

PSYCHOLOGY through LITERATURE  
Sierra Nevada College – Donna Axton, instructor  
Fall 2019

Course Code	PSYC 384/ENGL 384, Section 1
Course Title (Credits):	Psychology through Literature
Term & Year:	Fall 2019
Course Ref. No. (CRN):	80295/ 80296
Instructor:	Donna Axton
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Office:	TCES 219
Office Hours:	1-2 and by Appointment
Class Meeting Time:	Tuesday, Sept 3 to Friday, Sept. 13 9am -12:45pm
Location:	Prim Library 213
Prerequisites:	PSYC 101 – Introduction to Psychology ENGL 101 – English Or permission of Instructor.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This is a 3 credit course. Study of psychological types, principles, and approaches as illustrated and interpreted in short stories, fables, movies, plays and poetry. Topics include mental illness, perception, motivation, child development, and interpersonal relating.

**STUDENT OUTCOMES**

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

1. Be able to identify and understand psychological terms, issues, and processes revealed through literature.
2. Appreciate the narrative function of psychological conflict and resolution.
3. Sympathetically observe the lives of others and become enriched through the analysis of their motives and drives, hopes and fears, loves and hates.
4. Enter the writer/artist's world, and relate this to their own human experience
5. Understand motivation, values, personality types, and roles in the context of human experience.
6. Reflect on their own psychological issues with compassion and understanding
7. Enrich their own creative writing with a deeper understanding of life and art.

**METHODS OF ASSESSING STUDENT OUTCOMES**

1. Homework based on assigned readings
2. Tests and exams
3. In-class projects
4. Class discussion and participation
5. Presentations

## INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

This class will utilize lectures, small group work, assigned readings, written assignments, presentations.

**TEXTBOOK: The Conscious Reader (11<sup>th</sup> Edition)\*\***, by Carolina F. Schrade, Michael Shugre

## CLASS REQUIRMENTS

**Attendance:** Be here, participate, pay attention. You are expected to be at each class. Your attendance represents more than 1/3 of your grade. Active participation is also considered in your daily point "allotment". Stay in the class room – physically and mentally. That means listening, thinking, commenting about the discussion topics.

**Written assignments:** You will be asked to answer questions about the assigned reading. The material of the more personal papers is confidential. All written assignments will be graded on content, organization, completeness and correct grammatical style. As a matter of fairness, late assignments will be given only partial credit – you will lose 3 points out of 15 for each day you are late turning in the assignment. There may be legitimate reasons for deadline extensions. Confer with me ahead of time or ASAP in these cases.

**Exam:** Students are responsible for ALL materials covered in this class. That means handouts, discussion, videos, etc. Just like in a court room – whatever is mentioned in class admissible as evidence of your knowledge and inspiration.

### Grading:

Class attendance and participation	360 points
There are 9 classes	
Each class is worth -	20 points attendance 20 points prepared and intelligent participation
Written homework	400 points
8 homework assignments @ 20 = 160 points	
8 In class assignments @ 20 = 160 points	
Final Exam	240 points

A 920 - 1000  
A - 900 - 919  
B + 880 - 899  
B 820 - 879  
B - 800 - 819  
C + 780 - 799

C 720 - 779  
C - 700 - 719  
D + 680 - 699  
D 620 - 679  
D - 600 - 619  
F Below 600

### **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.

Prim Library Resources include

1. Lib Guides: <http://libguides.sierranevada.edu/psychology>. These web pages have been compiled to highlight specific resources in psychology. Tabs indicate Prim library information regarding books, articles, websites, citations, and general interest psychology information.
2. Introduction to Prim Library website – <http://libguides.sierranevada.edu/library>
3. Books (to be checked out):
  - a. In general, books related to psychology have Library of Congress Classification numbers can be found in the BF and RC sections. Search the Prim Library Catalog using key words related to the topic that you are researching.
  - b. In general, books related to literature have Library of Congress Classification in the P section(P, PA, PB etc). However, you will find books related to our course with other LCC numbers, so search the Prim Library Catalog using key words related to your project or paper topic.
4. Electronic databases (for peer-reviewed research articles, reviews, newspaper and magazine articles): Electronic databases include EBSCO, PROQUEST, CQ Researcher and more. Electronic databases most likely to include articles on psychology topics are EBSCO: Academic Search Premier, and PsycInfo. To access electronic databases off campus, use your first initial and your last name as the username and your 9 digit student ID number as the password.
5. Hardcopy periodicals: Prim Library has current subscriptions for a few academic psychology journals; however, many full-text articles 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.

### **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

## Course Outline and Assignments

There may be changes in timing and material as the course progresses.

### **CLASS 1**

Tuesday, September 3

**Overview of course content, activities, goals, and learning objectives;**

**Relationship between psychology and literature**

Function of folk tales, fairy tales in psychological insight

“The Three Feathers”

**The Brain and the Mind**

“In the House of Double Minds”, The Right Brain Revolution

### **CLASS 2**

Wednesday, September 4- **Cognition**

“Leaving Time” by Picoult

**Perception**

“Sphinx” by Poe

“All the Sounds of the Rainbow” by Spinnad

### **CLASS 3**

Thursday, September 5 - **Learning and Conditioning**

“Learning Theory” by McConnell

“A Homemade Education”

“On Writing”

Excerpts from Brave New World

### **CLASS 4**

Friday, September 6 – **Dreams and the Unconscious**

“A Chapter on Dreams”

“Dreams and the Unconscious”

“The Outward Room”

“Ulysses”

### **CLASS 5**

Monday, September 9

“Music as a safe haven”

“Practicing”

**Childhood**

Winnie the Pooh by Milne

The Child’s Need for Magic by Bruno Bettelheim

What’s Wrong with Cinderella? By Peggy Orenstein

**Love**

**CLASS 6**

Tuesday, September 10 – **Love Gone Wrong**

Big Little Lies

“Journal of a Wife Beater”

“Harry Potter and the Divorce”

**CLASS 7**

Wednesday, September 11 - **Phobias, anxiety, id/ego/superego**

“The End of the Party”

“Pigeon Feathers

“The Moon and Sixpence

**CLASS 8**

Thursday, September 12 - **Psychosis**

“Tell-tale Heart”

“The Black Cat”

“Richard the Second”

“Hamlet”

“Macbeth”

“Diary of a Mad Man”

**CLASS 9**

Friday, September 13- **The Shadow**

“The Shadow”

“The Child and the Shadow”

FINAL EXAM