

**General Psychology  
Course Information Sheet  
Psychology 2301**

**Section C9**

**TR 10:35 – 11:50**

**Class Information:**

Instructor: Dr. Katherine Wickes  
Office: A239  
Phone: 209-7331  
E-mail: Katherine.Wickes@blinn.edu  
Office hours: MWF 9:00-11:30 a.m. and TR 9:00 – 10:20 a.m.

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

**PREREQUISITES:**

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

**CORE CURRICULUM:** This is a Core 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 <http://www.blinn.edu/corecurriculum.htm>

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Those who successfully complete this course will:

1. Discuss the goals of psychology.
2. Assess the use of scientific method in Psychology.
3. Evaluate the central features of major psychological theories.
4. Summarize 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. Discuss how psychological, biological, and social, factors can effect 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 resources and become familiar with Psychological Research and Review Journals. As well, it will foster an ongoing awareness and critical appraisal of current research and applications in Psychology.

**COURSE TEXTS:**

1. **Required:** Nairne, J.S. (2008). Psychology: The Adaptive Mind(5th edition). Belmont, CA; Wadsworth/Thompson, and study guide.
2. Four green scantrons for exams

## **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:**

### **Exams:**

There will be four exams. Each will cover a section of the course content as indicated in the class schedule. Each of the first three exams will be worth 100 points and will consist of 50 questions in either multiple choice, true/false, or matching format. The final exam is 33% cumulative. It will be worth 150 points and will consist of 75 questions. Any information contained in the text, study guide, lecture or other handouts provided in class may appear on exams. Failure to discuss material from the text during lecture DOES NOT exclude that material from the exams.

### **Research papers:**

During this course you will be required to complete 2 papers summarizing current research in psychology. The first paper will be a 2-3 page analysis of a research paper relating to the science of psychology. Detailed instructions for completing this paper will be provided to the student by the instructor during the semester. This paper is due within the first month of class, so students will need to begin work of the paper rather quickly.

The second paper will be a 5-6 page analysis of a single topic in psychology. Students will need to use at least 3 scholarly sources to complete this assignment. Further instructions for this paper will be provided to the student by the instructor. All papers will be submitted in ANGEL and will need to be submitted both as an HTML file (webpage) and in APA format.

**Wikipedia is not a scholarly source and is not to be used for any written assignment in the class.**

**All papers must be turned in by their due date. Late papers will not be accepted.**

### **Chapter Quizzes:**

There will be a chapter quiz for each chapter on ANGEL. These quizzes will assess students' knowledge of book material. Students will be required to complete these quizzes prior to the lecture for each chapter. Quiz due dates for each chapter will be clearly posted on ANGEL. Students will have 20 minutes to complete these quizzes. Each quiz is worth 15 points and your highest 10 quizzes will be taken to compute your quiz average. *For this reason, no make-ups for quizzes will be allowed.* **All Quizzes will be due on Angel at 5 p.m. Students are expected to be aware of this time. If ANGEL experiences technical difficulty, quiz due dates and times may be adjusted accordingly. Students will be notified by announcement of any adjustments made.**

### **Class Writings:**

Throughout the semester, there will be a series of in-class writing assignments. There will be a total of 100 points for class assignments. Students are required to attend class on both the date the assignment was given and the date it was due to receive credit. **There will be no make-ups for the in-class assignments.**

### **Grades:**

Grades will be assigned as follows: A 775-697.5; B 697.4-620; C 619-542.5; D 542.4-465; F 464-0. Grades will not be curved or rounded. All grading decisions are at the discretion of the instructor and are final.

1. Exams: 300 points
2. Final Exam: 150 points
3. Paper #1: 25 points
4. Paper #2: 50 points
5. Chapter Quizzes: 150 points
6. Class Writings: 100 points

**Extra Credit:**

There are several ways to earn extra credit in the course. Students may complete the following types of assignments to earn extra credit. Although a student may complete more than one extra credit assignment during the class, no student may earn more than 40 points of extra credit during the semester.

1. Chapter Quizzes: There will be several extra chapter quizzes that can be taken online for extra credit in the class. Each will be worth between 7-10 points.
2. Speaker Papers: Occasionally, students will have the opportunity to hear psychology related speakers at Blinn. Student may, with instructor approval, attend a psychology related talk and write a two page summary for extra credit. Each speaker paper is worth 5 points.
3. Psychologist Biography: Students may, with instructor approval, complete a 5-6 page biography of an influential psychologist for extra credit. Students will need to find at least 3 outside sources of information about the psychologist (not including your text) which must be approved by the instructor. Student may contact the instructor for more information about this assignment. *All biographies are due to In ANGEL by 5 p.m. on March 5, 2010.* Each biography is worth a maximum of 20 points.
4. Review Video: To help other students prepare for the final, student may complete a review video describing material from one chapter of the text. This video should be viewable by the general public (no profanity, nudity, etc) and should run for approximately 4 minutes. Prior approval by the instructor is required for this assignment. Students will need to post the video on a widely accessible website (such as YouTube) and submit the link to the instructor along with a 1 page summary of the material presented in the video. After review, the instructor may also send the link to the class via ANGEL. *All videos must be completed, accessible, and submitted to the instructor by 5 p.m. on April 23, 2010.* Each video is worth a maximum of 20 points.

**Additional Course Information:****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.

There are two forms of excused absences recognized by the institution:

- (1) Observance of religious holy days. The student should notify his/her instructor(s) not later than the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the semester concerning the specific date(s) that the student will be absent for any religious holy day(s); and
- (2) Representing Blinn College at an official institutional function
- (3) Other absences may be excused at the discretion of the faculty member.

Please refer to the attendance process file posted on ANGEL for further information regarding the attendance policy. I will be taking attendance at the beginning of class each class date. *Students who are more than 5 minutes late for class will be counted as absent for that class date.*

#### **Blinn E-Mail:**

Each student will be given an official Blinn e-mail while enrolled as a student. To access this information you will need to go to the following website:

<http://www.blinn.edu/acadtech/studentemail/>. **ALL COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING THIS CLASS WILL BE CONDUCTED VIA WEBCT OR BLINN E-MAIL.** You are responsible for any and all information sent to your Blinn e-mail or to your ANGEL account. It is your responsibility to check these accounts frequently and in a timely manner.

#### **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.

#### **OTHER POLICIES:**

No food or drinks are allowed in the classroom. Appropriate dress is required. Blinn College does not tolerate cheating, plagiarism or collusion. 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.

The handouts used in this course are copyrighted. By "handouts," I mean all materials generated for this class, which include but are not limited to syllabi, quizzes, exams, lab problems, in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets. Because these materials are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy the handouts, unless I expressly grant permission.

As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you should have the permission of that person. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for the plagiarist destroys the trust among colleagues without which research cannot be safely communicated. If you have any questions regarding plagiarism, please consult the Scholastic Dishonesty Policy. **All tests are closed-book unless otherwise stated.**

**This class is a large enrollment class. Because of the size of the class, student civility is especially important. I will try to answer all questions in a timely manner, but may refer students to my office hours for items that cannot be quickly handled in class. The use of laptops in class is a privilege meant to aid in note taking and coursework. Using it to surf the internet, update Facebook (yes, I'm on it and so yes, I know), or just play games is both distracting to your classmates and disrespectful to me. Texting is equally as distracting and disrespectful. Please refrain from these activities during class. I reserve the right to dismiss students who I catch texting or inappropriately using their laptop.**

### **OFFICE HOURS**

Before classes, I am usually busy preparing to teach. It is not a good time to discuss issues such as absences or questions about previous lectures. During my office hours, I am available to help you with any problems or questions you may have. If you don't understand lecture material, need to discuss disabilities or special circumstances, or have to take make-up exams, come see me during office hours.

The best way to contact me for simple questions is through e-mail. I check my e-mail several times a day even when I am off campus. I will ask you to come during office hours if you are inquiring via e-mail about a complicated matter.

### **Psychology Club/Psi Beta**

For those with a deeper interest in psychology, Blinn has a psychology club and a chapter of [Psi Beta](#), a national honor society for psychology students at two-year colleges. Although this is of primary interest to psychology majors, it is open to any student with an interest in psychology. All that is required is an overall "B" average and a "B" average in psychology courses you have taken. If you're interested in this for the fall, please come talk to Dr. Linda Jones or myself.

### **The Internet**

I assume that most students now have computers and internet accounts. If you don't, there are computers in both the library and the learning center available for your use in completing internet assignments. If you're unfamiliar with browsing the internet, the staff will be glad to help you. Ask me for help, too. That's what I'm here for. This course will require the use of ANGEL. If you are unfamiliar with this platform, please see me or contact Distance Education.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

This is only a tentative outline. Any changes will be announced during lecture. Exams may be earlier or later than the dates listed. If you miss or are unprepared for an exam because you did not attend class when calendar changes were announced, you will not be allowed to make up the exam. It is your responsibility to be prepared for all class sessions by reading the assigned material in advance and having scantrons to take exams on scheduled days. Each exam will cover only text and lecture material within that section. There are no cumulative exams in this course.

### **SECTION 1**

Chapter 1: An introduction to psychology	January 19
Chapter 2: The tactics of psychological research	January 26
Chapter 3: Biological processes	February 2
Chapter 5: Sensation and perception	February 9
Exam 1:	

**Section C7** – Thursday, February 11, 2010.

### **SECTION 2**

Chapter 4: Human development	February 16
Chapter 7: Learning from experience	February 25
Chapter 8: Memory	March 4
Exam 2:	

**Section C7** – Thursday, March 11, 2010

### **SECTION 3**

Chapter 12: Personality	March 23
Chapter 14: Psychological disorders	March 30
Chapter 15: Therapies	April 6
Exam 3:	

**Section C7** – Tuesday, April 13, 2010

### **SECTION 4**

Chapter 13: Social psychology	April 15
Chapter 9: Language and thought	April 27
Chapter 10: Intelligence	April 29
Chapter 6: States of Consciousness	May 6
Final Exam:	

**Section C7** – Friday, May 7, 2010, 10:15 - 12:15