

Course Syllabus

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change during the semester. Please check this syllabus on a regular basis for any updates.

Department	:	Psychology
Course Title	:	General Psychology
Section Name	:	2301.49
Start Date	:	08/27/2012
End Date	:	12/13/2012
Modality	:	Face to face
Credits	:	3

Instructor Information

Name	:	Kelie Jones
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Course Description

Presents a basic understanding of psychological terms, theories, and methodologies in the scientific discipline that studies behavior and mental processes. Cognitive abilities such as problem solving, decision making, and communication, affective states like building self-esteem and sociability, and behavioral events, where one participates as a group member, are explored. Information acquisition, interpretation, and communication of a psychological nature are the basis on which this course is predicated. In this way, psychological principles are understandable in the context of biology, the brain, neurotransmitters and hormones, personality theory, learning principles, life-span development, relationships, abnormal psychology, and therapies. A wide application of a variety of topics is the focus of this introductory course. (ICOs 1, 2, 4, 5)

Prerequisite: None.

Course Objectives

Define psychology and its four primary goals.*

Explain the origins of psychology and the seven major perspectives that have emerged from its study.*

Describe the scientific method and key ethical issues in psychological research.*

Describe the advantages and disadvantages of four research methods.*

Describe and define neurons and how they communicate information. *

Describe the organization of the central and peripheral nervous system.

*Identify and explain the roles of the lower level brain structures.

*Describe the cerebral cortex, including its four cortical lobes and two hemispheres

*Discuss how behavioral genetics and evolutionary psychology explain behavior

*Define and differentiate sensation and perception. **

Understand the principles of sensation (i.e., processing, thresholds, adaptation)*

Describe the mechanisms of vision and hearing, including physical structures and key terms

Describe olfaction, gustation, and kinesthetic sense

Explain perception through the principles of selection, organization, and interpretation

Define and describe consciousness

Explain what happens to consciousness when we sleep

Describe how psychoactive drugs affect consciousness

Explain how altered states of consciousness such as hypnosis and meditation affect consciousness

Define classical conditioning and its relevance in everyday life.

Explain how operant conditioning works and how it can be used to affect behavior.

Describe how and when we learn, according to the cognitive-social theory.

Identify the neurological changes that occur with learning.

Explain how prejudice, marketing, medical treatments, and phobias are influenced by conditioning and learning.

*Summarize the four major memory models *

*Explain the biological aspects of memory, including how memories are formed and where they are stored *

Describe how quickly we forget and theories of why we forget

Identify techniques for improving memory

Summarize the three most important debates in developmental psychology.

Describe the physical changes that occur during prenatal, early childhood, and adolescent development.

Identify the major characteristics of Piaget's four stages of cognitive development

* Explain how attachment affects social development.*

Summarize Kohlberg's theory of moral development and Erikson's eight stages of psychosocial development.

Describe how gender differences are related to cognitive, personality, and social development.

Identify factors that influence realistic relationship expectations and life satisfaction.

Explain the three basic concepts about death and dying.

Summarize three biologically based theories of motivation.

Describe the internal and external factors that affect eating and sexual behavior.

Explain the physiological, cognitive, and behavioral components of emotion.

Compare the major theories of emotion and cultural influence on emotion

Define the big five personality traits.

*Summarize the main contributions of Freud's psychoanalytic theory and those of subsequent psychodynamic

theorists.*

Describe the main premise of humanistic theory.

*Identify Bandura and Rotter's contributions to social cognitive theories. *

*Explain how biological factors such as brain structure, neurochemistry, and genetics affect personality. *

*Summarize the benefits and limitations of various personality assessment methods *

Indicate four criteria for identifying abnormal behavior.

Describe the structure of the DSM-IV-TR.

*Identify and describe four major anxiety disorders. *

*Differentiate between major depressive disorder and bipolar disorder. *

Describe the common symptoms of schizophrenia as well as contributing biological and psychosocial factors.

Identify major characteristics of substance abuse, dissociative, and personality disorders.

*Explain how gender and culture affect abnormal behavior** *

*Summarize the similarities and differences among the various insight therapies. *

*Explain how classical conditioning, operant conditioning, and modeling are used in behavior therapies. *

*Identify the major types of biomedical therapies and the risks associated with them. *

*Summarize the five most common goals of therapy

Some course objectives may or may not be covered due to time constraints. Syllabus may be changed at any time if deemed necessary by instructor. Assignments are to be submitted using the Blackboard system. Assignments must be submitted in rich text format. Tests will be given using the blackboard system.

Required Readings/Material

You must purchase the following required readings/materials:

a) Visualizing Psychology, 2ND EDITION. /Carpenter, Siri, & Huffman, Karen. Wiley, 2010

b) A thumb/flash drive with 2 GB or more memory/storage.

c) 1 Scan tron

d) Pencil, pen, paper highlighter for taking notes

Course Requirements (Lectures, Assignments and Assessments)

Attend all scheduled class meetings

Activate and check Odessa College email every 24-36 hours

Log into Blackboard every 24-36 hours

Read all assigned chapters of the text book

Complete internet based assignments

Complete group assignments

Complete movie reviews

Save all work on a flash drive

Submit all work through blackboard system (no work sent through email will be accepted)

Save all work in rich text format

Complete all required exams on line except for the final which will be in class

Summary of Assignments & Activities

NOTE: The due dates are subject to change. Please check this syllabus on a regular basis for any updates.

Item(Name)	Type	Description	
Week 1 Learning Module 1 Welcome	/test/ Course over view/ lecture	<i>Syllabus test</i>	
Week 2-4 Learning Module 2 Chapter 1 Introduction and Research Methods Chapter 2 Neuroscience and Biological Foundations	Test and internet assignment Lectures	<i>Test over ch. 1</i> <i>Test over ch. 2</i> <i>Test over ch.4</i> <i>Assignment to cover 1, 2 and 4.</i>	
Chapter 4 Sensation and Perception			
Week 5-7 Learning module 3 Chapter 5 States of Consciousness Chapter 6 Learning Chapter 7 Memory	/internet assignment/ test Lecture	<i>Internet assignment to enhance material from chapters 5-7</i> <i>Tests to cover chapters 5-7</i>	

Week 8 Learning module 4 Chapter 9 Life span development 1 Chapter 10 Life span development 2	test Lecture	Test	
Weeks 10-11 Learning module 5 Chapter 11 Motivation and Emotion Chapter 12 Personality	assignment/test Lecture	Test to cover chapters 11-12 Internet assignment	
Weeks 12-14 Learning Module 6 Chapter 13 Psychological Disorders Chapter 14 <i>Treatment</i> Chapter 15 Social Psychology	group assignment Lectures	Group project/ presentation	
Week 16 Comprehensive final Learning Module 8			

*Grading Policy * Late work is not accepted unless there is documented medical excuse. Tests can only be made up if there is a documented medical excuse.

Instructions given for any assignment must be followed. If a student does not understand the instructions, they must contact the instructor for clarification either by email, office visit, or phone call at least 2 days before the assignment is due. All work must be saved on the flash drive and all work must be in rich text format. Work not submitted in rich text format will have 10 points deducted.

Grading: Grades for all examinations and assignments will be converted to percentages. All grades are weighted. The following equation will be used to determine your final grade:

(Chapter 1 Exam * .05) + (Chapter 2 Exam * .05) + (Chapter 4 Exam * .05) + (Chapter 5 Exam*.05) +
(Chapter 6 Exam*.05) + (Chapter 7 Exam * .05) + (Chapter 9-10 Exam * .05) + (Chapter 11 Exam * .05) +
(Chapter 12 Exam * .05) + (syllabus test*.05)

(Final exam * .15) +

(Chapter 1, 2- 4 Homework assignments 1 * .06) +

(Chapter 5-7 Homework assignment 2 * .06)

(Chapter 11-12 Homework assignment 3 * .06) +

(Chapter 13-14 Group project assignment 4 * .12)+

(Attendance *.05) = final score

Your final grade will be on a scale from 0 to 100.

90 - 100 = A

80 - 89 = B

70 - 79 = C

60 - 69 = D

59 and below =F

Incomplete Policy: A grade of “Incomplete” may be given only if (1) the student has passed all work completed, and (2) he/she has completed a minimum of 75% of the required coursework. A grade of “I” will only be assigned when the conditions for completions have been discussed and agreed upon, and signed by the instructor and the student.

Academic Ethics: Your work is expected to be your own. Plagiarism and or collusion will not be tolerated. Please use proper citation when need. If unethical behavior is detected, all parties involved will be denied points for that project or exam. The questioned material and a report of the ethics violation will be submitted to the department chair for further action as deemed necessary

Note to students: Keep track of all deadlines. The instructor will help you as much as possible to successfully complete this course, however, if you believe that you will not be able to stay in this course or if you fall to far behind in the course work, it is your responsibility to officially drop this course. If you do not, you will receive a F. If you do not understand an assignment, you must contact the instructor at least 2 days before the assignment is due. The instructor will respond to all email within 24-36 hours. All assignments will be graded within 7-14 days of the due date unless the assignment requires extensive grading.

If you need to keep your cell phone with you, put it on silent and leave the room to take your call. **Texting of any type is not permitted at any time. If you are caught texting the first time, you will be asked to stop. The second time you are caught, you will be asked to leave the class until the next class meeting and you will receive an unexcused absences.**

You must attend all scheduled class meetings. This is an Odessa College policy. If you miss and do not have legitimate documentation that will allow for excused absences, then you will receive an unexcused

absence.

Need a degree plan? Think you are ready to graduate? Confused by all of the degree choices? We are here to help. Please contact Kelie Jones (kjones@odessa.edu)

Special Needs: Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have any special needs or issues pertaining to your access to and participation in this or any other class at Odessa College, please feel free to contact me to discuss your concerns. You may also call the Office of Disability services at 432-335-6861 to request assistance and accommodations.

Learning Resource Center (Library): The Library, known as the [Learning Resources Center](#), provides research assistance via the [LRC's catalog \(print books, videos, e-books\)](#) and [databases \(journal and magazine articles\)](#). [Research guides](#) covering specific subject areas, [tutorials](#), and the "[Ask a Librarian](#)" service provide additional help.

Student success center: Need a tutor? Need help with study skills? Contact the Student Success Center at 432-335-MORE (6673) <http://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/>

Student E-mail: Please access your [Odessa College Student E-mail](#), by following the link to either set up or update your account: <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>. **All correspondence will be submitted using your Odessa College email.**

Student Portal: Please access your [Odessa College Student E-mail](#), by following the link to either set up or update your account: <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>. **All correspondence will be submitted using your Odessa College email.**

Technical Support: For Blackboard username and password help and for help accessing your online course availability and student email account contact the Student Success Center at 432-335-6878 or online at https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk_form.htm.

Important School Policies For information regarding student support services, academic dishonesty, disciplinary actions, special accommodations, or students and instructors' right to academic freedom can be found in the [Odessa College Student Handbook](#).

Expectations for Engagement – Face to Face Learning

To help make the learning experience fulfilling and rewarding, the following Expectations for Engagement provide the parameters for reasonable engagement between students and instructors for the learning environment. Students and instructors are welcome to exceed these requirements.

Reasonable Expectations of Engagement for Instructors

1. As an instructor, I understand the importance of clear, timely communication with my students. In order to maintain sufficient communication, I will
 - provided my contact information at the beginning of the syllabus;
 - respond to all messages in a timely manner through telephone, email, or next classroom contact;

and,

- notify students of any extended times that I will be unavailable and provide them with alternative contact information (for me or for my supervisor) in case of emergencies during the time I'm unavailable.
2. As an instructor, I understand that my students will work to the best of their abilities to fulfill the course requirements. In order to help them in this area, I will
 - provide clear information about grading policies and assignment requirements in the course syllabus, and
 - communicate any changes to assignments and/or to the course calendar to students as quickly as possible.
 3. As an instructor, I understand that I need to provide regular, timely feedback to students about their performance in the course. To keep students informed about their progress, I will
 - return classroom activities and homework within one week of the due date and
 - provide grades for major assignments within 2 weeks of the due date or at least 3 days before the next major assignment is due, whichever comes first.

Reasonable Expectations of Engagement for Students

1. As a student, I understand that I am responsible for keeping up with the course. To help with this, I will
 - attend the course regularly and line up alternative transportation in case my primary means of transportation is unavailable;
 - recognize that the college provides free wi-fi, computer labs, and library resources during regular campus hours to help me with completing my assignments; and, understand that my instructor does not have to accept my technical issues as a legitimate reason for late or missing work if my personal computer equipment or internet service is unreliable.
2. As a student, I understand that it is my responsibility to communicate quickly with the instructor any issue or emergency that will impact my involvement with or performance in the class. This includes, but is not limited to,
 - missing class when a major test is planned or a major assignment is due;
 - having trouble submitting assignments;
 - dealing with a traumatic personal event; and,
 - having my work or childcare schedule changed so that my classroom attendance is affected.
3. As a student, I understand that it is my responsibility to understand course material and requirements and to keep up with the course calendar. While my instructor is available for help and clarification, I will
 - seek out help from my instructor and/or from tutors;
 - ask questions if I don't understand; and,

- attend class regularly to keep up with assignments and announcements.