

Psychology 1: General Psychology
Tuesdays 6-8:50 pm
Kings River Community College, Sanger Campus
Fall 1995 (Selma & Oakhurst)

Instructor: Kathy Morgan

Phone: 431-8536 (This is my home phone--please do not call before 10 am or after 10 pm)

Office hours: I will be available before class every Tuesday between 5:30 and 6. You may also meet with me after class or at other times by arrangement.

Text (required): Plotnik, Rod. (1993). Introduction to Psychology, 3rd edition. Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole Publishing.

Course Objective: To introduce students to the field of psychology including key terms and concepts, major approaches, subdisciplines, current research and issues.

Attendance

It is impossible to succeed in this course without attending regularly. Even one absence may seriously hurt your grade. Attendance will be taken at the beginning and end of every class--anyone who is not present at both times will be counted absent. Any student who is absent for any reason **two** or more times before October 13 will be dropped from the course. There is no distinction between "excused" and "unexcused" absences. Do not take this course if you do not plan to attend every week. If it is absolutely necessary to miss a class, notify the instructor as soon as possible. It is the student's responsibility to find out about assignments/announcements that s/he missed.

Grades

Course grades will be based on the following criteria:

four exams: 15% each, total	60%
final exam:	20%
quizzes and assignments:	20%

The course grade assigned will be based on the standard scale.

90% and above:	A
80 - 89%:	B
70 - 79%:	C
60 - 69%:	D
Below 60%:	F

Exams

Exams will consist of true/false, fill-in, multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. If an exam is missed, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and make arrangements to make up the exam. Any exam missed must be taken **before** the next class session. No make-ups are allowed for the final exam.

Quizzes

Quizzes will be announced one week in advance. **Quizzes cannot be made up.**

Assignments

Homework assignments will be given out one week before they are due. **No late assignments will be accepted.** All assignments must be typed.

Satisfactory Progress

Any student whose grade on the first two exams averages below 60% may be dropped for not making satisfactory progress.

Extra Credit

Late in the semester students will be given the opportunity to write a brief paper for extra credit.

Important Dates

Last day to drop course for refund--Friday, August 25

Last day to register--Friday, September 1

Last day to drop course without notation on transcript--Friday, September 1

Last day to drop course--Friday, October 13

How to Succeed in this Course

Welcome to General Psychology! I will do everything I can to make this course a successful, worthwhile, and enjoyable experience for you. Here are some suggestions as to what you can do to succeed in this course.

1. Make the course a fun experience for yourself. Not surprisingly, we do better at things we enjoy. As you study psychology, you'll be learning about yourself--what could be more interesting? Make a point of thinking about how the ideas we discuss apply to your life, goals, job, relationships, etc. Students who talk about what they learn in class with family and friends report that they enjoyed the course.

2. Don't do this course alone. I strongly recommend that you find a study partner or form a study group with others in the class. There are several advantages to studying together: you can help each other figure out confusing concepts, you can motivate each other, you can compare class notes, and it can be more interesting to work with others. Even the best students benefit by being in a study group--teaching is one of the best ways to learn.

3. Do not miss class. Much of the information in lectures are not repeated in the book. Quizzes and assignments cannot be made up. You will not be successful in this course if you do not attend regularly.

4. Read all assigned materials. Exams cover both class lectures and the textbook. Familiarity with both is necessary to do well on exams. Do practice quizzes in the text and the study guide. Don't get behind in the reading.

5. In college courses, most of the work is done outside of classtime. Set aside regular study times--schedule it in advance. Individuals vary in how much time they need for study, but a common guideline is to spend three hours of study time for every one hour in class. This means you should set aside approximately seven or eight hours a week in study time for this class. I recommend that you devote fifteen hours to preparing for each exam. I will give you various study tips derived from psychological research throughout the course.

6. Before each class, read over notes from the previous week's class. Come to class prepared to ask questions, participate in activities, and take careful notes.

Course Schedule

The following schedule is an **estimate only and is subject to change.**

Week 1:	Aug 15	Introduction to psychology	Chapter 1
Week 2:	Aug 22	Introduction cont'd	
		Biological bases of behavior	Chapter 2
Week 3:	Aug 29	Biological bases of behavior cont'd	
		Child, adolescent, adult development	Chapters 10, 11
Week 4:	Sep 5	EXAM 1	
		Memory	Chapter 7
Week 5:	Sep 12	Memory cont'	
		Learning	Chapter 6
Week 6:	Sep 19	Learning cont'd	
		Sensation and perception	Chapters 3, 4
Week 7:	Sep 26	Perception cont'd	
		Consciousness	Chapter 5
Week 8:	Oct 3	EXAM 2	
		Intelligence and Thinking	Chapter 8
Week 9:	Oct 10	Intelligence and thinking cont'd	
		Motivation and emotion	Chapter 9
Week 10:	Oct 17	Stress and health	Chapter 13
		Personality	Chapter 12
Week 11:	Oct 24	Personality cont'd	
Week 12:	Oct 31	EXAM 3	
		Personality cont'd	
		Psychological disorders	Chapter 14
Week 13:	Nov 7	Psychological disorders cont'd	
Week 14:	Nov 14	Psychological disorders cont'd	
		Social psychology	Chapter 16
Week 15:	Nov 21	Social psychology	
Week 16:	Nov 28	EXAM 4	
		Social psychology cont'd	
Week 17:	Dec 5	Issues in psychology	

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, December 12

Exam Schedule and Topics

Note that exam dates and the specific topics covered in each exam may change.

Exam 1: Sep 5--Introduction; biology; child, adolescent and adult development

Exam 2: Oct 3--Memory; learning; sensation and perception; consciousness

Exam 3: Oct 31--Intelligence and thinking; motivation; emotion; stress

Exam 4: Nov 28--Personality; psychological disorders

Final exam: Dec 12--Social psychology; comprehensive review of entire course