

SYLLABUS AND COURSE OUTLINE – DONNA AXTON
FALL 2019 - PSYC 450

**Psychology Capstone
Sierra Nevada College**

Course Code & No. - Section:	PSYC 450 – Section 1
Course Title (Credits):	Capstone Course in Psychology
Term & Year:	Fall 2019
Course Ref. No. (CRN):	80244
Instructor:	Donna Axton, M.A., MFT
Phone(s):	X 7586
Email:	daxton@sierranevada.edu
Office:	TCES 219
Office Hours:	T/Th 11 am – 1:00 pm or by appointment

Class Meeting Time:	T/R 1:00 pm – 2:45 pm
Location:	Patterson 207
Prerequisites (from Catalog):	PSYC 101, PSYC 291
Co-requisites (from Catalog):	Senior class standing

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course appropriate for psychology majors, interdisciplinary majors with a concentration in psychology, and psychology minors. 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.

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. Class attendance and participation
2. Written take home assignments
4. Quizzes and other in-class activities
5. Completion of the MFT in Psychology with a score at or above the 50th percentile

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

This class will utilize lectures, small groups, inquiry learning, in-class discussions, videos, homework assignments, quizzes, mind maps, and exams.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

Laptop computer (one that meets the published SNC Laptop Requirements)

GRE Subject Test in Psychology – Test Prep Book(s)

1. GRE, Graduate Record Examination: Subject Test: Psychology. (2016). New York: Kaplan Publishing. ISBN: 9781506209357
2. Jay, M. (2010). Cracking the GRE psychology subject test. New York: Random House. ISBN: 978-0375429736

Optional:

Freberg, L., Palmer, E. L., & Thompson-Schill, S. L. (2015). GRE psychology: Graduate Record Examination in psychology. Hauppauge, NY: Barrons. ISBN: 978-1438005737

ATTENDANCE

Attendance and participation are essential to the learning process. Students are expected to attend all scheduled meetings ON TIME and provide NO interruptions (e.g., cell phones, facebook, etc.). You are expected to be on time as well as stay for the entire period. Please note this will account for 40 % of your course grade.

Points are available based on your attendance and participation. You will lose points for any missed classes (or portion thereof).

If you arrive late, *it is your responsibility* to be sure you have been counted present for the day before leaving. Additionally, *you must see me before leaving class to be counted present for the day*. If/when you miss class, you remain responsible for notes and handouts (see a classmate for notes; see me for handouts).

INFORMATION LITERACY STATEMENT

Using the library's resources (not just the Internet) effectively (Psych INFO, EBSCO) 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.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance: See Attendance section (*above*) and specific reference to attendance in the grading policy (*below*).

2. Reading: Students are expected to do the assigned reading *before* class meets to ensure preparation for discussions and learning activities.

3. Quizzes: You must complete 10 CANVAS quizzes prior to midterm and another 10 CANVAS quizzes prior to the MFT. Your score on this will be based only on the number of quizzes taken (and not your score on these). They will help you get used to the format of the exam.

Other in-class quizzes will take place and be scored as a percentage of the total possible.

4. Participation: Thoughtful answers to questions, discussions, and in-class activities will define participation.

5. Students are required to take all exams and turn in all assignments on the scheduled dates.

6. Computer use restricted to that pertinent to class *only*.

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” (Teuber & Andreas, 1999). This refers to all sources of information, including the Internet.

To avoid plagiarizing, a good rule is to use quotation marks whenever a string of three or more words is copied from another source (e.g., when taking notes from a journal article). Simply paraphrasing and citing a source may not be enough to avoid plagiarizing, however. For example, one of the paragraphs in a paper might be a close paraphrase of a paragraph from another source. Even if the source is cited, the structure of the original source has been plagiarized! Starting with an outline of arguments to be included in a paper and then using information from other sources to back up these arguments should help one avoid plagiarizing in this manner.

Any form of cheating, plagiarism and/or unauthorized use of anything other than the student’s own resources *will not be tolerated*. To be clear, unless explicit written or verbal instructions indicate otherwise, exams and assignments are to be completed individually (i.e., without any collaboration). The instructor will pursue the maximum disciplinary action against the student violating this protocol. I have a strict no tolerance policy. Additionally, if you are caught cheating, you will earn an automatic 0 on that exam/assignment/etc.

Some examples of cheating include, but are not limited to, copying from a classmate's work during an exam, turning in work that is not your own, and using any unapproved aid during an exam.

Both intentional and unintentional plagiarism, as well as any suspicion of cheating, will be reported to the Vice President of Academic Affairs/Provost. I strongly encourage all students to meet with me to discuss this issue before turning in written work.

No ball caps, cellular telephones, pagers, earbuds, headphones, extraneous paper, notes, etc. are permitted during any and all periods of assessment (e.g., exams, quizzes, in class assignments, etc.). If I spot one of these present (even if you are not using it) during an unapproved period, you will take an automatic 10% reduction on the assessment in question. In the case I witness the use of such unapproved apparatus, you will receive a 0. Yes, this means you will need to use a watch rather than your cell phone for the time.

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.

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

1. Attendance & Participation: 360 points (15 possible per day)

Show up, pay attention, participate, and be respectful of our purpose in the classroom.

These are the easy points, get them all!

During each class we will be doing some form of review and retrieval of information. You are responsible to remember/take notes for every piece of information we discuss. Bring your questions to the class when we discuss a topic. This is all about you becoming so at ease with the material that you can relax during a higher stress situation (the MFT) and show off all your knowledge.

2. Assignments and Quizzes: 340 points

20 Canvas quizzes 100

Mind Map 70

10 In-Class Quizzes 100

Other Assignments 70

This class incorporates assignments and quizzes. *No make-ups or late assignments will be accepted without prior instructor approval.* In the case you will be absent when an assignment is due, have a classmate turn in for you or email it to me on time (time stamp) AND bring the printed copy (for grading) when you return.

There will be quizzes in several areas of study. They will be on assigned specific reading and will be announced.

CANVAS Quizzes will be helpful to you in studying the material AND in getting used to working with the same type of multiple answer format you will encounter in the Major Field Test. 10 are due before midterms and 10 after midterms.

Mind Maps: You will be assigned a final mind maps on your “weakest subject”. The idea of a mind map is for you to organize the information in a format that personally makes sense to you. You will need a poster board or extra-large piece of paper. The clearer the organization the more you will remember.

Mind maps also serve the purpose of helping your classmates review the material. You will present your mind map to the class. Since teaching helps us learn in fuller ways, this will also reinforce the strength of your knowledge.

Warning: your mind maps need to be accurate and clear. They will be graded on clarity and accuracy. Be prepared for feed back and questions from me and/or the class when you present.

There will be assignments that require you to summarize the main points of a topic. If you have your previous text books, this will be particularly helpful. In general the reading in the review texts is short but dense and is intended to bring back to mind all that you have learned in previous classes. Those courses you haven’t taken yet will require more time and study. I suggest you use them for your mind map exercises so you will have several learning modalities going on with the material.

All of this is to help you organize the multitude of psychological concepts in your mind and memory.

3. Your grade on the Major Field Test is 30% of your final grade. BUT you must pass this exam in order to pass the course. Passing is 50th Percentile or better.

The major field test is given during the last class period. It is a multiple-choice test and will be administered on your computer. There are two 70-question sections. You are allowed a maximum of 1 hour 15 minutes for the each section. You will have a chance to mark the questions you want to go over and you can review all your answers before ending the first segment. You then can take a 10 minute break before going on to the second half, which you will complete after reviewing your answers. Your results will be available within 5 days after the exam and I will be calling you with the results.

The subjects covered on the exam are:

Learning	Clinical	Applied
Memory	Abnormal	Measurement
Cognition	Developmental	Research Methodology and
Sensation and Perception	Personality	Design
Physiology	Social Psych	Statistics
Neuroscience	Historical (people/theories)	

The more you have practiced recalling the information covered, the less stressful the test will be for you. All aspects of good self-care such as sleep, nutrition, exercise, positive attitude contribute to your success A passing score on this exam is 50th percentile or better.

If you want more information about the exam go to ETS.org and look up major field test in psychology. ETS stands for educational testing services.

****We may need to adjust the time so you have the full 2 ¾ hours to complete the exam. We will discuss this in the first class period.**

FINAL GRADES: Grading scale: Grades will be assigned on a percentage scale related to available points and are determined by your work during the semester and are *non-negotiable*.

A+: $\geq 99\%$	C : 72.1 - 77.9%
A : 92.1 - 98.9%	C-: 70.0 - 72.0%
A-: 90.0 - 92.0%	D+: 68.0 - 69.9%
B+: 88.0 - 89.9%	D : 62.1 - 67.9%
B : 82.1 - 87.9%	D-: 60.0 - 62.0%
B-: 80.0 - 82.0%	F : < 60.0%
C+: 78.0 - 79.9%	

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, 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

Entrepreneurial Thinking

Professional Preparedness

Sustainability

Course Outline and Assignments

WEEK 1

Tuesday, September 17 - Overview of course content, activities, goals and learning objectives.
Familiarization with CANVAS page – Quizzes, Start Diagnostic Test 1

Thursday, September 19 - Diagnostic Test 1 Completed - grade in class
Areas of strength and weakness based on pre-test scoring
Mind map introduction and assignments

WEEK 2

Tuesday, September 24 – GRE Pre-test Part 2

Thursday, September 26
History of Psychology – starting our list of important names
Mentalism, Physicalism, Personality, Behaviorism, Psychoanalysis
Quiz on History

WEEK 3

Tuesday, October 1
Abnormal Psychology – Mood disorders, anxiety, somatoform and schizophrenia

Thursday, October 3
Abnormal Psychology – Personality Disorders, eating disorders, sleep disorders, adjustment disorders, age-related disorders.

WEEK 4

Tuesday, October 8
Mind map description and strong subject example
Research – Experimental – Intelligence testing, personality inventories, research design

Thursday, October 10
Developmental – Freud, Piaget, Erikson, Kohlberg
Quiz on Development

WEEK 5

Tuesday, October 15
Personality
Quiz on Personality

Thursday, October 17
MFT Midterm Assessment – complete questions and score on your own

WEEK 6

Tuesday, October 22
Statistics

Thursday, October 24
Clinical Psychology – Compare and contrast three theoretical approaches in detail.

WEEK 7

Tuesday, October 29

Learning Theories – Conditioning: Classical and Operant

Thursday, October 31

Neuroscience/ Neuroanatomy

WEEK 8

Tuesday, November 5

Cognitive Psychology – Memory and Decision Making, Attention and Thinking

Thursday, November 7

Sensation and Perception – Visual phenomena and all senses

WEEK 9

Tuesday, November 12

Social Psychology

Thursday, November 16

Rough Draft of Mind-map

WEEK 10

Tuesday, November 19

Practice Exam #2

Thursday, November 21

Review from Practice Exam #2

THANKSGIVING RECESS: November 25-29**WEEK 11**

Tuesday, December 3

Review

Thursday, December 5

Final Draft of Mind Map #2 Due

WEEK 12

Tuesday, December 10

Review and test-taking strategies

Thursday, December 12

FINAL EXAM - Major Field Test Given*

Passing score is 50th percentile or greater