

**Course Code & No. - Section:** PSYC 101  
**Course Title (Credits):** Sensation and Perception  
**Term & Year:** Spring / 2016  
**Course Ref. No. (CRN):** 80254

**Instructor:** Dan Aalbers  
**Email:** daalbers@sierranevada.edu  
**Office:** TCES second floor but also check cafeteria and garden in good weather.  
**Office Hour:** Tuesday and Thursday 4:00 – 5:00 or by appointment

**Class Meeting Time:** MW 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm  
**Location:** TCES 206

**Prerequisites (from Catalog):** PSYC 101  
**Corequisites (from Catalog):**

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The physical basis of psychological states is found in the brain; therefore, brain structure and function relating to psychology and behavior are the basis for this course. Topics covered include the “senses,” consciousness, learning and memory, emotion, psychological disorders and language. Both experimental and clinical information are covered to illustrate the current state of knowledge in the field.

## **Student Outcomes**

Upon the successful completion of this course you should be able to:

1. Distinguish between the different sub-disciplines of psychology
2. Identify the epistemological assumptions that inform different psychological theories
3. Critically evaluate psychological research
4. Understand how some of the major controversies of western culture such as the nature/nurture debate, the relationship between the individual and society, and free will and determinism inform debates within the discipline of psychology and how, in turn, these internal debates influence the culture at large

## **METHODS OF ASSESSING STUDENT OUTCOMES**

Student outcomes will be assessed using the following:

1. Essays
2. Exams

## **INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES**

This class will use lectures, inquiry learning, in-class discussions, videos, and self-directed study.

## **REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS**

Gazzaniga, Ivry and Mangun (2014) Cognitive Neuroscience. 4<sup>rd</sup> ed.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance: You are adults. The decision to come to class or not is yours. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out from your classmates about any announcements, new material, demonstrations, discussions, or in class assignments. Please note that the majority of the test material will be derived from lecture and discussions and it will not be possible to read the book and take the test. If you do not come to class you will not succeed. Except in exceptional circumstances you must attend all tests. See “exceptional circumstances” at the end of the syllabus.

## **CLASS REQUIREMENTS**

1. Reading: Students are expected to do the assigned reading before class meets to ensure preparation for discussions and learning activities. While you will not be penalized for not completing the reading, if you do not read the assignment, your will increase the burden carried by your classmates.
2. Participation: Students are expected to contribute to class discussions and to integrate the points raised in these discussions into their papers.
3. Research: You must complete one research paper and one research project and present it to the class. The details will be discussed in class.
4. Introduction: You must come by during office hours to introduce yourself before the end of the term.

## **INFORMATION LITERACY STATEMENT**

Using the library’s resources effectively (not just the Internet) contributes to developing each of SNC’s core themes by exposing students to high quality academic resources, diverse opinions, new ideas, and a future that includes building on a liberal arts education. In this course, you will be expected to utilize the library’s resources (either on-site or remotely) as you complete your assignments.

## **Cell Phone Tablet and Laptop Policy**

You must turn off your cell phone, tablet and/or computer and put them away at the beginning of class. You don’t want me to look over your shoulder to make sure that you aren’t updating facebook and I don’t want that job. And I understand that you would never text while pretending to take notes but that guy on the other side of the classroom would and I’m talking to him.

## **SANCTIONS FOR CHEATING AND/OR PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is defined as, “passing off a source’s information, ideas, or words as one’s own by omitting to acknowledge the sources.” This refers to all sources of information; including the Internet.

## **THE HONOR CODE**

Our faculty believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life to promote the educational mission of the College and to encourage respect for the rights of others. Each student brings to the SNC community unique skills, talents, values and experiences which, when expressed within the community, contribute to the quality of the educational environment and the growth and development of the individual. Students share with members of the faculty, administration and staff the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and personal development, where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, responsibility and trust. The faculty and students alike must make diligent efforts to ensure high standards are upheld by their colleagues and

peers as well as themselves. Therefore faculty and students accept responsibility for maintaining these standards at Sierra Nevada College and are obligated to comply with its regulations and procedures, which they are expected to read and understand.

## **CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLATING THE STUDENT HONOR CODE**

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the Honor Code and the consequences of violating it to students at the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes cheating, plagiarism and fabrication and for refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the Honor Code become part of a student's academic record.

1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: Student is expelled.

## **GRADING POLICY**

Three exams each worth 20% of your grade.

One research paper worth 20 % of your grade

One presentation worth 20 % of your grade

## **PLEASE NOTE –**

This is not a final or complete document. It will change. Often. Change is good.

## **ADA ACCOMMODATIONS**

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314 (x7534), [hconover@sierranevada.edu](mailto:hconover@sierranevada.edu), or go to the OASIS offices on the third floor of Prim Library during the first week of the semester.

Please inform me as soon as possible if you have a professionally diagnosed and certified disability. Be sure to obtain the proper paperwork and inform me of any required accommodations at least 72 hours *before* scheduled exams, quizzes, papers, assignments, etc. Depending on the type of accommodation, time may be required for me to meet your needs (e.g., private room for exams).

## **THE SNC EMAIL SYSTEM**

The SNC email system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff. It is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). Students should check their college email accounts daily during the school year.

Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having email redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC email account.

## **THE MISSION STATEMENT**

Sierra Nevada College graduates will be educated to be scholars of and contributors to a sustainable world. Sierra Nevada College combines the liberal arts and professional preparedness through an interdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes entrepreneurial thinking and environmental, social, economic and educational sustainability.

## **THE CORE THEMES**

Liberal Arts  
Sustainability

Professional Preparedness

Entrepreneurial Thinking

## **Lecture Schedule:**

### **Week 1**

Jan 20: Introduction, Class Organization

### **Week 2**

Jan 25: Definitions, History – Chapter 1

Jan 27: Overview of the Contemporary Discipline of Psychology -- Chapter 2

### **Week 3**

Feb 1: Methods, Descriptive Statistics – Chapter 2

Feb 3: Inferential Statistics 1

### **Week 4**

Feb 8: Labor Day

Feb 10: Biology

### **Week 5**

Feb 15: No class

Feb 16: Review

Feb 17: Test 1

### Week 6

Feb 22: Classical and Operant conditioning 1 – Chapter 7

Feb 24: Classical and Operant conditioning 2

### Week 7

Feb 29: Memory 1 – Chapter 8

March 2: Memory 2

### Week 8

March 7: Review

March 9: **Test 2** (Mid Term)

Spring Break

### Week 9

March 21: Social Psychology 1 -- Chapter 17

March 23 : Social Psychology 2 – Chapter 17

### Week 10

March 28: Language and Thought – Chapter 9 (Advising for fall term begins)

March 30: Intelligence – Chapter 10

### Week 11

April 4: Freud 1 -- Chapter 13

April 6: Freud 2 – Chapter 13

### Week 12

April 11: Review;

April 13: **Test 3**

### Week 13

April 18; Personality. **Rough draft due.**

April 20: Personality

Week 14

April 25: Developmental Psychology – Piaget – Chapter 4;

April 27: Developmental Psychology – Vygotsky;

Week 15

April 2: Therapy and Abnormal Psychology Chapter 15. **Final papers due.**

April 4: Review for final.

Final time and date to be announced.

**This is not a final or complete document. The policies, dates, and assignments are subject to change.**

**Exceptional circumstances:**

1. If you cannot come to the exam for any reason, you must call or send me an email within 48 hours of the missed deadline. Please include your name, the course name, a telephone number and time at which you can be reached. If you are unable to call or email during this 48-hour period, subsequent documentation accounting for the delay must be provided.
2. A make-up opportunity will be provided at the end of the term. Missed make-ups must be supported by appropriate documentation (see point 3 below).
3. Appropriate documentation verifying the circumstances for the missed deadline must be provided at the time of the make-up exam. Failure to provide appropriate documentation will result in a grade of F on the missed assignment.

\_\_\_ A. Deadlines missed on the grounds of medical circumstances must be supported by an Attending Physician's Statement or a Statement by a Psychologist or Counselor. The attending Physician's Statement must include (i) the full name, mailing address and telephone number of the physician, (ii) state the nature of the illness and its duration (i.e. specific dates covered), and (iii) an indication of whether the illness and/or medication prescribed would have seriously affected your ability to study and perform over the period in question.

\_\_\_ B. Deadlines missed on the grounds of non-medical circumstances must be supported by appropriate documentation, i.e., death certificates, obituary notice, automobile accident reports, airline/train/bus tickets/receipt for emergency travel (with date of booking on ticket), etc.

4. The make-up opportunity may take a different form than that of the original exam.

5. I'm sorry to hear about your arm.