

**Chaminade University Summer 2001**  
**Instructor: Sharron Thompson, M.Ed.**  
**Contact phone # (808) 943-3786**

**Psychology 101: General Psychology**  
**Text: Psychology 6<sup>th</sup> Ed.**  
**Author: David G. Myers**

**Course Description:**

This course will provide a broad overview of the major psychological theories and concepts related to the study of human behavior and mental processes. Exploration of the sensory processes, drives, emotions, social expressions, learning modalities, etc., is meant to stimulate curiosity and to develop a better understanding of self, others, and society.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To develop an understanding of the major concepts, principles, terms, contributors, and history of scientific and applied psychology.
  2. To develop an understanding of the scientific method and its application in the field of psychology.
  3. To develop an understanding of the major factors affecting human development and behavior.
  4. To develop an appreciation of the value of psychological knowledge in applications to everyday life.
  5. To develop critical thinking skills from a psychological perspective in evaluating human behavior, emotions, and thoughts.
  6. To apply information from the class lectures, materials and text in selecting and presenting reflective exercises for class.
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**Course Approach:**

A Chaminade classroom often holds individuals of different cultural and social backgrounds, learning styles and educational interests. Therefore, a variety of teaching and learning styles will be used including:

- Lecture/ Discussion Format
  - Textbook Reading
  - Audio-Visual Materials
  - Class Presentations
  - Reflective Exercises
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**The Student Will:**

1. Attend all lectures and contact the Instructor if unable to attend any lectures, or part of any lecture; students are responsible for missed information.
2. Participate in class discussions and activities, read assigned chapters before class.
3. Adopt the mind-set of an active researcher, remaining open and objective while determining the validity and reliability of information encountered during the course.
4. Take two tests, one covering the first half and one covering the second half of the class lectures, text, and materials.
5. Assemble and present a personal collage. (free-form)
6. Complete four Reflective Exercises relating to the information covered in course work.
7. Research a **pre-approved** psychological area of interest or debate, and document the findings in a minimum two page typed, academically sound, research paper that is due on Class # 8. Each Research Paper must contain at least 3 empirical sources or citations that are clearly referenced or footnoted.

**LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

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**Course Requirements:**

|   | <b><u>Points</u></b> | <b><u>Grading System</u></b> |
|---|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Attendance and Participation.....         | 40                   | 180 – 200 A                  |
| Test #1.....                              | 40                   | 160 – 179 B                  |
| Test #2.....                              | 40                   | 140 – 150 C                  |
| Reflective Exercises, 10 points each..... | 40                   | 120 – 139 D                  |
| Research Paper.....                       | 30                   | Below 120 F                  |
| Collage and Presentation.....             | 10                   |                              |
| <b>Total Point Value</b>                  | <b>200</b>           |                              |

## Reflective Exercises

- Reflective Exercise #1:** Due Class 3      Two examples of optical, auditory, or tactile illusions that DO NOT appear in the textbook.
- Reflective Exercise #2:** Due Class 3      Write a 2 page story about an incident that had a psychological effect on you.
- Reflective Exercise #3:** Due Class 4      Present two cartoons that use humor to make a psychological point and two ads or commercials that use psychology to sell their products. (One should rely on "fact" and the other should rely on "opinion".)
- Reflective Exercise #4:** Due Class 7      Complete the MBTI short form and a L/R Brain Inventory. Be prepared to discuss the results in class. Forms will be passed out in class #6 and discussed in class #7.

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## SYLLABUS

**CLASS 1**    Course Introduction and Requirements. Survey of the Text  
Chapter 1:    Thinking Critically with Psychological Science  
Chapter 2:    Neuroscience and Behavior  
Video: The Brain

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**CLASS 2**    Chapter 3:    Nature and Nurture of Behavior  
Chapter 4:    The Developing Person

**Reflective Exercise #1& #2 due next class**

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**CLASS 3**    Reflective Exercise #1 Presentation  
Chapter 5:    Sensation  
Chapter 6:    Perception  
Chapter 7:    States of Consciousness  
Turn in Reflective Exercise #2

**Reflective Exercise #3 due next class**

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**CLASS 4**    Reflective Exercise #3 Presentations  
Chapter 8:    Learning  
Chapter 9:    Memory  
Video: Discussion of video

**FIRST TEST NEXT CLASS**

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**CLASS 5**    **1<sup>st</sup> half of course test**  
Statistical Reasoning: Mean, Median and Mode  
Chapter 10:    Thinking and Language

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**CLASS 6**    Chapter 11:    Intelligence  
Chapter 12:    Motivation

**Reflective Exercise #4 due next class. Note: Inventories will be provided by Instructor.**

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**CLASS 7**    Reflective Exercise #4 Class discussion.  
Chapter 13:    Emotion  
Chapter 14:    Personality

**Research Papers due next class (no late papers will be accepted)**

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**CLASS 8**    Turn in Research Papers  
Chapter 17:    Stress and Health  
Chapter 18:    Social Psychology (overview)

**Collage Presentations due next class.**

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**CLASS 9**    Collage Presentations  
Chapters 15 and 16: Overview  
Video (If time permits)

**2<sup>nd</sup> half of course test next class**

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**CLASS 10**    **2<sup>nd</sup> half of course test**  
**Individual Close-Out Sessions**

**NOTE: SYLLABUS MAY BE ADJUSTED TO MEET CLASS NEEDS**