PSYC 2301 GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY
EL CENTRO COLLEGE
Course Syllabus

COURSE INFORMATION
Course Rubric and Number and Title: PSYC 2301 General Psychology
Semester and Year: SPRING 2020 (January 21-May 14, 2020)
Section Numbers: 53405
Room Number: online
Class Days/Hours: online
Last Day to Drop This Course: April 16, 2020

CONTACT INFORMATION
Instructor: Mwauna Maxwell (Professor Maxwell, Ms. Maxwell or Ms. Mwauna)
Email Address: mmaxwell@dcccd.edu
Office Phone: (214) 860-2733
Office Location: A323

OFFICE HOURS
TUESDAY 11:00-1:00pm, THURSDAY 1:00-4:00pm - Contact me or drop by my office to schedule additional times.

COMMUNICATION
I respond emails within 24 hours (Mon-Fri) and sometimes faster. If you email me over the weekend, I will respond at the latest by Monday of the following week. You will receive immediate feedback after taking quizzes, but assignments that are writing-intensive will take me up to a week to grade everyone's work. Please put your first and last name in the subject line and the course section you are in (Ex. 55401). If you do not include this information, it will take me longer to respond.

ABOUT ME
I have been with the Dallas County Community College in various roles for my entire career (over 20 yrs). Recently, I was named Minnie Stevens Piper Professor 2020, which is an Excellence in Teaching award for El Centro College, which I am honored to represent. I started out as a community college student, then transferred to Texas Woman’s University to major in Psychology. Ultimately, I completed my graduate degrees, M.S. Human Relations & Business and M.A. in Counseling, at Amberton University while working full-time. I have taught Human Development, Learning Framework, and Psychology.

I get tremendous joy from inspiring my students to learn, as they inspire me to teach. I believe that my role as a community college educator allows me to live in my purpose, that is, to help change the lives of individuals and families for generations to come. In my free time, I take an active role as a mentor to both students and faculty, and I enjoy reading, thoughtful conversations, movies, and spending time with family and friends.
Course Prerequisites

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. (3 Lec.)

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:
   - Ask questions leading to identifications of problems or challenges;
   - Operationalize terms in concrete and absolute terms;
   - Determine if what is claimed, alleged, or stated is based on valid (empirical) evidence;
   - Investigate one's own biases and assumptions to assure they do not interfere with consideration of empirical evidence;
   - Avoid argument by anecdote in favor of evidence-based discussion;
   - Keep an open mind, and consider all empirical possibilities;
   - Avoid decisions based on emotion in favor of those based on empirical sources;
   - 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:**

**Additional Materials Needed**
1. *A working email that you check 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 on file in BOTH eCampus and eConnect to insure that the email is valid and is the one the student is currently using.
2. *Sufficient knowledge of MS Office Word or comparable word-processing package.* You will also need a computer with word processing and Internet access. These are available in open labs on campus, but my recommendation is that you have your own. [Get Microsoft Outlook Email, Word, PowerPoint, Excel and More — for Free!](#)

**Certification of Course Attendance and Participation**
Class attendance is certified on the “12th class day” (in a regular semester) and the “4th class day” in the summer. For this semester, the date is **Monday, February 3, 2020**.

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 those indicated below but not limited solely to the following examples:

- submitting an academic assignment;
- taking an exam or quiz;
- attending a study group assigned by the instructor; or
- participating in an online discussion board about academic matters relating to the course as assigned by the instructor.

In an online course, simply logging in is not sufficient, by itself, to demonstrate academic attendance. You must demonstrate that you are participating in your online 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.”

**Major Course Requirements**

**Quizzes**

You will have one quiz per chapter, each worth 10 points (Blackboard may count the quizzes as 12 out of 12, which is irrelevant because your grade is a calculation of your total points). At 13 chapters (only 13 of the 16 chapters are covered in this course), that calculates to a total of 130 points (156 with the bonus questions). Each quiz will consist of 10 questions (and two extra credit questions). You will have 25 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 Exit Exam/Final Exam (4 + 1). The first four Unit Exams will consist of 40 multiple-choice questions (some have additional bonus questions). You will have one hour (60 minutes) to complete each exam online. Each exam will be worth a total of 100 points (120 with the bonus questions). You will have two attempts available for each exam; the higher of the two attempts will count toward your grade. Failure to complete an exam will be assessed with zero (0) points.

The EXIT EXAM, which is optional, will be the Psychology Department’s EXIT EXAM, taken during Finals week, worth as many as 20 total points. This is an extra credit exam with a two hour time limit. Be aware, you will only be given ONE attempt to take this Exit Exam.

**APA Writing Assignments**

You will be required to write two APA papers for this course. The first of which (APA Introduction Assignment) is primarily focused on developing familiarity with APA formatting. The other (APA Critique Assignment) is a critique of a preselected APA article in which you are to write, in your OWN words, a short introduction and summary of the article, a one or more page review of the article and a one or more page critique (your collegiate feedback, not your opinions) section.

A sample and a template is available for each assignment. If you have concerns or issues with writing at a professional level or writing in APA format, please see the instructor and/or staff in
the Learning Center for assistance. These assignments are standard across the institution for this course and are helpful in evaluating the institutions effectiveness.

You are encouraged to review the APA style formatting in the Writing for Psychology text and review the included template, sample and link. If after using these resources you still have difficulty with APA writing, you are welcome to schedule an appointment with the professor to assist your learning of APA formatting.

Grading Structure
Each module will consist of the exams and quizzes over chapters according to the Course Calendar. 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, log in to your eCampus account, open this class, and click on the “Check My Grades” tab.

Please note that the grading in this course offers multiple opportunities for success. Therefore, it is to your benefit to score **as many points** in as many areas as you can. This scoring method is designed to assist you in earning points in the areas of your strengths, rather than penalizing you in the areas of your weakness. This means that if you do not do well on exams, you will still have an opportunity to demonstrate your abilities in other areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points Per Assignment</th>
<th>Total Points Per Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 Quizzes</td>
<td>@10 points each</td>
<td>= 130 points (156 with bonus points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Exams</td>
<td>@100 points each</td>
<td>= 400 points (420 with bonus points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APA Introduction</td>
<td>@40 points</td>
<td>= 40 points (mandatory)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APA Critique</td>
<td>@100 points</td>
<td>= 100 points (mandatory)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Optional Extra Credit Exit Exam</td>
<td>@20 points</td>
<td>= ? points (20 points optional)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final Letter Grade:  A = 603-670; B = 536-602; C = 469-535; D = 402-468; F = less than 402

Late Work
If you need a deadline extension, please email me as soon possible so that I can work with you to extend the time you need. Extensions requested too close to the end of the semester may not be granted.

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 with the Registrar’s Office (A130) or online. Failure to withdraw from a course will result in a performance grade (F, in more instances than not.)

**Students with Different Abilities**
If you are a student with a disability and/or special needs who requires accommodations, please contact the [Disability Services Office](#) (DSO). If you are eligible for accommodations, please contact DSO to send your accommodation request to your instructor, preferably at the start of the semester or program. Please note that all communication with DSO is confidential.

**Institutional Policies:**
Institutional Policies related to this course will explain the policies and procedures that guide how the college operates, as well as, your rights and responsibilities as a student.

**Using eCampus:**
Lecture notes, assignments, due dates, grades, and the syllabus are stored in eCampus. Click on the SYLLABUS & CALENDAR button from the main eCampus menu.

**DISCLAIMER**
The provisions contained in this syllabus do not constitute a contract between the student and El Centro College. The provisions may be changed at the discretion of the instructor. When necessary, appropriate notice of such changes will be given to the student.

The instructor may provide additional information to enhance the course to meet the needs of the enrolled students, provided that the enhancements do not conflict with the official course syllabus.