General Psychology (PSYC 2301-53807) Syllabus
El Centro College

Instructor Information

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Course Information

Course Title: General Psychology (PSYC 2301)
Course & Section Number: PSYC 2301-53807
Semester/Year: Spring 2020
Credit Hours: 3
Class Meeting Time/Location: Monday and Wednesday- 11:00am to 12:20pm
Certification Date: Feb 3rd, 2020
Last Day to Withdraw: April 16th, 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. (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:
   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:

**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 Activities**

**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 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
hours (60 minutes) to complete each exam online. Each exam will be worth a total of 100 points (plus any additional bonus points). 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 Writing Assignment #1) is primarily focused on developing familiarity with APA formatting. The other (APA Writing Assignment #2) is a Critique of a preselected APA article in which you are to write, in your OWN words, a short summary of the article, a one or more page review of the article and a one or more page comments (your collegiate feedback, not your opinions) section. ALL of these paper will be written in APA formatting style and will be graded as such.

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, seek the assistance of the Learning Center, 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.

Watch the "A Class Divided" videos and consider three perspectives while watching...

- The overall discrimination between groups and how quickly it occurs
- The “Power of Suggestion” the teacher, Jane Elliot, uses to infer that one group is a lower class than the other
- The “Acceptance of Roles” that each group assumes, whether they are aware of what is going on or not.

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**Grading Policy**

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, 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.

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.