

SE '00

Psy

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Subject: Syllabus for Psy 101-Dylan  
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GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY 101-<sup>90</sup>On-line

Ms. Dylan Gaffney, MSCP  
Contact Phone: 800# given when you register  
e-mail link found on tool bar

ATTENTION: IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING ANY DIFFICULTY, FIRST INVESTIGATE YOUR SYSTEM, THEN CALL ME. Required Text: Psychology by David Myers, 5th edition, Worth Publishers.

IMPORTANT!!! If you expect to do well in this class, read this syllabus carefully. I suggest you print it and keep it handy.

#### 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, 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 get in touch with the instructor if experiencing difficulty.

What you can reasonably expect from the instructor:

You can expect reasonable and concerned support and availability. The preferred contact is e-mail. (I check my e-mail every other day at the latest, for I do occasionally take a day off) If you feel the need to talk to me in person you may use the toll free number, that will be given to you when you register. However, I am in NY, EASTERN STANDARD TIME!!!! That means I am a full 6 hours ahead of Hawaii. If you fail to grasp that and call me at 2 am I will hate you and flunk you. I love my sleep and calls at 2 am scare me.

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. Students will be well prepared for any upper division psychology course.

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.

THE ASSIGNMENTS:

(WEEKLY WRITING ASSIGNMENTS: )

We need to talk about these, and you need to listen carefully.

There are two types of papers and the specifics for them are below. But the following applies to all the papers.

The way I know you are doing the work is through these writing assignments. I get to know you as a student, and through my feedback you get to know me as an instructor. It is vital that you support your writing with what you have been learning through my lectures and your reading assignments. Show me you understand why we are doing the exercise. Show me how it relates to what we are doing.

If you do not show me in a comprehensive way that you are devoting time to the class then I have no choice but to give you a grade that reflects that. I mostly receive thoughtful, well-cited papers. If I receive a couple of paragraphs of non-engaged writing, you will not be doing your job as a student in this class. If you have not taken English yet, you should be. English 101 is a prerequisite to all college classes. At the very least you need to know how to cite your references, which can be found in any English handbook. The following criteria outline the specific types of papers, read carefully.

## RESEARCH REPORTS:

Five times this term you will be assigned a specific research topic. You are to visit an approved web site 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. Consider that a valuable insight. But don't think the above disclaimer gets you off the hook from engaging. The people that disclaimer was meant for know who they are. Those of you not into the "touchy-feel-y" give it the "good old college try," you will be surprised at what you will learn!

I do think I have made myself clear, and if you receive a grade that is lower than you expect read this over again. Then, if you have any questions on this (or anything regarding this course) contact me.

Papers are due at the end of the current week.

**PET PEEVES:**

1. Spell Check your papers!!!! I mean it. There is a way to have your e-mail checked for spelling before it goes out. If you don't know how to do this, find someone who does and ask them. 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. Be proud of your work.

2. Format of these papers:

Present these papers as you would any other college paper. Write a heading, and identify yourself and the week you are submitting. Please submit these papers with your name, I receive hundreds of papers and when they come across with only you e-mail name and address I often have to go through my files and find out who "babyeyes" or "hotlics" is. It gets really annoying. Submit these papers like you would in the classroom.

3. Cite references.

4. If you are going to send me something snail mail don't make me sign for it. I'm not home a lot so if I miss the postal people, and then it becomes a whole deal to get the mail. The mail is an amazingly reliable system. I understand you are anxious, but the chances of them losing it with or without my signature are going to be the same.

**TERM PROJECT: (YOU HAVE 3 CHOICES-PICK ONE)**

(As you get close to choosing a topic contact me to find out if it would be appropriate. I also can help you frame your research idea)

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.) Although I do not require this to be written in APA style, I do want a title page

and bibliography. 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. 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. This project must show a significant amount of work. Consider what it takes to write a 10 page paper, and weigh it that way. If I get a few scribbles, and a few lines I will figure you are scamming. So show me why I should consider this a significant piece of work that relates to this class. Also, if you decide on this, you had better start early. THE PAPERS CAN BE E-MAILED TO ME, OR SNAIL MAILED. THE ART PROJECT NEEDS TO BE SNAIL-MAILED. IF YOU WANT IT RETURNED SEND RETURN PACKAGING AND POSTAGE. HOME ADDR TO FOLLOW WHEN/IF NEEDED.

#### PARTICIPATION:

Each week I will be posting questions on the "Web Board" and asking for responses. When participating click on the "Web Board" I have provided for you on the tool bar to the left of this page. (Sometimes it takes 2 tries to get hooked up) When the conference pops up, click on the question listed on the left. The question will pop up as a conference on the right. In order for you to reply to the question click on "Reply" which is at the top of the right screen as an option. When you are finished replying, then "Post" by clicking on the small box at the top right corner of the conference. This is important because when you "reply" you stay within the classroom. If you post it's like you are sitting in a room all by yourself. Think of it logically, first you are replying to a question, Then you post it to get it on the board. This isn't difficult, it will become clear when you do it, but concentrate the first time.

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. If you are out of town it will be up to you to find a proctor for the exam. My finals are not "nit-picky" If you keep up with the work you will not have a problem with the final. Promise J

#### WHAT ARE "STUDY BUDDIES"?

Because on-line courses do not have the interpersonal interaction I will be assigning you to a small group. The purpose is to stay in touch with each other and help each other out. There may be times I will ask you to get together to discuss something and report back. This arranged support is to help you stay connected with someone other than your instructor and often this support can make the difference in discussing assignments. Just like it does in the classroom environment. I will e-mail your study buddies address, and you take it from there.

So, now that the rules are covered, lets get down to some work! You will be surprised at how interesting all this will be and how much it will relate to your own life!

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