

PSYCHOLOGY 2301: GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY

Spring 2010

Course Information:

Instructor: Pamela B. Grossman, Ph.D.

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Sections:

OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Friday: 8:30 am to 10:45 am

Tuesday, Thursday: 1:15-2:40 pm

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 and writing 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 TEXT:

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

COMPANION WEBSITE FOR THE TEXTBOOK:

http://www.wadsworth.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20b&flag=student&product_isbn_issn=9780495506119&discipline_number=24

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Those who successfully complete this course will:

- Examine the goals of psychology
- Assess the use of scientific method in Psychology.
- Distinguish the central features of major psychological theories.
- Examine basic psychological terms and concepts.
- Utilize key psychological terms and concepts in real life examples.
- Characterize the work of leading contributors to the field of psychology.
- Evaluate how psychological, biological, and social, factors can affect behavior and mental processes.
- Demonstrate the ability to use critical thinking skills to analyze research and reports of human behavior.
- Assess real-life situations that may require professional psychological help and compare various treatment options.
- 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. In addition, it will foster an ongoing awareness and critical appraisal of current research and applications in Psychology.

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 include 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.

SEATING CHART:

Students will be seated according to a seating chart on the first day of class. This is to facilitate attendance recording and the instructor learning names of the students.

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 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 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 policy file posted on ECAMPUS for further information regarding the attendance policy. I will be taking attendance at the beginning of each class and will enter it directly onto the ECAMPUS Attendance Book. *Students who are more than 5 minutes late for class will be counted as tardy for that class date. It is the student's responsibility to alert the instructor that they came in late, following the calling of the roll.*

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:**Exams:**

There will be THREE exams and a final. Each will cover a section of the course content as indicated in the class schedule. Each of the three exams will be worth 100 points and will consist of 50 questions in either multiple choice, true/false, or matching format. There will also be some bonus questions on each exam, but not on the final exam.

The final exam is cumulative. It will be worth 150 points and will consist of 75 questions. Any information contained in the text, study guides, lecture (including videos shown in class), lecture slides 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.

Exam Make-Up Policy:

Only students who have a documented excused absence for the day of the exam may make the exam up. The student is responsible for making arrangements to take the make-up exam with the instructor. An optional exam can be used to substitute for one of the exam grades. So if a student misses an exam for any reason that is not excused, or fails an exam, they may take the optional exam as a make-up.

Use of eCAMPUS:

All lecture notes, quizzes, homework assignments, instructions for written assignments, resources for students, dates for tests, etc. will be provided via the ECAMPUS system on eCampus. Students are required to check eCAMPUS frequently for assignments and instructions. If you have any problems using eCAMPUS, see your instructor, or contact the Help Desk for Distance Learning. You may use eCAMPUS to email the instructor or other students in this class. A portion of class time will be spent teaching how to use the eCAMPUS system for this class.

“Psychology in the News” Assignment:

Students will be required to research one story about psychology they see in the news, and find out more about the topic than the information given in the media report (from any news program, news website, magazine, or newspaper). The purpose of the assignment is to extend knowledge past what would be acquired in the popular media, to examine and analyze the scholarly work that is the basis for the news story. Instructions and a rubric will be provided for this paper, which should be about 4 pages double-spaced. The paper will be turned in through eCAMPUS, and reviewed by TurnItIn.com for originality. **YOU MAY NOT COPY WORD FOR WORD, WITHOUT QUOTING YOUR SOURCE APPROPRIATELY. DO NOT OVER-USE QUOTES.** References must be given in APA format. **THERE IS A HANDOUT ON PLAGIARISM AND ON HOW TO USE APA FORMAT PROVIDED ON ECAMPUS UNDER RESOURCES.**

All papers must be turned in to the eCAMPUS DROP BOX by their due date. Papers can be turned in EARLY through the “Turn It In” drop box on eCAMPUS for feedback on the originality of the work, BUT YOUR FINAL DRAFT MUST BE TURNED IN BY THE DUE DATE. Late papers will LOSE A LETTER GRADE FOR EACH DAY THEY ARE LATE.

Chapter Quizzes:

There will be a chapter quiz for each chapter on eCampus. These quizzes will assess students' knowledge of book material and are intended to help with mastery of the material prior to the test. The Quizzes will be due during the last week of class, so you may complete them at your own pace. However, it is highly recommended that you take the quizzes as we cover each chapter, and before the exam on that chapter.

Each quiz is worth 15 points and your highest 10 quizzes will be taken to compute your quiz average. You will have an opportunity to correct your first submission for each quiz. For example, if you receive a grade of 75 on Chapter 1 quiz, you can resubmit to get a higher grade and the average of those two grades will be entered in the grade book.

Class Writings:

Throughout the semester, there will be a series of short in-class or homework writing assignments or products. Class writings will count as the Participation Grade, and will account for 100 points about 12% of your total points in the class. These writings will be submitted in hard-copy format or in an ECAMPUS drop-box, depending on the assignment instructions.

Grades:

Grades will be based on a percentage of the possible points as follows:

720-800 points	A	90-100%
640-719 points	B	80-89%
560-639 points	C	70-79%
480-559 points	D	60-69%
0-479 points	F	0-59%

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. "Psychology in the News" Paper: 100 points
4. Chapter Quizzes: 150 points
5. Class Writings: 100 points (participation)

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 a few extra chapter quizzes that can be taken online for extra credit in the class. Each will be worth 10 points.
2. Psychoanalyze This! This is an opportunity to apply your new-found understanding of psychology to analysis of a movie. Possible films to use for this assignment are listed on the assignment instructions on ECAMPUS. Some films are available to check-out from the instructor. This 3 page assignment is worth 20 points.

3. Summary of a Documentary Video: Write a 2-page (double spaced) analysis of a video or podcast (minimum length 45 minutes) on a psychology-related topic. A good website to find scientific documentaries for this extra credit option is www.pbs.org . Documentary series that include some excellent programs on psychology-related issues include Nova, Frontline, and Scientific American Frontiers. If you are unsure if a documentary is appropriate, get approval from the instructor by emailing the link. Each video summary is 10 points.

Blinn E-Mail:

Each student will be given an official Blinn e-mail address 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 ECAMPUS OR BLINN E-MAIL.** You are responsible for any and all information sent to your Blinn e-mail or to your ECAMPUS 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.

OFFICE HOURS:

I will be in my office for the office hours stated above.

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 are interested in this for the fall, please 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 ECAMPUS. If you are unfamiliar with this platform, please see me or contact Distance Education for a tutorial.

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. **Check eCAMPUS for announcements of test dates.** It is your responsibility to be prepared for all class sessions by reading the assigned material in advance and having scantrons and pencils to take exams on scheduled days. Only the final exam is cumulative.

Spring Semester 2010 Schedule

Section	Lecture Topics	Homework/Papers	Quizzes
Week	Exam Dates		
Dates			
I.	Review CIS and Class Policies		
Week 1	Chapter 1. Intro to Psychology	Read Chapter 1	Chapter 1 Quiz
Jan. 19-22			
Week 2	Chapter 2	Read Chapter 2	Chapter 2 Quiz
Jan. 25-29	Tools of Psychological Research	Begin Research Methods Writing Assignment	
Week 3	Chapter 3.	Read Chapter 3	Chapter 3 Quiz
Feb. 1-5	Biological processes	Brain Writing Activity-begin in class, complete at home.	
Week 4	Chapter 4.	Read Chapter 4	Chapter 4 Quiz
Feb. 8-12	Human Development		
II.	Exam 1: 2/17/10 or 2/18/10	Exam 1 (on Chapters 1-4) (50 minute time limit)	Chapter 5 Quiz
Week 5	Begin Chapter 5.		
Feb. 15-19	Sensation and Perception		
Week 6	Article for Topic for "Psychology in the News" due for approval by Instructor due 2/22/10 or 2/23/10 in class for approval.	Chapter 6 Quiz	
Sensation and Perception Continued	Read Chapter 6		
Chapter 6			
Consciousness			
Chapter 7. Learning from Experience	Read Chapter 7.	Chapter 7 Quiz	
	Learning Theories Class Writing Assignment: begin in class and finish at home.		

Chapter 8. Memory	Read Chapter 8 Research Methods Writing Assignment Due 3/1/10 or 3/2/10	Chapter 8 Quiz	
SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK	
Exam 2: 3/23/10 or 3/24/10 Chapter 9 Language and Thought	Exam 2 (on Chapters 5-8) 60 minute time limit Read Chapter 9	Chapter 9 Quiz	
Chapter 10. Intelligence	Read Chapter 10 "Psychology in the News" paper due 3/30 or 4/1.	Chapter 10 Quiz	
Chapter 11 Motivation and Emotion	Read Chapter 11	Chapter 11 Quiz	
Chapter 12. Personality	Read Chapter 12 4/16 Last Day to drop with a W	Chapter 12 Quiz	
Exam 3	Exam 3 (on Chapters 9-12) 60 minute time limit		
Chapters 14 &15. Psychological Disorders & Therapy	Read Chapters 14 & 15	Chapter 14 & 15 Quizzes	
Chapter 14-15 Psychological Disorders/Therapy	Read Chapters 14 & 15	Chapter 14 & 15 Quizzes	
Final Exam	Final Exam: 2 hour time limit. Bring 1 scantron.		

Final Exam Schedule:

Section A5	Monday	May 10	10:15 am-12:15 pm	A268
Section D2	Thursday	May 6	12:25-2:25 pm	A268
Section D3	Tuesday	May 11	12:45-2:45 pm	A268