

SYLLABUS
PSYC 2301.640
Introduction to Psychology

Spring 2011

Instructor: Rosie Aguilar **Phone:** 432-335-6741
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Office: Student Union Bldg. Rm. 204F
Office Hours: Available by appointment Monday thru Thursday 8:00am to 5pm,
Friday 8:00am. to 1pm.

Textbook: Visualizing Psychology Carpenter/Huffman

Supplies: Scantron answer sheets and a #2 pencil for taking exams.

Course Description: This course presents a basic understanding of psychological terms, theories, and methodologies in the scientific discipline that studies behavior and mental processes. Key terminology will be emphasized because knowledge of the terminology is essential to an understanding of the basic concepts of psychology. 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.

Class Format: This class includes in class assignments, out of class assignments, as well as lecture. The class requires active listening as well as active participation. It also requires significant reading on the part of the student as well as writing two assignments.

Attendance Policy, Exams, and Make-ups: Students are expected to attend every class. Students must contact the instructor **PRIOR** to the exam if he/she has a situation that requires a special testing date.

Drop Policy: Each student is responsible for dropping this class. The instructor will not do this for you and failure to drop this course before the deadline date will result in an F. The deadline to drop a course with a "W" at Odessa College is **Thursday 14, 2011.**

Grading: The course requirements for your final grade are as follows: Quizzes – 50%, Written Assignments – 20%, Attendance/Class Participation – 10%, Final 20%.

“Using someone else’s ideas or phrasing and representing those ideas or phrasing as your own, either on purpose or through carelessness, is a serious offense known as plagiarism.”

I do not tolerate cheating in any form. If you plagiarize an essay or cheat on an exam once, that assignment will receive a “0.” If you plagiarize or cheat a second time, you will receive an “F” in the course.

Psychological Autobiography: This is a "self analysis" of your development based on psychological concepts learned in the course. The student should make hypotheses regarding the question, "how/why did I turn out to be the person I am at this stage of my life?" Further directions will be discussed in class. The contents of the paper will remain confidential. Students are not required to reveal anything of a highly personal nature. It may also compare your perception of your development at the end of the class to your perception of your development at the beginning of the class. It will be 4 to 8 pages, typewritten, double-spaced, and a font size of 12 or 14.

Reaction Paper: The student may select from one of the following topics: Motivation, Emotion, Personality, Psychological Disorders, Therapy, Stress and Health. This is a reaction paper that briefly summarizes the topic and then reacts to the concepts by asking the following questions: (1. Why this does or does not match my beliefs prior to taking the course? (2. Compare the different psychological perspectives on the topic. (3. React to critical issues related to the topic. This paper will be 4 -8 pages, typewritten, double-spaced, and a font size of 12 – 14.

If you miss a test, there will be no makeup test if you did not contact me prior to the test. It is your responsibility to get notes for the following test if you were absent. I do not provide notes. If you miss a movie, you will need to write a paper summarizing the movie you missed. Get with me for details.

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 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 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 assignments or 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 assignments or 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 student's and instructors' right to academic freedom can be found in the [Odessa College Student Handbook](#).

*****This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.**