Psychology 2301-83503  Syllabus
Richland College School of Social Sciences and Wellness

Instructor Information
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Course Information
Course Title: General Psychology
Course Number: Psyc 2301
Section Number: 83012
Semester-Year: Spring 2020
Credit Hours: 3
Class Meeting Time/Location: Tuesday & Thursday 5:40-7:00 PM C-246
Certification Date: February 3, 2020
Last Day to Withdraw: April 16, 2020

Course Prerequisites
College level ready in Reading.

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

Objective: This course provides an introduction to major topics related to the science of psychology.

Learning Outcomes: Upon Completion of PSYC 2301, students should be able to:

1. Identify various research methods and their characteristics used in the scientific study of psychology.
2. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology.
3. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology.
4. Use terminology unique to the study of psychology.
5. Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation.
6. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior.

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**


**YES YOU NEED THE BOOK**

**ECAMPUS:**

You will need to be able to access ecampus in order to do well in this course. Ability to access ecampus will facilitate tasks such as: completing assignments, communicating with your instructor, obtaining class notes, being able to receive your grades etc. It is **STRONGLY recommended** that you print off the notes prior to the lecture in order for you to have them while listening to lecture. Electronic devices are not permitted during class. You also want to make sure your personal information is correct (i.e., email address) because I will send you emails through this system and if you do not have an up to date email address you will miss out on important information I send you. You can get to ecampus by using a couple different methods:

1. You can go to Richland College’s homepage:  
   [http://www.rlc.dcccd.edu/](http://www.rlc.dcccd.edu/) and on the right hand corner there is the word, “ecampus” in green letters. Click this and it will send you to ecampus.

2. This is a direct link to ecampus:  
   [https://blackboard2.dcccd.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp](https://blackboard2.dcccd.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp)  
   This link will take you straight to ecampus’ homepage.

If you have never logged onto ecampus you will want to follow the instructions below the “user name” and “password.” I have also listed instructions here as well:

**VERY IMPORTANT:** If this is your first time to log in to ecampus, find the "Login Here" box. Type an "e" followed by your seven-digit Student ID# (it is very important to know this number; you will need it for many things on campus, including logging on to
ecampus; I recommend memorizing this number as soon as possible) for BOTH the
USERNAME and the PASSWORD as in the example below:

username: e9876543
password: e9876543
*You will be immediately prompted to change your password.

The ecampus login is NOT the same as the econnect login. If you still cannot log in,
please contact Technical Support on the web or by phone at 1-866-374-7169 or 972-669-
6402.

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.

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</td>
<td>10 % of Final Grade</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>30 % of Final Grade</td>
<td>30 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>60 % of Final Grade</td>
<td>60 Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Credit</td>
<td>15 possible points</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL: 100 points (Excluding Extra Credit)

Final Grade  Your final grade will reflect the total of the graded categories above
plus any extra credit you earn. If completed, extra credit will be added to your
final grade.

Description of Graded Work

Exams and Assignments:

Exams: 4 multiple choice exams will be given. The final exam is mandatory (This is a
college rule!). Your lowest exam score will be dropped.
Bring a scantron and sharpened #2 pencil to class for each exam. Scantron may be purchased in the bookstore.

**NOTE:** Missed an exam? Please make every effort to attend the exams. If you miss an exam then that will be your lowest score dropped.

**Assignments:** There will be Four assignments throughout the semester, one of which consists of the Alcohol Article. Another assignment is based on the Brown Eyes/Blue Eyes study. These assignments will be discussed in depth and information will be provided. The other assignments will consist of an activity designed to get you thinking about materials covered in class and their applications to real world psychology.

**Extra Credit:** 2 opportunities

**Extra Credit 1: Returning the Favor Effect**

Throughout the semester we will watch 3 to 4 episodes of a Facebook show titled *Returning the Favor*. The producers of this web show find people in communities who are making positive contributions, and reward them. This extra credit opportunity is inspired by this concept. You find someone in your community making a positive contribution and reward and recognize them. Write a 3 to 5 page paper about your experience in this endeavor. The purpose of this assignment is to promote positive psychology, which is an important focus of the Psychology faculty at Richland College. There will be more information posted in eCampus about this opportunity. This assignment can earn up to 5 full points toward your final grade!

**Extra Credit 2:**

There is an opportunity for you to earn up to ten full points towards your final grade! This opportunity consists of a semester long project. You will select one of the five books listed below to read during the course of the semester. You may then turn in a 5-6 page paper consisting of the thoughtful responses you gathered while reading the book. This is your paper to take in any direction based on how the book inspires you. This is not, however, a book report or book review. Try to think in terms
of the psychological topics we have discussed throughout the semester and how the book you selected encompasses and applies what you have learned. You can be as broad (whole book) or narrow (one character or subject) as you wish. It must be clear from your paper that you have read the book you selected. You can only turn in a paper based on one of the books listed below. Please do not ask if you can write a paper for a book not listed. I am an avid reader and welcome your book suggestions, but I have selected these works because they each have a unique application in psychology and the topics we discuss. This project is designed to inspire you to think and learn about real world issues while applying the topics of psychology we learn throughout the semester. If you have already read one of these I would suggest reading a different selection from the list. These are quick, engaging reads. If you are interested in this extra credit assignment please don’t be intimidated by reading an additional book or the idea of writing a paper. I would be more than happy to work with you to assist in crafting a well thought out response to one of these works. I will distribute more information on this early in the semester.

Notes on a Nervous Planet, Matt Haig

Another Day in the death of America: A Chronicle of Ten Short Lives, Gary Younge

Room: A Novel, Emma Donoghue

The Boy Who Was Raised as a Dog: And Other Stories from a Child Psychiatrist's Notebook by Bruce D. Perry, Maia Szalavitz

An Unquiet Mind, Kay Redfield Jamison

Attendance and Your Final Grade

Attendance is mandatory and will account for a portion of your grade. If you do not come to class on a regular basis you will not do well and there is a much higher probability you will fail the course. Attendance for grade will be assessed at random dates throughout the semester. Your participation grade will consist of:

1. Being present in class (i.e., not sleeping)
2. Staying in class (i.e., not coming in late, or leaving early)
3. Participating in class (i.e., via discussions in class, activities conducted in class)
**Late Work Policy**

Late assignments will be accepted for up to 3 days after the due date and time. **15 points will be deducted per day late!**

**Other Course Policies**

**Classroom Etiquette**
Professional behavior during class is expected, which includes (a) participating in class discussion and group activities, as well as listening attentively when others are participating, (b) reading the assigned material prior to each class, and (c) arriving to class on time and not leaving early. Do not email or call to ask what you missed in class, or to have your grades bumped up. Please refer to the syllabus before emailing to see if your question can be answered. Do not email using poor communication form.

**Food and Drink Policy**
Students may consume food and beverages in class, assuming all consumed items fall within legal and institutional parameters. Students are responsible for cleaning their area of all food debris and beverage containers. Failure to thoroughly clean your area after consuming food or a beverage may result in an F for this course.

**Electronic Policy**
No electronic devices (cell phone, pda, etc.) should be used during class without instructor permission. Students with disabilities can achieve accommodations in this area by contacting the Disabilities Services Office (See Institution Policies).

**eCampus**
Course syllabus, class assignments, study resources, and grades, etc. will be posted on eCampus. All students must have access to eCampus. You will need to know your student ID number in order to log on. If you have difficulty accessing eCampus, please call tech support at 1-866-374-7169. **It is recommended you check eCampus at least twice weekly for updates, announcements, and assignments.**

**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)
## Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings &amp; Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 21-23</td>
<td>Class intro, Introduction and Research Methods</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 28-30</td>
<td>Stress &amp; Health Psychology</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 4-6</td>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
<td>Chapter 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 11-15</td>
<td><strong>Exam 1 Feb 13</strong></td>
<td><strong>1st Assignment Due</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 18-22</td>
<td>States of Consciousness</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 25-27</td>
<td>Learning</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 3-5</td>
<td>Memory</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 10-12</td>
<td><strong>Exam 2 Mar 12</strong></td>
<td><strong>2nd Assignment due</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 16-20</td>
<td><strong>Spring Break!</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 24-26</td>
<td>Thinking, Language &amp; Intelligence</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 31-2</td>
<td>Life Span Development, Motivation and Emotion</td>
<td>Chapter 9-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 7-9</td>
<td><strong>Exam 3 April 9</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 14-16</td>
<td></td>
<td>Film Assignment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 21-23</td>
<td>Personality</td>
<td>Chapter 11, Film Assignment Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 28-30</td>
<td>Psychological Disorders</td>
<td>Chapter 12, Brown Eyes/Blue Eyes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 5-7</td>
<td>Therapy</td>
<td>Chapter 13, Class Wrap up!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 12-14</td>
<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Disclaimer**  
The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary.

* My goal is for you to succeed in this class while learning about human development. Please feel free to contact me if you need anything or are struggling with topics we discuss, or assignments. You must be an advocate for
your own education. I am willing to partner with you in your success as a student.