

Bz

SE99

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PSYCHOLOGY 101: GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY

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**ATTENTION: IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING ANY DIFFICULTY,
FIRST INVESTIGATE YOUR SYSTEM, THEN CALL ME.**

Required Text: Psychology by David Myers, 5th edition, Worth Publishers.

Course Description:

This course explores the basic concepts in the field of psychology. It is an introductory course in which we will be examining: critical thinking, genetics and brain functions (relating to behavior,) perception, sensation, intelligence, motivation, emotion, personality, and personality disorders, life span development, stress, therapy, and social psychology.

Behavior will be examined from several theoretical frameworks, and critical questions will be asked in the mind/body connection. This course will prepare students for upper-division specific psychology courses.

Expectations:

Students are expected to do all the assigned reading, and participate in the class discussions on the "Web Board", keep up with the weekly writing assignments and complete a term project. There will be a final exam on the main campus at the end of the term. Sites (links provided) for support of assigned material and assignments are given. The student is expected to call the instructor at the contact phone listed with if experiencing difficulty.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course students will have a fundamental knowledge of psychology as well as a personal integration. This will be demonstrated in the writing assignments and final exam.

GRADING:

- 5 RESEARCH REPORTS (2 pages): 50 POINTS
- 5 REFLECTION PAPERS (2 pages): 50 POINTS
- FINAL PROJECT: 100 POINTS
- FINAL EXAM: 100 POINTS
- PARTICIPATION and WEB BOARD DISCUSSIONS: 100 POINTS

400-360 = A

360-320 = B

320-280 = C

280- 240 = D

BELOW = F

MORE ABOUT GRADING:

You should know, right up front, that I do not just hand out grades. You have to work in my course. An "A" student meets the criteria of the assigned material, displays outstanding scholarship and an unusual degree of intellectual initiative. A "B" student does superior work in a consistent and intellectual manner. A "C" student does average work and indicates a competent grasp of the material. Serious students manage their time well, and in an accelerated on-line course this becomes very important. If you don't do the reading and work on the assignments it will show up. If you click on the week, read the assignment and dash it off the day it is due, I will know.

A general rule: you get out of it what you put into it. The quality of work I have received from students of this course has been wonderful and the feedback I have received has shown that when you engagement in this material it will become personally

rewarding. I fully expect the same from you and wish you all well in this college course.

So, if you want to do well the first step is to read the following criteria of the assignments carefully.

MORE ON THE ASSIGNMENTS:

RESEARCH REPORTS:

Five times this term you will be assigned a specific research topic. You are to visit an approved web sites and tie the information found into your text book reading. **CAUTION: Be sure to tie your paper into the reading in the text.** You will cite your references and the page numbers quoted from the text. These papers must be at least 2 pages long. These papers are not a forum for opinion, I give you plenty of opportunity for that. These papers are for you to find out what the experts, devoting their life work to, have come up with. As you will see in the first chapter, psychology is not the science of opinion. It is important to realize that there are many confounding factors at play in the study of human nature and "good old common sense" is often not that good!

Weekly assignments will be posted under the week we are working on. Your report is due at the end of the current week.

REFLECTION PAPERS:

These papers must be at least two pages. Any less and you won't get into the "stream of consciousness" that yields valuable thought and feeling. This is your forum to express how you are interacting with the material on a personal level. Do not intellectualize or distance yourself from these papers. "Reflection" means what you are responding to on a deeper level. But do support your reflections with the current material. In other words, show me you have engaged with the topic at hand, utilizing the resources given to you. I need to see that you are staying up with the reading and not just throwing something down on paper. (I will know by the way. I have an uncanny sense of this.) **Caution: If you are finding it uncomfortable going too deep pull up.** This class can

be intense for some people and it is not meant to make anyone uncomfortable. If this happens, flag the event for later investigation with the appropriate people. If you have any questions on this (or anything regarding this course) contact me. Papers are due at the end of the current week.

Format of these papers: Present these papers as you would any other college paper. Write a heading, identify yourself. And, for the Research papers, cite references. You can write your papers as an e-mail, keeping the technology of it simple. Sometimes file transfer, cut and paste etc, doesn't work. Just keep it simple, but neat. **Find the spell check on your e-mail.** It is there. Please, do not send me papers filled with spelling errors. Another handy hint is to read the paper out loud, to yourself, before sending it. You will be amazed at how this helps with sentence structure and grammar.

TERM PROJECT:

(YOU HAVE 3 CHOICES-PICK ONE)

1. A ten page research paper in which you will explore, support and explain a topic of particular interest within the field of psychology. If your major is Criminal Justice (for example) you may write in that interest area, but it must relate to something you have learned in psychology with the focus and material drawn from the field of psychology. (In other words, do not rehash an old paper.) This must be written APA style, with a bibliography etc. As you get close to choosing a topic contact me to find out if it would be appropriate.
2. A ten page investigative report, including an interview with someone in the field of psychology. Much of the same rules apply from above. Getting an interview can be challenging at times, but it is always rewarding. Interviews do not include the internet. This interview must be in person. You may find an agency, organization or person to visit and interview. As you move through this course be thinking about a question you would like answered. That will become the title of your paper. You may not find an answer, the process of looking can be just as important. Be sure to include a good edited version of the interview.

3. Create an original work of art to express the journey of personal discovery within this course. It must tie in well with what you have been learning and make sense to me on that level. There must be an intro of explanation to guide me through your process. Examples might be: a short story, a photo essay, a painting, dance, music, performance art. If you chose visual arts you will need to send me a video.

THESE TERM PROJECTS ARE TO BE SNAIL-MAILED TO ME AT LEAST ONE WEEK BEFORE THE END OF THE TERM. ADDRESS TO FOLLOW AT A LATER DATE.

PARTICIPATION:

Each week I will be posting questions on the "Web Board" and asking for responses. I give you a "heads up" before hand in the weekly lecture. The nature and specifics of these questions may change as the course moves forward. When participating click on the "Web Board" I have provided for you. **When you have finished click on REPLY. (Do not click on POST)** When you "reply" you stay within the classroom. If you post it's like you are sitting in a room all by yourself. There is an initial sign in after you have registered with the school. I expect your responses to be considered and thoughtful. Consider the Web Board a classroom, and give it all the respect there accorded.

FINAL EXAM:

There will be a final cumulative exam and you will have to go to the main campus to take it. There your I.D. will be checked. This is a condition of taking an on-line course, so do not plan on being out of town 10 weeks from the beginning of this class. I have given you "study hints" each week on the material that will be covered, and I will give you more information about the date of the exam as we get closer to it.

WHAT ARE "STUDY BUDDIES"? Because on-line courses do not have the interpersonal interaction I will be assigning you a study buddy. You may have only one study buddy, or you may be assigned to a small group. But you will stay with the assigned person, or persons and for the assigned material. You will not switch around. Since you do not have to be anywhere physically,

there is no need to switch. If you have friends taking the course or a spouse, that is an added bonus for you, but it does not substitute for the assigned support person.

There are a few specific assignments for you to do together. Also, this arranged support is to help you stay connected with someone other than your instructor. Often this support can make the difference in discussing assignments. I will e-mail your study buddies address, and you take it from there.

Have a good term!

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