

BLINN COLLEGE – BRYAN CAMPUS
PSYCHOLOGY 2301 – GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY
Course Information Sheet
Spring 2010 (**Sections D7, A1, A8, C1**)

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Mike Pinney

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Your email-box:

<http://www.blinn.edu/acadtech/studentemail/>

Phone: (979) 450-0519

Office: A265

Office Hours: Immediately following class, or by appointment

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. (3 credit hours, meeting 3 hrs per week)

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>

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Those who successfully complete this course will be able to satisfy the following requirements: 1) Examine 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.

STUFF YOU NEED

- 1) Textbook, "Psychology" (5th Ed.) – James S. Nairne
- 2) (4) Scantron cards for exams Form #882-ES (**bring one next class period**)
- 3) **BLINN STUDENT E-MAIL** Blinn administration will use this for important messages such as financial aid, drop warnings and I may as well. Students can find instructions for using their Blinn College emails at <http://www.blinn.edu/acadtech/studentemail> Be sure to check it daily!!

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 & PARTICIPATION (20% of your grade)

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. 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. **Attendance & Class Participation will constitute 20% of your final grade and will be based on 6 or more in-class assignments, quizzes and/or exercises.** 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 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. If the student accumulates two weeks worth of absences, he/she will be administratively withdrawn from class.

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

1. Observation of religious holy days – Sec. 51.911(b), Texas Education Code. An institution of higher education shall excuse a student attending classes and/or required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day. A student whose absence is excused under this section may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment. The student should notify his or her instructor(s) not later than the 15th day of the semester concerning the specific date(s) that the student will be absent for any religious holy day(s); and
2. Representing the College District at an official institutional function. If a student is asked by the College District to be an official representative of the College District at any function approved by the institution, the student will be excused from any classes missed and must be allowed to complete all work without penalty for that absence(s) in a timely manner as directed by the faculty member.
3. A high school student representing the independent school district at an official institutional function. If a high school student is asked by the independent school district to be an official representative of the school district at any function approved by the institution, the student shall be excused from any class missed and must be allowed to complete all work without penalty for the absence(s) in a timely manner as directed by the faculty member.

Other absences may be excused at the discretion of the faculty member.

If a student resides in College District housing, failure to attend classes may be grounds for loss of residential housing privileges (see residential housing contract for details). Students enrolled in developmental courses are subject to state-mandated attendance policies. Failure to attend developmental classes shall result in removal from the course as defined by state law.

The final date to drop with a 'W' is Apr 16th

COURSE FORMAT

LECTURES

Lectures will cover some of the material in the book and will add other relevant and current information to the topic. By missing a lecture, you will miss important information that will show up on an exam. It will be virtually impossible to make an "A" grade if you do not attend the lectures. Lectures will also contain many demonstrations and class activities designed to stimulate you and to help you think critically about psychology. If you want additional information on a topic mentioned in the text or lecture, please feel free to ask, either during class or afterward. It's your money that pays for instructors to be here, so get your money's worth.

EXAMS (15pts each, 60% of your grade)

Three exams and a Research Assn (counting as a test grade) will be given during the semester. The exams will contain up to (100) multiple-choice questions. The first two exams will only cover the lecture and reading material since the previous exam, so they are non-cumulative. **The final will be cumulative.** Refer to the course schedule listed at the back of this syllabus for times or check the class website for updated details. *Details on the Research Assn will be handed out the 6th week of class (after Exam1).*

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS (10pts each, 20% of your grade)

During the first half of the semester, you will receive 2 departmental homework assignments. Each of these assignments must be completed according to the instructions given and turned in by the due date for full credit. Please put some thought and time into these assignments, and treat them like the college papers that they are.

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.**

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. 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 Blinn Policy.

INCOMPLETES

A grade of incomplete will only be given in serious extenuating circumstances such as a death in the immediate family or an illness that requires hospitalization. This is school policy. You must have a passing grade and supply official documentation verifying the circumstance. An incomplete will NOT be given in the case of vacation plans, job conflicts, apartment lease problems, social engagements or forgetting about the last exam. If you need an incomplete, you must speak with the instructor, provide the documentation and fill out the required paperwork before you leave.

EXTRA CREDIT

No extra credit assignments will be given during the semester (*you truly won't need extra credit if you attend class and stay current with your readings and assigned due dates*)

MAKEUP EXAMS

Makeup exams will be available in the Learning Center for exactly one week following the scheduled exam and will contain different questions than the exams given in class. (If the exam is scheduled for Tuesday the 13th, the makeup exam will be available from Wednesday the 14th through Monday the 19th). Extensions will only be given in serious, extenuating circumstances such as a death or serious illness. If you cannot provide reasonable verification of these circumstances, please do not ask for an extension.