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## **PSYCH 114 – GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY (4 credits)**

Welcome to General Psychology! This course is an introductory level course designed to provide you with information regarding the core concepts, debates, questions, theories, and research findings in the field of psychology.

I hope that, by the end of this course, you will have discovered certain topics that capture your curiosity and inspire you for further exploration. I hope that the knowledge of psychology might become personally meaningful and enjoyable to you as it has become to me.

### **Course Objectives**

- To develop a basic understanding of the core principles, concepts, and issues in psychology.
- To increase your understanding and appreciation of your own thoughts, feelings, and behavior, as well as those of other people.
- To learn how to "think like psychologists" through evaluating information critically.
- To embrace the richness of human diversity and to learn psychology within a multicultural framework.

### **Required Textbook**

Psychology, A Journey by Dennis Coon & John Mitterer, Thomson-Wadsworth 4th Edition

Supplement readings will be given in class.

### **Course requirements**

This course involves several different types of readings, projects, assessments, and papers. You will have 3 exams, 3 group presentations, 1 essay, and attendance/participation. Each of these requirements will be discussed in more detail as due dates near. You will be given further written detail of the assignments and grading scale on the first day of class.

Readings are extremely important in this course. It is very important that you engage in the readings so that our class discussions and presentations can be as valuable, sophisticated, and as interesting as possible.

### **Attendance and Participation**

It is the expectation that you will be present in class. Your being there is important to me, as each of you offers a unique and distinct voice to our class community. It is my hope that you will make coming to class a top priority, so that your voice may be heard and may contribute to everyone's learning experience.

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class period. Our standard attendance policy is that attendance is mandatory, with *more than 2 unjustified* absences being counted against the final grade. Each additional absence will cause the final course grade to be lowered by one point, i.e., from A to A-; A- to B+; B+ to B, etc.

Please note: Documented excuses for absences (in case of illness and documented emergency) will not reflect in the grade directly. However, excessive absence in a course (even when justified) will have a negative effect on a final grade. When a student is absent, the quality of his or her work in a course will deteriorate since material missed in class sessions can rarely be made up satisfactorily, even though the student remains responsible for that work.

## Course policies

### Missed exams

If you miss an exam you must notify me within 24 hours of the missed exam via email or phone. You should also be prepared to provide appropriate documentation (i.e. doctor's note) supporting the reason for your absence. It is your responsibility to contact me to schedule a time to take the test you missed prior to the next exam or you will receive a grade of -0- for the missed exam. A missed examination will count as an absence.

### Accommodations

Students who have a learning, physical, or other type of special needs that requires an accommodation, should contact the Academic Coordinator, Ms. Elizabeth Baile, and provide her with appropriate documentation of the condition requiring accommodation, as well as the actual accommodations recommended. She will request that all of your instructors provide the appropriate accommodations for you. Please make me aware of any accommodations you will need at the beginning of the semester so that we can plan accordingly.

### Academic Honesty

It is the expectation that students in this class will uphold all policies related to academic honesty, and will refrain from engaging in any dishonest activities including plagiarism, cheating, or any other form of academic dishonesty. For a full explanation please refer to the student handbook and the Suffolk University Academic Honesty Policy to review these guidelines.

### Class Atmosphere

*Class decorum:* Our classroom atmosphere is intended to be fun, interactive, and respectful learning environment. In order to uphold these principles I ask that students refrain from using cell phone during class and turn all ringers to the "off" setting during class. In addition, please, no eating and drinking (except, water) during class time. Please don't use headphones, iPods, or computer games.

*Lateness:* Please do not come late to class. If you come to class after attendance has been taken, please make sure to sign the late attendance sheet.

- You are allowed to be tardy to class two times. There is no distinction between excused and unexcused tardiness, so please choose these wisely.
- Every subsequent tardiness will be equivalent to ½ of an absence (i.e., late 2 times = 1 absence).

## Course Outline

Class 1	Introduction to General Psychology
Class 2	Discovering Psychology & Research Methods
Class 3	Human Development
Class 4	Human Development Sept. 15 States of Consciousness
Class 5	States of Consciousness (Group Presentations - Drugs)
Class 6	Sensation and Perception
Class 7	Sensation and Perception
Class 8	Learning
Class 9	Learning
Class 10	<b>Exam # 1</b>
Class 11	Memory
Class 12	Motivation and Emotion
Class 13	Creativity & Problem Solving
Class 14	Brain and Behavior
Class 15	Brain and Behavior (Group Presentations - Oliver Sacks)
Class 16	Personality Theory
Class 17	Holiday - NO CLASS
Class 18	Personality Theory
Class 19	<b>Exam # 2</b>
Class 20	Health, Stress & Coping
Class 21	Health, Stress & Coping
Class 22	Psychological Disorders
Class 23	Psychological Disorders
Class 24	Approaches to Treatment (Group Presentation - One disorder through a film/media character)
Class 25	Approaches to Treatment
Class 26	Wrap-up
Class 27	<b>Exam #3</b>