

Course Code & No. - Section: PSYC 101 Section 1
Course Title (Credits): Introduction to Psychology
Term & Year: Fall 2014
Course Ref. No. (CRN): 80018

Instructor: Thomas Wade Brown, M.A.
Phone(s): 775-881-7545; 775-830-1138 (cell)
Email: tbrown@sierranevada.edu
Office: TCES 2nd Floor Cubicles
Office Hours: MW 10:00am-12:00pm and by appointment

Class Meeting Time: MW 1:00pm-2:15pm
Location: PL 320

Course Description

Introduction to the principles and methods of psychology with a focus on understanding the human personality from a variety of perspectives. Topics include personal growth and life transitions from birth to death; interpersonal relations; friendship, love and prejudices; theories of personality; the individual and society; life problems, methods of coping, and mental illness; self-actualization and fulfilling human potential. Introduction to the discipline of psychology, but with practical focus on self-understanding and personal growth and fulfillment.

Student Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Properly articulate central figures, theories, and modern practices of psychological science.
2. Design a research paper that explores topics in psychology and uses proper formatting in APA.
3. Analyze and document peer reviewed articles related to psychology.

Methods of Assessing Student Outcomes

Student outcomes will be assessed using the following:

1. Assignments of increasing levels of challenge;
2. Assessment quizzes for each chapter;
3. Writing assignment(s);
4. Written in-class, closed-book examinations.

Instructional Strategies

This class will utilize small group and individual work in class using laptop computers, inquiry learning, case studies, and homework assignments. The course makes use of the *Moodle* course management system.

Required Texts and Materials

1. Myers, D. (2012). *Exploring Psychology*, 9th Edition. Worth Publishers.
2. Laptop Computer (bring to every class).

Recommended Texts and Materials

1. *The APA Style Handbook*; 6th Edition

Attendance

Attendance for this class is mandatory as a large portion of your final grade involves you participating in class discussions and activities. Student will only be allotted two unplanned absences before deductions will be made. In the event of emergencies, please contact the instructor immediately so proper arrangements can be made.

Class Requirements

All students are expected to bring a laptop computer into every class period so they can fully interact with the instructional materials. All cell phones or other forms of electronic devices must be put on silent mode. Please refrain from texting, calling, or sending emails during class. Failure to meet this expectation will result in deductions in your participation grade and/or loss of points towards attendance. The instructor reserves the right to dismiss any student not fully engaged with the instructional conversation at any time.

Prim Library Resources

Using the library's resources effectively (not just Internet resources) 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.

In this class, students will be required to submit a research paper that explores some references outside of the textbook. Students are expected to locate articles that are peer-reviewed, and apply those resources to create a central thesis. More information on the particulars of this assignment will be handed out in class, but students will be required to utilize resources provided by the Prim Library.

Prim Library Resources for PSYC 101 include, but are not limited to:

1. Reference materials
 - a. Such as the APA Style guide.
2. Books
3. Electronic databases (for peer-reviewed research articles, reviews, newspaper and magazine articles):
Electronic databases most likely to include articles related to your term paper topics are EBSCO: Academic Search Premier, PSYCINFO.
4. Hardcopy periodicals: Prim Library has current subscriptions for Science, New Scientist, Science News, and National Geographic Magazine. Any of these are likely to have articles on your term paper topic. Full-text articles from many more periodicals are available through the electronic databases.

Sanctions for Cheating and/or Plagiarism

The Honor Code

The faculty of SNC believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life in order 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.

1st 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.

2nd 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.

3rd Offense: Student is expelled.

Grading Policy

All students will be held accountable for ensuring that academic work is complete turned in by the proper deadline. **No late work will be accepted without proper approval.**

Students will be evaluated by the completion of in-class assignments, performances on in-class and online quizzes, written work, and performance on in-class examinations. Each criterion will be discussed below.

Quizzes

An online syllabus quiz will be due after the first class period. You will have unlimited attempts at this quiz, and it will be worth 20 points. The syllabus quiz will be due by 11:55pm on Friday, August 22nd.

At the start of each chapter, you will be required to take a pre-lecture quiz. The quiz will be 5 questions in length, and should only take you 10 minutes to complete. These quizzes will be designed to test your knowledge of the assigned reading. In other words, make sure you read before each class period. You will not be required to know and understand every detail of the chapter, but you should be familiar with main ideas and the terms that were discussed. Each of these quizzes will be worth 5 points. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped to allow for an unscheduled absence.

In addition, students will be required to take a 20 question online quiz following class discussion of the chapter. Quizzes will be due at 11:55pm on Fridays, but it is **STRONGLY** recommended that you take your quiz immediately after class. Each quiz will draw random test questions from a large test bank, so no two tests will be the same. Each quiz will be worth 20 points, and you will have 45 minutes for each attempt. Your lowest individual quiz score will be dropped.

Inter-teach Sessions

During class periods, students will be given some time to complete an "Inter-teach Session". During these sessions, students will pair up in groups of 2 and complete a prepared study guide. I will be going from group to group throughout the class to clarify any questions that may have been brought up. Packets will be due by the end of class Wednesday. In addition, students will be asked to rate their satisfaction of their "Inter-teach Session" on a weekly basis. If sessions are unproductive or ineffective, a fully lecture based structure will be implemented, followed by a post-lecture quiz every section. Each interteach packet will be worth 10 points toward your final grade, with your lowest score dropped.

DISCLAIMER: In order to earn full points for these assignments, you must be in class. I will deduct points from both your participation and interteach grades if you exceed 2 absences this semester.

Papers

There will be three writing assignments throughout the course of the semester. The first will be a two-page biography about you and what about psychology interests you. The primary purpose of this paper is to get you thinking about what you know about human behavior, and what you hope to accomplish throughout the duration of this course. The assignment will be due August 25th and will be worth 20 points.

The remaining two papers will be short (4 pages each) commentary/reflection papers on any issue we discuss in class. What I would like you to do in for this assignment is think critically about some of the issues, concepts, or theories discussed, and then find an additional resource to explore, critique, or analyze this topic further. Feel free to disagree with these concepts, as long as you do so in a logical/evidenced-based manner. Each of these papers will be worth 40 points. More information on these assignments will be given in class.

In-Class Tests

Two in-class tests will be given in this course. Questions will be derived from both quizzes and “inter teach sessions”, so there should be no surprises. The class before both tests, I will allow for a half-hour review session. These tests will be closed notes, so it is vital that you come to class and prepare as best you can. **Please be on time the day of the test. Students that are more than 10 minutes late will not be distributed an exam.**

Test 1 will cover Chapter 1-7. This test will essentially serve as a “mid-term” and will be worth 50 points. Test 2 will cover Chapter 1-15. This test will essentially serve as a “final exam” and will be worth 100 points. Each test will contain multiple choice questions and short response questions.

Participation

The components of this class work to their entirety if you actively engage in all course activities. This means that you come to class prepared and that you are willing to publically express your ideas regarding the subject matter. In addition, participation and completion of inter teach sessions and assessments there following are mandatory. That being said, there are 30 points possible for active participation in this course.

Grade Breakdown

There are 700 Points possible in this course. The breakdown of how this 700 is computed is shown below:

- Syllabus Quiz 20 Points
- Pre-Lecture Quizzes 60 Points
 - 12 @ 5 pts each
- Chapter Quizzes 220 Points
 - 12 @ 20 pts each
- Interteach Packets 120 Points
 - 12 @ 10 points each
- Mid-term 50 Points
- Final Exam 100 Points
- Student Bio 20 Points
- Term Papers 80 Points
 - 2 @ 40 pts each
- Participation 30 Points
- **TOTAL 700 Points**

A	655-700
A-	627-654
B+	605-626
B	585-604
B-	557-584
C+	536-556
C	515-535
C-	487-514
D+	466-486
D	445-465
D-	417-444
F	<416

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, office in Prim Library: PL-304.

The SNC Email System

The SNC email system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and 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 Sierra Nevada College 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	Professional Preparedness
Entrepreneurial	Thinking Sustainability

Class Schedule

Week	Topic	Due In Class	Inter teach due (Wednesday by 2:30pm)	Online Quiz Due (Friday by 11:55pm)
8/18-22	Course Introduction and Start of CH 1			Syllabus Quiz
8/25-29	Ch 1: <i>Thinking Critically with Psychological Science</i>	8/25- Student Bio Due	CH 1 Inter teach	Ch 1 Quiz
9/1-5	9/1- Labor Day- No Class Ch 2: <i>The Biology of Mind</i>		CH 2 Inter teach	Ch 2 Quiz
9/8-12	Ch 3: <i>Consciousness and the Two-Track Mind</i>		CH 3 Inter teach	Ch 3 Quiz
9/15-19	Ch 4: <i>Nature, Nurture, and Human Diversity</i>		CH 4 Inter teach	Ch 4 Quiz
9/22-26	Ch 5: <i>Developing through the Life Span</i>		CH 5 Inter teach	Ch 5 Quiz
9/29-10/3	Ch 6: <i>Sensation and Perception.</i> Paper Workshop		CH 6 Inter teach	Ch 6 Quiz
10/6-10	Ch 7: <i>Learning</i>	10/8- Paper # 1 Due	CH 7 Inter teach	Ch 7 Quiz
10/13-17	10/13- Review for Midterm 10/15- Midterm			
10/20-24	Ch 8: <i>Memory</i>		CH 8 Inter teach	Ch 8 Quiz
10/27-31	Ch 9: <i>Thinking, Language and Intelligence</i>		CH 9 Inter teach	Ch 9 Quiz
11/3-11/7	Ch 10: <i>Motivation</i>		CH 10 Inter teach	Ch 10 Quiz
11/10-14	Ch 11: <i>Emotions, Stress, and Health</i>	11/12- Paper # 2 Due	CH 11 Inter teach	Ch 11 Quiz
11/17-21	Ch 13: <i>Psychological Disorders</i> Ch 14: <i>Therapy</i>		CH 13 & 14 Inter teach	Ch 13 Quiz Ch 14 Quiz
11/24-28	Thanksgiving Break- No Classes			
12/1-5	Ch 15: <i>Social Psychology</i> Review for Final		CH 15 Inter teach	Ch 15 Quiz
12/8-12	12/8- Prep Day- No Class 12/11- Final Exam @ 3:00pm			

Tips for Success

This course was not designed for students to fail, but to rather come into full contact with the course materials to ensure success. My mission here is for you to learn. I'm not promising that I know everything there is to know (in fact, I'll probably learn more from you this semester), but I do promise you that if you do the work and you contact the course contingencies, you will do great. That being said, here are some of my tips for success:

- READ
- Keep all lines of communication open with me. I can't solve a problem I don't know about.
- Utilize campus resources
- READ
- Make friends/study partners
- Come to class prepared (ie. READ before coming)
- Make sure you're utilizing everything I give to you (slides, notes, guides, etc)
- Be accountable
- and most importantly, READ