it must come from the pre-selected list, as these articles have been selected as appropriate for your knowledge level and are contained in the Academic Search Complete database. You are NOT permitted to locate your own articles for these QEP Assignments, and under NO CIRCUMSTANCES are you ever permitted to use Wikipedia as sources for this class. A Rubric is attached.

A sample of an "A" paper will be provided to serve as a guide. This paper will include the following:

- Page 1 – Cover Page
- Page 2 – Abstract (150 – 250 words)
- Page 3 – 5: Introduction (150 – 250 words), Review (one or more pages), Critique (one or more pages)
- Last Page - References

Grading & Attendance Policy
Attendance
Regular class attendance is essential. Poor attendance is very strongly associated with poor grades, and I want you to succeed – so, I will regularly take attendance. This allows you the opportunity to earn an easy 25 points.

Classroom Behavior Agreements

- **Respect**: Treat your fellow classmates as you want to be treated and this includes verbal language, body language, and facial expressions
- **Cell Phones**: Absolutely no use! All electronics are to be turned to silent during class hours (except for devices to assist students with disabilities)
- **Timeliness**: Arrive to class on time and remain for the duration of the class. If you must leave early, notify the instructor before class and sit near the door. Students needing to leave class early on a regular basis may earn an unexcused absence.
- **Active Participation**: Be willing to take a risk and raise your hand to participate in relevant course discussions. No side conversations, and please only one student speaking at a time. Participation also includes active listening - it’s amazing what you can learn from listening to others before you speak!

Grading
You will have the opportunity to earn points and will be graded according to the scale listed below. To determine your point total on your APA assignments, quizzes, exams, and extra credit, login to
your eCampus account, open this class, and click on the "My Grades" tab. Clicking on the "My Grades" icon gives you immediate feedback of your point total.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Assignment Point Value</th>
<th>Total Point Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>@1 point/class</td>
<td>= 25 points (non-exam days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Reading Quizzes</td>
<td>@10 points each</td>
<td>= 80 points (96 total with bonus points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Exams</td>
<td>@100 points each</td>
<td>= 400 points (408 total with bonus points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>@100 points</td>
<td>= 100 points (104 total with bonus points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intro to APA Writing</td>
<td>@40 points</td>
<td>= 40 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psych IRL Paper &amp; Presentation</td>
<td>@100 points</td>
<td>= 100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APA Critique</td>
<td>@100 points</td>
<td>= 100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>= 905 points (933 with bonus and attendance points)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final Letter Grade:  A = 810-905; B = 720-809; C = 629-719; D = 539-628; F = less than 539

**Course Schedule**

Disclaimer: This syllabus is subject to modification. Instructor will communicate any changes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 21</td>
<td>Introductions &amp; Syllabus Review</td>
<td>Select ‘Psych IRL’ topic and presentation date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 23</td>
<td>Chapter 1: What is Psychology?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 28</td>
<td>Chapter 2: Psychological Research</td>
<td>Quiz 1 (Chapter 1 &amp; Syllabus)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 30</td>
<td>Research cont’d</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 3</td>
<td><em>Financial Aid Certification Date (See page two for more detail)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 4</td>
<td>Chapter 3: Biopsychology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 6</td>
<td>Biopsych cont’d</td>
<td>Quiz 2 (Chapter 2 &amp;3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 11</td>
<td>Chapter 4: States of Consciousness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 13</td>
<td>Consciousness cont’d</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 18</td>
<td>Chapter 5: Sensation and Perception</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 20</td>
<td>No Class – Quiz Online; APA Intro Writing Assignment</td>
<td>Quiz 3 (Chapter 4 &amp;5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Assignments Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 25</td>
<td>Psychology IRL Presentations</td>
<td>APA Intro Writing Assignment Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Exam #1 (Chapters 1 – 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 27</td>
<td><em>No Day Classes – Faculty Professional Development</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 3</td>
<td>Chapter 6: Learning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 5</td>
<td>Learning cont’d</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 10</td>
<td>Chapter 7: Thinking and Intelligence</td>
<td>Quiz 4 (Chapter 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 12</td>
<td>T&amp;I cont’d</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 16 – 20</td>
<td><em>Spring Break – No Classes</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 24</td>
<td>Chapter 8: Memory</td>
<td>Quiz 5 (Chapter 6 &amp; 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 26</td>
<td>Memory cont’d</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 31</td>
<td>Chapter 10: Emotion and Motivation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>Motivation cont’d</td>
<td>Quiz 6 (Chapter 8 &amp; 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 7</td>
<td>Psychology IRL Presentations</td>
<td>Exam #2 (Chapters 6 –8, 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>Chapter 11: Personality Theory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 14</td>
<td>Chapter 12: Social Psychology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 16</td>
<td>Social Psych cont’d</td>
<td>APA Article Critique Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Quiz 7 (Chapter 11 &amp; 12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>Psychology IRL Presentations</td>
<td>Exam #3 (Chapters 11 &amp; 12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 23</td>
<td>Chapter 15: Psychological Disorders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 28</td>
<td>Disorders cont’d</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 30</td>
<td>Chapter 16: Therapy &amp; Treatment</td>
<td>Quiz 8 (Chapter 15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>Psychology IRL Presentations</td>
<td>Exam #4 (Chapter 15 &amp; 16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 7</td>
<td>Exam Review Q&amp;A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM</td>
<td>Cumulative (All Chapters)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IMPORTANT**
Blackboard access for this class will close on May 14th at NOON.
Certification of Course Attendance and Participation

Student's attendance in class is certified on the “12th class day” (in a regular semester). For this semester (and section), that date will be February 3, 2020.

IMPORTANT: You must attend and participate in your on-campus and/or online course(s) in order to receive Federal Financial Aid. Your instructor is required by law to validate your attendance in your on-campus or online course in order for you to receive financial aid. You must participate in an academic related activity pertaining to your courses to include such as those indicated below but not limited solely to the following examples:

- submitting an academic assignment
- taking an exam or quiz
- engagement in class discussions
- submit online course discussions in Blackboard (if required)

IMPORTANT: Simply showing up is not sufficient, by itself, to demonstrate academic attendance. You must demonstrate that you are participating in your class and are engaged in an academically related activity such as in the examples described above. Failure to do so will prevent you from being certified and will affect your financial aid.

Other Course Policies

Drop Date

Students sometimes drop a course when help is not available that would enable them to continue. Before you make the decision to drop this course, please contact your instructor. If you are unable to complete this course, your withdrawal request must be received in the Registrar’s Office by the withdrawal date listed on the first page of this syllabus. For more information, visit the Dropping or Withdrawing from Classes webpage.

The last day to withdraw from a class with a “W” is April 16, 2020 with the Registrar’s Office (Downtown Campus – Room A130) or online. Failure to withdraw from a course will result in a performance grade (F, in more instances than not.)

Institutional Policies

Institutional Policies relating to this course can be accessed using the following link: Institutional Policies.

Stop Before You Drop

For students who enrolled in college level courses for the first time in the Sep of 2007, Texas Education Code 51.907 limits the number of courses a student may drop. You may drop no more than six 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 six 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 Drop Webpage.

Withdrawal Policy
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 the official drop date for this course (see Course Drop Date mentioned earlier in this syllabus). Failure to do so will result in your receiving 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 printed Credit Class Schedule, contact the Admissions office at 214-860-2484 (Downtown Campus – Room A169), or contact the Division Office.

Financial Aid
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 Ethics
Any violation of the Student Code of Conduct (as printed in the El Centro College Catalogue) will be penalized accordingly. All matters of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, collusion, fabrication, cheating, etc.) will result in a failing grade for the assignment in question. All violations will be forwarded to the proper college authorities for review. The college may, at its discretion, impose additional penalties on the student including academic probation, suspension, or expulsion. ANY form of disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

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 214.860.2411 (Voice/TTY), visit A110, or go to Disability Services.

Religious Holidays
A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence if, not later than the fifteenth day after the first day of the semester, the student notified the instructor of each class scheduled on the date that the student would be absent for a
A "religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code. The notice shall be in writing and shall be delivered by the student personally to the instructor, with receipt acknowledged and dated by the instructor or by certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed to the instructor. A student who is excused under this section may not be penalized for the absence, but the instructor may appropriately respond if the student fails to complete the assignment or examination satisfactorily.

**Campus Emergency Operation Plan**
El Centro 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 visit the [Emergency Operational Plan](#).

**El Centro College Policies**
- [General Institutional Policies](#): El Centro College policies as detailed herein may also be found by clicking on the link above.
- [Course-Related Institutional Policies](#): El Centro College policies detailed herein that may relate directly to this course may also be found by clicking on the link above.

**Concealed Carry**
CONCEALED CARRY: Persons who hold a license to carry may carry a concealed handgun on College District property as permitted by law and College District policy. A license holder who carries a handgun on College District property must keep it concealed and on or about their person at all times. The open carry of a handgun (i.e. completely or partially visible) is prohibited on College District property, including any public driveway, street, sidewalk, walkway, parking lot, parking garage, or other parking area.

WEAPONS: The use, possession, or display of a weapon in violation of law and College District policy is strictly prohibited. This prohibition applies to firearms, knives, clubs, fireworks of any kind, incendiary devices, razors, chains, throwing stars, and any other device designed to expel a projectile or to inflict bodily harm.

Violations may result in disciplinary action and/or criminal penalties.

**Additional District Policies**
The [Office of Institutional Equity](#), in coordination with DCCCD colleges, has the primary responsibility for reviewing, updating and implementing compliance policies and procedures. The Institutional Equity and Compliance Officer and the Office of Institutional Equity will ensure compliance with College District policies, federal and state laws related to sexual assault, Title IX, Title II (Americans with Disabilities Act) and the Military Veterans Full Employment Act to support diversity and inclusion.
Students with Disabilities:
If you are a student with a disability and/or special needs, or if you think you may have a disability, please contact the college Disability Services Office (DSO). Please note that all communication with DSO is confidential. If you are eligible for accommodations, please request that the DSO send your accommodation letter to me as soon as possible (students are encouraged to contact DSO at the beginning of the semester). For more information regarding the College Disability Services Office, please visit the Student Services website: dcccd.edu/DSO or contact DCCCD Office of Institutional Equity at (214) 378-1633.

College Disability Services Offices
El Centro 214-860-2411

A Note on Harassment, Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct
We are committed to assure all community members learn and work in a welcoming and inclusive environment. Title VII, Title IX and DCCCD policy prohibit harassment, discrimination and sexual misconduct. If you encounter harassment, sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, relationship violence, stalking), retaliation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, age, national origin, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression, please contact your College Title IX Coordinator or the Office of Institutional Equity. We treat this information with the greatest degree of confidentiality possible while also ensuring student welfare and college safety.

We are concerned about the well-being and development of our students, and are available to discuss any concerns. There are both confidential and non-confidential resources and reporting options available to you. If students wish to keep the information confidential, please contact the college Counseling or Student Health Services. As required by DCCCD policy, incidents of discrimination and/or sexual misconduct shared with faculty will be reported to the College Title IX Coordinator or District Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator will contact the student and determine if further investigation is needed. For more information about policies, resources or reporting options, please contact your college Title IX Coordinator or visit www.dcccd.edu/titleIX.

College Title IX Coordinators
El Centro  Shanee' Moore  TitleIX-ECC@dcccd.edu  214-860-2138
Dallas Colleges Online  Le‘Kendra Higgs  TitleIX-LEC@dcccd.edu  972-669-6672

District Title IX Coordinator
Office of Institutional Equity  LaShawn Grant  TitleIX-District@dcccd.edu  214-378-1633