### PSY-2 GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY

### SPRING 2013

### REEDLEY COLLEGE

Dr. Cornelius P. Sullivan Days & Times: T @ 6p – 8:50p

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### PSY-2 COURSE SYLLABUS

 **COURSE DESCRIPTION: 3 credits. Basic Skills Advisories: Eligibility for English 125 & 126**

 This course presents an overview of the field of psychology, a field that emphasizes the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. Topics include history, methodology, biopsychology, life-span development, sensation and perception, consciousness and altered states, learning and memory, thought and language, intelligence, motivation and emotion, personality, psychopathology and therapy, stress and health, social and cultural influences.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:** Huffman, K. (2012). *Psychology in Action*, 10th Ed. New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

 **In the process of completing this course, students will:**

* Explain the nature and origin of the empirical field of Psychology.
* Describe the relationship between historical figures and appropriate psychological theories.
* Identify psychological concepts relating to the nervous system, sensory and perceptual processes, states of consciousness, learning ability, memory, motivation and emotion, human development, personality, and stress management.
* Explain human behavior throughout the lifespan, biologically, behaviorally, cognitively, humanistically, psychologically, and culturally.
* Demonstrate knowledge of the empirical data related to the aforementioned concepts.
* Demonstrate knowledge of basic research methodology.
* Identify future directions in psychological research.
* Explain the impact of cultural issues in the formation of psychological concepts.

**COURSE OUTCOMES:**

 **Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:**

* Analyze and discuss major psychological theories and research.
* Apply psychological concepts when examining human and animal behavior.
* Synthesize knowledge regarding culture, history and genetics in understanding behavior.
* Critically evaluate scientific claims within the field of psychology and beyond.
* Develop insight into their own development and growth.
* Utilize psychological applications in the pursuit of self-improvement and relationships.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS:**

 1. Students are expected to attend class, read assigned materials, and participate in class discussions. Students engaged in disruptive behavior, cheating, plagiarism, or other inappropriate conduct covered by school policy will be subject to disciplinary action. **Cell phone use/texting is NOT allowed.** Violators may be asked to leave class and/or meet with the instructor and an administrator to discuss the problem.

1. There will be four scheduled exams. Each will consist of a combination of multiple choice, true-false, and short answer essay questions. Exams will be held in class and the use of notes, books, etc., will not be permitted. Exam content will be based upon textbook readings, lectures, and class discussion. Detail is to be found below.
2. Blackboard & WileyPLUS. I have created a Blackboard website for our course which you will need to access to complete assignments. You can find a blackboard link on the college’s website: www.reedleycollege.edu. Click the “WebAdvisor/Blackboard” link, and then click Blackboard. Your student ID# is your username and password (for security, change your password after your first login). There you will find this Syllabus, Lecture Outlines and Chapter Study Guides for the exams, Cooperative Learning Group Assignments (i.e., homework for in class quizzes), and other learning aids. You will also find a link via the Blackboard site to WileyPLUS. You will need to enter the registration code that came with your text to access WileyPLUS. Once there, you will find the assignments required for each of our 16 chapters (e.g., quizzes based on text readings and on-line videos/animations). Detail for WileyPLUS assignments is to be found below.
3. Each student will be assigned membership in a cooperative learning group. Group activity is designed to supplement and deepen understanding of lecture material. Group memberships will be rotated for each section (four total) of our course. Detail is to be found below.

 **ABSENCE POLICY:**

 1. Attendance at all lectures is expected, and will be recorded. Students who do not show up the first day of class will be dropped. Students with excessive absences (7 or more missed classes) will be dropped. The last day for students to drop the course is listed in the class schedule **(Friday, March 8th).** Students are required to adhere to the withdrawal policy contained in the student catalog. Up to and including the designated last day to drop, a student may drop the course without penalty and receive a “W.” If a student chooses to remain in the course after the last withdrawal date, even if he or she is earning a failing grade, the student will receive and must accept a letter grade. A grade of “W” cannot be recorded after the last withdrawal date.

 2. If a student is unable or fails to take an exam on the scheduled date, it is the responsibility of the student to contact the instructor and make arrangements to “make up” the exam. Such contact and arrangement should be made prior to the exam when possible, **but MUST BE MADE NO LATER THAN THE DAY OF THE SCHEDULED EXAM.**  Failure to make contact AND arrangements will cause the student to earn 0 points (i.e., a letter grade of “F”) for that exam.

**GRADING PROCEDURES:**

Your final grade evaluation in the class will be based on the following criteria and grading scale:

 **POINTS ASSESSMENT/METRIC POINTS EARNED LETTER GRADE & PERCENTAGE**

600 Exams 1436-1604 A = 90 – 100%

780 WileyPLUS assignments 1276-1435 B = 80 – 89%

144 Quizzes 1115-1275 C = 70 – 79%

 80 Cooperative Learning Activities 955-1114 D = 60 – 69%

 < 954 F = < 59%

 **1604 = Total Possible Points**

Your final grade will be calculated as a percentage (shown above) derived from the total points you earned across the four assessment areas divided by the total possible points.

***Exams:***

There will be a total of **four (4) semester examinations** consisting of many or all of the following: Multiple choice, fill-in, true-false, short answer, and essay questions. **You will need Scantron form 882-E.**

For each exam, you will receive a letter grade based upon the percentage of points earned out of

the total points possible (each exam will be worth 200 points). Although there will be four exams,

you will be allowed to drop your lowest grade. Thus, your total exam points earned will be based

upon the **three** remaining exams, and will be calculated by summing the points you have earned

(200 X 3 = 600 points maximum). **You are required to take all four exams**, and will not be

allowed to count a missed exam as your lowest grade to be dropped. “Extra credit” may be earned

by correctly answering additional exam questions.

If a student is unable or fails to take an exam on the scheduled date, it is the responsibility of the

student to contact the instructor and make arrangements to “make up” the exam. Such contact and

arrangement should be made prior to the exam when possible, **but MUST BE MADE NO LATER**

**THAN THE DAY OF THE SCHEDULED EXAM.**  Failure to make contact AND arrangements

will cause the student to earn 0 points (i.e., a letter grade of “F”) for that exam.

* The fourth exam IS the final exam***,*** and will take place during finals week on:

**Tuesday, May 14th from 6:00p – 8:50p**

***WileyPLUS assignments:***

I believe in exposing my students to both breadth and depth of material in my courses, and that practice in testing/assessing knowledge will help achieve mastery of the subject. WileyPLUS is an exciting new learning tool that I believe will achieve these goals. You can access WileyPLUS via the link provided on our Blackboard page. You will need to enter the registration code that was packaged with your text. Once there, you will find extensive resources to aid your learning such as tutorial videos and animations, as well as chapter summaries and flashcards. Additionally, here you will find the assignments required for you to complete on a per chapter basis, such as quizzes and tests based on videos and animations, plus your chapter readings. Please click the button for WileyPLUS on our blackboard page for additional information regarding how to use WileyPLUS, and how to locate your assignments and due dates for completion. This is a significant part of your grade, worth 780 points, and thus it is crucial for you to complete your assignments by the dates indicated.

***Quizzes:***

* + **In-Class Quizzes:**

In order to assist you in demonstrating your understanding of the material being covered between exams, short quizzes will be given throughout the semester on a per-chapter basis. Quizzes will be given in class as part of your cooperative learning activities, with students working together in their group to agree upon the correct answers. Each quiz will be worth twelve (12) points, with one quiz for each of a selection of 12 chapters of our course. **You will need the Scantron “quizzstrip” form 815-E.** *See the homework assignments on blackboard for the specific 12 chapters, and class schedule on the syllabus for the specific quiz dates.* Thus, your total quiz score will be the sum of 12 scores (12 X 12 = 144 points maximum). Make-up quizzes will be offered only to those with a documented excused absence (i.e. doctor’s note).

***Cooperative Learning Activities:***

Students will be placed in groups and assigned a topic for an in-class discussion or other activity (e.g., quizzes as noted above) designed to promote deeper understanding of select topics/concepts. The goal is to process the topic/issue by incorporating the views/information from your other group members input. These group activities will vary in time and may culminate in a brief in-class group report. Group membership will be rotated for every section (4) of the course in order to work with as many different students as possible throughout the semester.

Each student will be graded by their peers in her/his group by assigning a letter grade to each group member. Each group has the authority to decide the criteria in assigning grades (e.g., participation, completion of assignments, etc.), including any penalty for absences*. Please see the standards below for guidance to assign letter grades for cooperative learning activities:*

**A =** outstanding achievement 🡪 significantly exceeds standards

**B =** commendable achievement 🡪 exceeds standards

**C =** acceptable achievement 🡪 meets standards

**D =** marginal achievement 🡪 below standards

**F** *=* failing

* an “***acceptable***” level of achievement is demonstrating familiarity/command of assigned material when called upon to answer questions or provide comment, or when participating in group activity by being able to provide meaningful information to complete group tasks. This would be graded as a **“C”** and meets the standard for acceptable achievement.
* Anything *below* this acceptable standard will be graded accordingly, that is, a letter grade of “D” when *seldom* demonstrating familiarity/command of assigned material when called up, or *seldom* provides meaningful information to complete group tasks; a letter grade of F for *never* demonstrating familiarity/command of assigned material when called up, or *never* provides meaningful information to complete group tasks.
* Anything *above* this “acceptable” standard will be graded accordingly, noting that a **“B”** level of performance ***exceeds*** that for the acceptable standard (e.g., *occasionally* contributes beyond acceptable level of performance, *occasionally* goes beyond information required by question, *occasionally* displays leadership on group tasks, *occasionally* offers original/independent comments that promote discussion).

Note that **“A”** level performance ***significantly*** exceeds the acceptable standard (e.g., *routinely* contributes beyond acceptable level of performance, *routinely* goes beyond information required by question, *routinely* displays leadership on group tasks, *routinely* offers original/independent comments that promote discussion.).

A brief explanation for each letter grade you assign will be required on a form that will be provided. The letter grades assigned to you by your peers will then be converted to a number of points based upon the traditional 4.0 system associated with letter grades A – F. This will be done as follows:

**Letter Grade Points Used for Averaging Letter Grade Points Earned**

 **A 4 A 20**

 **B 3 B 15**

 **C 2 C 10**

 **D 1 D 5**

 **F 0 F 0**

These points will then be averaged, and will be rounded to the nearest whole point according to standard rounding procedures. This average will then be used to determine your points earned as detailed above. As noted above, group memberships will be rotated per each section of the course. There are four sections of our course, therefore you will earn four scores, which will then be summed to yield your total number of points, with a maximum of 80 possible points: (20 X 4 = 80). ***Please note that the professor has the final authority to assign group grades, particularly matters involving grade disputes or excessive absence.***

**RESERVE MATERIALS FOR THE COURSE:**

 **Please note: Reserve materials are in the library. There is a copy of the textbook on reserve. To access this, ask the librarian at the main desk and provide them with the name of our course, PSY-2, General Psychology. Remember, reserve materials**

 **MUST REMAIN in the library…you cannot take them out of the library!!!**

 **If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic test, etc.) as per the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact your instructor as soon as possible.**

 **CLASS SCHEDULE: The following schedule is subject to revision as required.**

 **DATE ASSIGNMENT 🡪 Note: C = Chapter H = Homework\*  Q = Quiz**

 T, 1/8 Introduction/C1

 T, 1/15 C1/**H1** { *Assigned Reading = Appendix on Statistics }*

 T, 1/22 C1/**Q1**/C2/**H2**

 T, 1/29 C2/**Q2**/C3/**H3**/**Q3**

 **T, 2/5 EXAM 1 (C1,C2,C3) /** C4/**H4**

 T, 2/12 C4/**Q4**/C5/**H5**

 T, 2/19 C5/**Q5/**C6/**H6** { *Assigned Reading = C14, pp. 516-518 }*

 T, 2/26 C6/**Q6** { *Assigned Reading = C15, pp. 544-548* }

 **T, 3/5 EXAM 2 (C4,C5,C6)** / C7/**H7**

 **F, 3/8 *\*\*\* LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW \*\*\****

 T, 3/12 C7/Q7/C12/**H12**

 T, 3/19 C12/**Q12**/C13

T, 3/26 ***\*\*\* SPRING BREAK \*\*\****

 T, 4/2 C13/H13 { *Reading = C15, pp. 533-535 on Psychoanalysis }*

 T, 4/9 C13/Q13/C8 { *Reading* *= C15, pp. 539-541 on Humanistic }*

 **T, 4/16** **EXAM 3 (C7,C12,C13,C8)** / C16/**H16**

 T, 4/23 C16/**Q16**/C14/**H14** { *Assigned Reading = C15, pp. 548-552 on*

 T, 4/30 C14/**Q14/**C15/H11 *Biomedical Therapies* }

 T, 5/7 C15**/C11/Q11**

 **T, 5/14**  **EXAM 4 (C16,C14,C11,C15)**

* **\*See Blackboard for Homework / Cooperative Learning Assignments**

**\*Note assigned chapters to cover primarily on own:**

* **For exam 3, Chapter 8: Thinking, Language & Intelligence**
* **For exam 4, Chapter 15: Therapy**
* **See Blackboard for Chapter Outlines/Guides for C8 + C15**

**Chapters 9 & 10 on life-span development are not covered in lecture nor on in class exams. However, all assignments and quizzes/tests can be found on WileyPLUS.**