

**Course Code & No. - Section:** PSYC 450 Section 1  
**Course Title (Credits):** Capstone Course in Psychology  
**Term & Year:** Fall 2014  
**Course Ref. No. (CRN):** 80046

**Instructor:** Thomas Wade Brown, M.A.  
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**Office:** TCES 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Cubicles  
**Office Hours:** MW 10:00am-12:00pm and by appointment

**Class Meeting Time:** TR 2:30pm-3:45pm  
**Location:** TCES 204 BLAB

**Prerequisite:** PSYC 101; 291

### Course Description

Required for the concentration in Psychology, this course provides a review and reexamination of the Psychology curriculum. It is tailored to the students' strengths and weaknesses and prepares students for assessment of their knowledge and understanding in the field. Enrollees must be psychology majors or minors with senior level standing.

### Student Outcomes

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

1. Properly articulate central figures, theories, and modern views of psychology.
2. Register, prepare, and successfully pass the MFT in psychology
3. Analyze and document peer reviewed articles related to the field of psychology
4. Comment and articulate on major historical trends and figures in 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. Hergenhahn, B.R. & Henley, T.B. (2014). *An Introduction to the History of Psychology*. Belmont: Cengage. ISBN: 978-1-133-958055
2. 1 study prep guide for GRE or MFT in Psychology.
3. Laptop Computer (bring to every class).

### Recommended Texts and Materials

1. *The APA Style Handbook*; 6<sup>th</sup> 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 450 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.

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

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*

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 Thursday. 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 5 mini papers for this class and 1 larger research paper. Since the course has a historical focus and a dual-purpose in exam prep, each of these mini assignments will be short biographical papers that either outlines an individual or concept in the class. Once submitted, students will receive feedback and then distribute copies of their mini-paper to the rest of the class.

After the first week of the course, students should be aware of their weaknesses in regards to psychological theory and practice. Students will pick 1 weak area and design a major research project around that area. Students will work out a conference time with the instructor in September to review pre-test scores, and compose a plan for both studying for the MFT and composing a research project that allows for study prep in a weak area. The major research paper will be worth 100 points.

#### *In-Class Tests*

There will be three exams in this course. The first will be an in-class pretest given on August 21<sup>st</sup>. This first pre-test will allow for the instructor and the student to assess need areas to be addressed in the curriculum design of the rest of the class. This preliminary pre-test will be worth 100 points.

A mid-term will be distributed on October 16<sup>th</sup>. This test will serve as a assessment point and will allow for the instructor and student to make adjustments to the study plan for the rest of the semester.

The final exam will be the MFT exam. This exam will be administered on Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Students must pass the exam by scoring in the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile in order to pass the course. Failure to do so will result in a grade of Incomplete until the exam is passed.

#### *Group Projects*

This class will also share the responsibility of organizing a study guide that curtails around the focus areas of the MFT. Students will be assigned a content area, and will prepare study and exam materials that could potentially serve as a study aide for the students. Students will work in teams to prepare these materials, and then present their work to the group in mid-November. The instructor will then post copies of the materials to the Moodle site and these will be available to all students. This group project is worth 150 points.

#### *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 interteach 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 1000 Points possible in this course. The breakdown of how this 1000 is computed is shown below:

• Pre-Lecture Quizzes	60 Points	A	930-1000
○ 12 @ 5 pts each		A-	900-929
• Section Quizzes	240 Points	B+	870-899
○ 12 @ 20 pts each		B	830-869
• Interteach Packets	120 Points	B-	800-829
○ 12 @ 10 points each		C+	770-799
• Pre-test	100 Points	C	730-769
• Midterm	100 Points	C-	700-729
• Mini-bios	100 Points	D+	670-699
○ 5 @ 20 pts each		D	630-669
• Major Research Paper	100 Points	D-	600-629
• Group Project	150 Points	F	<599
• Participation	30 Points		
• <b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1000 Points*</b>		

**Note: Passing this class is contingent upon successful completion of the MFT. You must score in the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile in order to pass this course. Students that do not pass the course but are over a 70% average for this course will receive an Incomplete and be given an opportunity to retake the exam at a later date. Students who do not pass the exam and average below a 70% in the course will receive a grade of F.**

**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), 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	Interteach due (Thursday by 2:30pm)	Online Quiz Due (Friday by 11:55pm)
8/18-22	Course Introduction Pretest			
8/25-29	Ch 1- Introduction		Interteach 1	Ch 1 Quiz
9/1-5	CH 2- Ancient Greece		Interteach 2	CH 2 Quiz
9/8-12	Excerpts from CH 3 and 4		Interteach 3&4	CH 3&4 Quiz
9/15-19	CH 5: Empiricism, Sensationalism, and Positivism		Interteach 5	CH 5 Quiz
9/22-26	CH 8: Physiology and Psychophysics		Interteach 8	CH 8 Quiz
9/29-10/3	CH 9: Early Approaches to Psychology		Interteach 9	CH 9 Quiz
10/6-10	CH 10: Evolution and Individual Differences		Interteach 10	CH 10 Quiz
10/13-17	CH 11: American Psychology and Functionalism 10/16- Midterm		Interteach 11	Ch 11 Quiz
10/20-24	CH 12 & 13: Behaviorism and Neobehaviorism		Interteach 12 & 13	CH 12 & 13 Quiz
10/27-31	CH 14- Gestalt Psychology		Interteach 14	CH 14 Quiz
11/3-11/7	Ch 15 Excerpts and CH 16: Psychoanalysis <b>Group Projects</b>		Interteach 15 & 16	CH 15 and 16 Quiz
11/10-14	<b>11/11- Veterans Day- No Class</b> Ch 17: Humanistic (Third Force) Psychology		Interteach 17	CH 17 Quiz
11/17-21	CH 18: Psychobiology CH 19: Cognitive Psychology		Interteach 18 & 19	CH 18 and 19 Quiz
11/24-28	<b>Thanksgiving Break- No Classes</b>			
12/1-5	Final Review Sessions <b>Alternative Test Days</b>			
12/8-12	<b>Final Exam (MFT)</b> <b>December 12<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00pm</b>			

**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