

Psychology 2301: General Psychology
Blinn College, Spring 2010
Course Information Sheet
Sections A7, C8, E1

Instructor: Barbara Corbisier, M.A., M.S.
Office Hours: A238 M/W 10-noon or by appt.
Office Phone: 209-7314
email: barb.corbisier@blinn.edu

Course website: <http://www.blinn.edu/> Click on the eCampus link and sign in to access the site. The website will have the latest course information, relevant links, and assignments.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is an introductory course presenting elementary principles of human behavior, development, and mental processes. Course material includes an overview of the basics of psychological research, biological bases of behavior, perception, learning, cognition, emotion, motivation, individual development, psychological disorders, methods of treatment, and an introduction to social psychology. Class hours per week: Three. Semester credits: Three.

PREREQUISITES:

There are no prerequisites. Good reading skills are required for success.

CORE CURRICULUM: This is a course in the 42 hour core of Blinn College. As such, students will develop proficiency in the appropriate intellectual competencies, exemplary educational objectives, and perspectives. For details see: www.blinn.edu/corecurriculum.htm.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Those who successfully complete this course will be able to satisfy the following requirements:

1. Discuss the goals of psychology.
2. Assess the use of scientific method in psychology.
3. Distinguish the central features of major psychological theories.
4. Examine basic psychological terms and concepts.
5. Utilize key psychological terms and concepts in real life examples.
6. Characterize the work of leading contributors to the field of psychology.
7. Evaluate how psychological, biological, and social factors can affect behavior and mental processes.
8. Demonstrate the ability to use critical thinking skills to analyze research and reports of human behavior,
9. Assess real-life situations that may require professional psychological help and compare various treatment options.
10. Differentiate the various parts of the nervous system and summarize their role in behavior.

This course will require students to use library and internet resources and become familiar with psychological research and review journals. It will also foster an ongoing awareness and critical appraisal of current research and applications in psychology.

TEXTBOOKS, SUPPLIES, MATERIALS:

1. **Psychology**, 5th edition by J. Nairne (one copy on reserve in library)
2. **Student Study Guide** for Nairne (**optional**) (one copy on reserve in library)
3. **Scantron cards** for examinations Form #882-ES
4. Companion Website: http://www.wadsworth.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20b&product_isbn_issn=9780495506119&discipline_number=24 (study aids, class notes, homework)

USING eCampus

eCampus is required for this class. Assignments, reviews, and lecture materials will only be available via eCampus. There is an orientation to using the program once you access the site.

ADA STATEMENT:

Information regarding procedures for documenting disabilities can be obtained from the Counseling Office, Rm. S157 (209-7250). To enable students with disabilities to achieve their highest potential, reasonable accommodations on exams or assignments will be made for documented disabilities. Students must present documentation as soon as possible for the instructor to arrange accommodation.

CIVILITY STATEMENT:

Members of the Blinn College community, which includes faculty, staff and students, are expected to act honestly and responsibly in all aspects of campus life. Blinn College holds all members accountable for their actions and words. Therefore, all members should commit themselves to behave in a manner that recognizes personal respect, and demonstrates concern for the personal dignity, rights, and freedoms of every member of the College community, including respect for College property and the physical and intellectual property of others. If a student is asked to leave the classroom because of uncivil behavior, the student may not return to that class until he or she arranges a conference with the instructor: it is the student's responsibility to arrange for this conference.

ATTENDANCE:

The College District believes that class attendance is essential for student success; therefore, students are required to promptly and regularly attend all their classes. Each class meeting builds the foundation for subsequent class meetings. Without full participation and regular class attendance, students shall find themselves at a severe disadvantage for achieving success in college. Class participation shall constitute at least ten percent of the final course grade. It is the responsibility of each faculty member, in consultation with the division chair, to determine how participation is achieved in his or her class. Faculty will require

students to regularly attend class and will keep a record of attendance from the first day of class and/or the first day the student's name appears on the roster through final examinations. If a student has one week's worth of unexcused absences during the semester, he/she will be sent an e-mail by the College requiring the student to contact his/her instructor and schedule a conference immediately to discuss his/her attendance issues. Should the student accumulate two weeks worth of unexcused absences, he/she will be administratively withdrawn from class.

Electronic Device Policy

All the functions of all personal electronic devices designed for communication and/or entertainment (cell phones, pagers, beepers, iPods, and similar devices) must be turned off and kept out of sight in all Blinn College classrooms and associated laboratories. Any noncompliance with this policy will be addressed in accordance with the Blinn College civility policy (Administrative Policy). Additionally, any communication understood by the instructor to be in the nature of cheating will have consequences in accordance with this Blinn College policy section regarding academic dishonesty [FLB (Local)]. Students exempted from this policy section include, active members of firefighting organizations, emergency medical services organizations, commissioned police officers, on-call employees of any political subdivision of the state of Texas, or agencies of the federal government. Exempted students are expected to set the emergency-use devices on silent or vibrate mode only.

Any student violating this policy shall be subject to discipline, including suspension, in accordance with FM.

BLINN EMAIL

Students can find instructions for using their Blinn College emails at <http://www.blinn.edu/acadtech/studentemail>. Blinn administration will use this for important messages such as financial aid, drop warnings, etc., and I will use it as well.

OTHER POLICIES

- ⇒ No food or drinks are allowed in the classroom. Appropriate dress is required.
- ⇒ Blinn College does not tolerate cheating or plagiarism. Procedures for dealing with these acts are outlined in the Scholastic Dishonesty Policy.
- ⇒ Please be aware that arriving late or leaving class (and returning) is disruptive to other students as well as the instructor and is to be avoided.
- ⇒ All cell phones and pagers must be turned off upon entering any classroom, library, or the learning center.
- ⇒ Electronic devices are NOT ALLOWED in classroom. Cell phones, pagers, PDAs, laptops, etc, must be turned off and put away before class begins. Book bags must be placed on the floor, off the desks.

Specific Section Info

Psychology is a broad field that involves much more than laying on a couch and telling a therapist about your mother. This course will give you an introduction to many of the important ideas of this field in a number of specific research areas.

Course goals:

- ⇒ Gain an understanding of basic psychological research protocols
- ⇒ Understand main ideas in various areas of psychology
- ⇒ Be able to apply theories and principles of psychology to your everyday experience

Critical information for tests is made available at lecture and on the website. Do not email me asking for information that was covered during class if you have an unexcused absence. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to make contact with classmates and get any materials you missed for any upcoming test. Obtain email addresses from at least two fellow students to contact in case you miss a lecture.

Reading: This class requires you to keep up with the readings; for the most part there is a chapter per week. Lectures and readings will compliment each other. Do not fall into the trap of thinking if you attend lectures you don't have to do the readings, or vice-versa!

Grading: First, the bad news. This course will have five tests throughout the semester. The first four tests will be worth 100 points (50 questions, 2 points each) and will cover ~3 chapters worth of material. The final will be 75 questions, 25 of which will be cumulative. Now, the good news: The lowest score of the first four tests will turn into 100! There will also be extra credit opportunities throughout the semester. Late written assignments will be penalized 10% for every day late, up to a maximum of 40%, i.e., you turn in something two days late, you'll get 20% fewer points than if you had turned it in on time.

Please note that I will calculate your grade based on total points, *not* on percentages.

Class Participation: 100 points possible
Written assignments: 300 points possible
1st 4 tests: 400 points possible
Final: 150 points possible

A	855-950 points
B	760-854 points
C	665-759 points
D	570-664 points
F	569 points or lower

Remember to bring a scantron sheet to the tests; I won't have any to give out.

All dates subject to change; announcements will be made in class and on the website.

Week	Dates	Topic	Reading
1 Sept. 4-last day to register	Jan. 19-22	Overview Experiment Design	Chapter 1 Chapter 2
2	Jan. 25-29	Neuro	Chapter 3
3	Feb. 1-5	Development	Chapter 4
4 TEST 1 THIS WEEK	Feb. 8-12	Sensation & Perception	Chapter 5 TEST 1: last day of class this week
5	Feb. 15-19	Consciousness	Chapter 6
6	Feb. 22-26	Learning	Chapter 7
7 TEST 2 THIS WEEK	March 1-5	Memory	Chapter 8 TEST 2: last day of class this week
8	March 8-12	Language	Chapter 9
SPRING BREAK!!!	March 15-19	Fun breaks are fun!	Woot!
9 TEST 3 THIS WEEK	March 22-26	Intelligence	Chapter 10 TEST 3: last day of class this week
10	Mar. 29-Apr. 2	Motivation & Emotion	Chapter 11
11	April 5-9	Personality	Chapter 12
12 Apr. 16-last day to drop with a W TEST 4 THIS WEEK	April 12-16	Social	Chapter 13 TEST 4: last day of class this week
13	April 19-23	Abnormal	Chapter 14
14	April 26-30	Clinical	Chapter 15
15	May 3-5	Stress	Chapter 16
A7 FINAL Wed., May 12 12:45 - 2:45	C8 FINAL Thurs., May 6 10:15 - 12:15	E1 FINAL Tuesday, May 11 12:45 - 2:45	