

# **Psychology 2301 Fall Course Syllabus**

**Fall 2012**

**Instructor:** Angelica Moreno, M.S.

**Cell Phone:** 432-853-7597

**E-mail:** amoreno@odessa.edu

**Office Hours via phone or email:** Monday – Thursday 8:00 am – 7:00 pm

**Course Number:** 2301

**Course Title:** General Psychology

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Prerequisite:** None

**Course Textbook:** “Visualizing Psychology” by Wiley Carpenter. Textbooks are available for purchase through the Odessa College Bookstore (**\$78.60 New or \$58.95 Used**). To find out when textbooks are available for purchase, please contact the OC Bookstore at (432) 335-6655.

## **Course Description:**

This course 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.

## **Learning Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to demonstrate competency in the following:

1. Comprehend the history behind the discipline of psychology, including how psychology evolved as a science.
2. Comprehend the various fields that comprise the discipline of psychology, and the different perspectives on explaining behavior that psychologists hold.
3. Identify and comprehend the basic biological functions that underlie behavioral processes, areas of development, consciousness, major theories of learning, memory, intelligence, personality theories, and major classifications of abnormal behavior and their corresponding treatments.
4. Identify rules essential to thinking critically and creatively about psychology through group interaction and class discussions, as well as focusing on the development of reading, writing, and oral communication skills.
5. Relate to a biological and biochemical understanding of behavior, feelings, and thought.
6. Identify and comprehend various personality theories and personality disorders, as well as possible antecedent causes.

7. Describe developmental psychology, and identify and comprehend theories and stages of development.
8. Utilize the World Wide Web for Psychological Research, and research in general, pertaining to personal and professional growth and interests.

## **Expectations for Engagement – Online Learning**

To help make the web-based learning experience fulfilling and rewarding, the following Expectations for Engagement provide the parameters for reasonable engagement between students and instructors for the online 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 within 24 hours if received Monday through Thursday and within 48 hours if received Friday through Sunday; 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
    - post grades for discussion postings within one week of the discussion thread closing.
    - 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
  - line up alternative computer and internet access in case my primary computer crashes or my internet services is unavailable;
  - recognize that the college provides free wi-fi and computer labs during regular campus hours to help me with accessing my course; and,
  - understand that my instructor does not have to accept my technical issues as a legitimate reason for late or missing work if my equipment or 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
  - getting "kicked off" of the system during tests or quizzes;
  - having trouble submitting assignments; and
  - dealing with a traumatic personal event.
  
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,
- access my course several times during the week to keep up with assignments and announcements.

## **Time Line:**

**(August 27-September 1) Read Chapter 1, pages 2-31: "Introduction and Research Methods" and complete assignments.**

**Labor Day –September 3 (No Classes) (College Offices Closed)**

**(September 2-September 8) Read Chapter 2, pages 32-61: "Neuroscience and Biological Foundations" complete the online assignments .**

**(September 9- September 15) Read Chapter 3, pages 62-85: "Stress and Health Psychology" and complete assignments.**

**(September 16-September 22) Read Chapter 4, pages 86-113: "Sensation and Perception" and complete assignments.**

**Please complete Exam 1 (Chapters 1-4)by Friday of this week..(Sept.21)**

**(September 23- September29) Read Chapter 5, pages 114-141: "States of Consciousness" and complete assignments.**

**(September 30-October 6) Read Chapter 6, pages 142-171: "Learning" and complete the assignments.**

**(October 7-October 13) Read Chapter 7, pages 172-197: "Memory" and complete the assignments.**

**(October 14-October 20) Read Chapter 8, pages 198-225: "Thinking, Language, and Intelligence" and complete the assignments.**

**Please complete Exam 2 (chapters 5-8) by Friday of this week. (October 19)**

**(October21-October 27) Read Chapter 9, pages 226-253: "Life Span Development I" and complete assignments.**

**(October 28-November 3) Read Chapter 10, pages 254-281: "Life Span Development II" and complete assignments.**

**(November 4-November 10) Read Chapter 11, and complete assignments.**

(November 11- November 17) Read Chapter 12 and complete online assignments.

Please complete Exam 3 (chapters 9-12) by Friday of this week. (November 16)

(November 18-November 20)Read Chapter 13, pages 340-371: "Psychological Disorders" and complete assignments.

**November 21-November 24 HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!!**

November 20th Research paper due- more information to come

(November 26-December 1) Read Chapter 14, pages 372-399: "Therapy"

(December 2-December 8) Chapter 15, pages 400-429: "Social Psychology" and complete the assignments.

Exam # 4 (Chapters 13-15) Due by December 8

Final ..... December 10(All chapters) You will have access to this exam beginning December 9

## **Attendance Policy:**

An Odessa College Web course such as this one is completed online with no classroom attendance required. All assignments and exams are completed online. A common misconception is that a web course is self-paced and follows no set plan or deadlines. Although this course does not have established meeting times in a structured classroom setting, there are exams and assignments which must be completed in a timely manner. **Prior to enrolling in a web course, it is very important to read over the course syllabus** since each online course has different specific guidelines that must be followed. Please feel free to contact the instructor either by phone or email if you have any questions regarding this course. **It is also very important to check the Announcement Board on a daily basis to read any announcements that may have been posted. So on the first day of class, before getting started, please read over the entire course syllabus and get in the habit of checking the Announcement Board on a daily basis.**

Again, this particular course does have *suggested* deadline dates that are highly *recommended* in order to ensure the best grade possible, and so that you do not make the mistake of falling too far behind. Also, every aspect of this course can be completed online without having to physically go on campus.

## **Drop Policy:**

Another misconception is that a web course will require less effort than that of a traditional classroom type course. Each student is responsible for dropping this class if exams and assignments are not being completed. The instructor will **NOT** do this for you, and failure to drop this course prior to the deadline date to withdraw will result in grade earned being submitted to the Registrar's Office at the end of the semester.

## **Exams:**

There will be five exams with the fifth being the final. Each exam, including the final, will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions. These exams are **NOT** take home exams nor are they open book exams, and each exam is available online and may be taken at any time during the day or evening. Students who foresee a problem taking the exams online (such as concerns from being logged off line for whatever reason, or having a computer interruption due to an electrical storm) should contact the instructor about making special arrangements to take a makeup exam on campus. Try to avoid taking exams online during an electrical storm.

There are computers available to students on the OC Campus, located at the Wi-Fi Cyber Café, and on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors of the Student Learning Center (Library). **Please be aware that any computer interruptions that may occur while taking an exam online may result in your answers being lost in cyberspace, and therefore an automatic "0" exam score will be posted to the online grade book for that particular exam. In other words, avoid taking exams online when you suspect there might be computer interruptions, especially if your internet provider is one that allows interruptions from incoming telephone calls.**

**Please do your best to follow the suggested deadline date guide in the course syllabus so that you do not fall behind in this class.**

Students will only have **ONE** opportunity to take each exam online, so it is very important to avoid any possible computer interruptions while taking each exam online. **If there is a computer interruption where answers to the exam are lost and a student is requesting another opportunity to reattempt an exam, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not to allow a makeup exam. Depending on the circumstances, there is the potential for a 10-point deduction from an exam score for each additional attempt made on each exam.** So please be sure the first attempt takes so that there is no need for reattempts. Also, **Please DO NOT access an exam online until you are ready to take the exam.** If you access an exam and for some reason decide to exit, your exam will automatically be scored (even if you did not answer any of the questions) and that "0" test score will automatically be posted to the online grade book. So again, **PLEASE do not access an exam unless you plan to complete the exam.** Absolutely no excuses (such as, "it was an accident") will be accepted.

## **Online Discussion:**

**Students will be required to access the online discussion for this course at least two times a week (preferably on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays).** The online discussion questions can be found on Blackboard by clicking on the icon that reads "*Discussion Board*". Discussion questions will be posted online each week and students will be required to complete these questions online in a timely manner. Please feel free to read one another's comments that have been posted online and generate some class discussion as this will enhance your overall grade for this course. As required, students must have the necessary skills and knowledge to access and browse the web. If you need assistance on how to use Blackboard, please contact Angela Tombs at the Learning Resource Center (3rd floor of the OC Library). **Always be sure to check the Announcement Board each time you log on to Blackboard. You will receive a class participation grade for your online discussion. The more discussion you generate among your fellow classmates, the better your grade.**

## **Assignments:**

Students will be required to complete at least two to three assignments each week, pertaining to each of the fifteen chapters in the textbook. Assignments can be found on Blackboard by clicking on the icon that reads "*Weekly Modules*". You may use your textbook to work on your assignment, and a final grade for your assignments will be posted to the online grade book at the end of the semester.

For each chapter in your textbook you will find a course document online that will enhance your overall learning experience for this particular course. Upon completion of reading each chapter, please access the appropriate online course document that summarizes what you have read in each of the fifteen chapters. This can be done by clicking the icon that reads "Study Resources" in your menu, and then clicking on the appropriate chapter that you have just read. It is very important that you do this for each of the fifteen chapters you read because this will count as part of your assignment requirements. Your last assignment prior to each exam will ask for a summary of what you learned from viewing the online course documents.

## **RULES FOR SENDING ATTACHMENTS:**

The College scans all incoming email for viruses as part of the overall anti-virus system set up by the IT Department. Mail Monitor, the scanning software, will quarantine any viruses or email attachments it scans that do not pass its set of rules. One of the more common means of masking a virus is to use reserved characters in the file name to hide a program file as a document file. The most common mistake is putting periods (.) in a file name. The period is a reserved character and Mail Monitor will quarantine ANY file with a period in



the file name. Should there be the need for you to email an assignment or paper as an attachment, please read the Internet Course FAQ by clicking on the link below:

**<http://www.odessa.edu/virtual/faq.htm>**

## **Grading:**

**Online Discussion (Class Participation) – 10%**

**Online Assignments - 15%**

**Four Exams -35%**

**Research paper -25%**

**Final- 15%**

## **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