

GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY

PSYC 2301 (740) - Fall 2013

Instructor information:

Name: Anna Taylor

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Email: ataylor@odessa.edu

Meeting time/place:

Thurs. 7:00-9:50 p.m.

Wilkerson Hall Rm. 234

No office hours – availability is immediately after class, via e-mail or phone

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course presents a basic understanding of the terms, theories, and methodologies used in psychology, a 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, 3, 4, 5, 6)

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

None

COURSE TOPICS:

Introduction, Neuroscience, Sensation and Perception, Consciousness, Learning, Memory, Motivation and emotion, Personality, Psychiatric Disorders, Therapies and Social Psychology

TEXTBOOK: *We have updated to the newest edition of the Visualizing Psychology textbook (3rd edition)!
If purchased on campus it is slimmer, and unbound (you will need a binder).*

Visualizing Psychology, 3e. Carpenter, S. & Huffman, K. (2013). USA: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
ISBN 978-1-118-38806-8

Here is the link if you wish to purchase online directly from the publisher:

<http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-EHEP002466.html>

GRADE INQUIRY POLICY

It is the responsibility of the individual taking this course to maintain accurate track of assignment submissions and grades. You must ask the instructor about information on your current grade.

GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attend class and participate.
2. Contribute and cooperate with civility.
3. Submit assignments in a timely manner.

INCOMPLETE POLICY

An 'Incomplete' grade may be given only if the student has completed a minimum of 75% of the required coursework. A grade of an "I" will only be assigned when the conditions for completions have been discussed and agreed upon by the instructor and the student.

Attendance: Attendance will be taken daily. Those who miss less than 5 classes will have an additional 5 points added to their final grade.

PROPOSED COURSE CALENDAR:

Aug. 29	Course Introduction, Chapter 1
Sept. 5	Chapter 2
	<u>Assignment#1:</u> Complete handout on “Charles Whitman”
Sept. 12	Chapter 4
Sept. 19	Chapter 5
Sept. 26	Test #1 (Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5)
Oct. 3	Movie: "Awakenings" and complete the handout
	<u>Assignment#2:</u> "Awakenings"
Oct. 10	Chapter 6
Oct. 17	Chapter 7
	<u>Assignment #3:</u> To be announced
Oct. 24	Chapter 11
Oct. 31	Chapter 12
Nov. 7	Test #2 (Chapter 6, 7, 11, 12)
Nov. 14	Chapter 13 (part 1)
Nov. 21	Chapter 13 (part 2)
Nov. 21	Movie: “A Beautiful Mind”
	<u>Assignment#4:</u> Complete handout on "A Beautiful Mind"
	<u>*COURSE PROJECT IS DUE TODAY! NO LATE PAPERS ACCEPTED.</u>
Nov. 28	THANKSGIVING BREAK
Dec. 5	Chapter 14
Dec. 12	FINAL EXAM

You will need Scantrons for the tests

GRADING:

<i>Type of Assignment</i>	<i>Percentage/Points</i>
Assignment 1	5%/ 5pts
Assignment 2	5%/5pts
Assignment 3	5%/5pts
Assignment 4	5%/5pts
Tests #1	20%/20 pts
Test #2	20%/ 20 pts
Course Project	20%/20pts
Final Examination	20%/20pts
Attendance (miss <5 classes)	5 additional points added to semester grade
100%/ 100 pts.	

GRADING POLICY:

Please understand that this is a required course for the program in order to prepare you scholarly. Quality work and active participation is expected and not to be negotiated.

GRADING SCALE:

- “A” = 90-100
- “B” = 80-89
- “C” = 70-79
- “D” = 60-69
- “F” = 0-59

*** EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES*:**

Involvement in various activities and interests is not a problem - however, you are still responsible for learning the material and keeping up on assignments, reading, and tests, etc. in this class. No exceptions made for athletes, musicians, cheerleaders, Zen Buddhists, Islamic extremists, etc.

MAKE-UP EXAMS POLICY:

If you miss a test, **you will be responsible to make it up.** Makeup Exams are to be scheduled with the teacher and may be taken after class the following week. Although you can choose to not do a test, remember it will significantly affect your overall grade.

ORIGINAL EFFORT

The work submitted for this course must be original work prepared by the student enrolled in this course. Efforts will be recognized and graded in terms of individual participation and in terms of ability to collaborate with other students in this course.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Note that the OC Student Handbook states (page 32) that “[i]n cases of academic dishonesty, the instructor has the authority to impose appropriate scholastic penalties. Complaints or appeals of disciplinary sanctions may be filed in accordance with the college due process procedure. Copies of the college due process procedure are available in the office of The Director of Student Life (CC104).”

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY

Scholastic dishonesty shall constitute a violation of these rules and regulations and is punishable as prescribed by board policies. Scholastic dishonesty shall include, but not be limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, cyber-plagiarism and collusion. See: <http://www.riosalado.edu/library/tutorials/Pages/avoidingPlagiarism.aspx> for plagiarism and citation information.

STATEMENT OF SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:

In accordance with federal and state laws and regulations, Odessa College does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the recruitment and admission of students, the employment of faculty and staff, and the operation of any of its programs and activities. Students with a disability should contact *ADA Accommodation/Support personnel* Becky Rivera-Weiss at either (432) 335-6861 or brivera@odessa.edu

For more information on your rights and responsibilities as a student at Odessa College, please refer to the following: *The 411 of OC: Student Handbook 2012-2013; Student Rights & Responsibilities*
<http://www.odessa.edu/dept/studenthandbook/handbook.pdf>

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/>. **Correspondence will be submitted using your Odessa College email as an alternative method to contact you with information regarding this course.**

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER (LRC; 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 (SCC)

Located in the LRC, the Student Success Center (SSC) provides assistance to students in meeting their academic and career goals. We strive to provide new and updated resources and services at no charge to OC students. Academic support services include tutoring, study skills training, workshops, and the mentoring program. Tutoring is available for a variety of subjects including college mathematics, English, government, history, speech, chemistry, biology, and all developmental coursework. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins will be served as soon as possible. *Smarthinking* online tutoring is also available. All computers in the center have Internet access, Microsoft Office, and software resources to assist OC students in improving their reading, writing and mathematical skills. The center also offers special assistance to students preparing for the THEA/COMPASS test. Computer lab assistants are available to assist students with student email, Blackboard, OC portal, Course Compass and more. For more information or to make an appointment, please call 432-335-6673 or visit www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/ (Source: *Odessa College Catalog of Courses 2012-2013, page 54*)

STUDENT COURSE PARTICIPATION

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.

INSTITUTIONAL CORE OBJECTIVES (ICOS)

Description of Institutional Core Objectives (ICO's)

Given the rapid evolution of necessary knowledge and skills and the need to take into account global, national, state, and local cultures, the core curriculum must ensure that students will develop the essential knowledge and skills they need to be successful in college, in a career, in their communities, and in life. Therefore, with the assistance of the Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee, the Coordinating Board has approved guidelines for a core curriculum for all undergraduate students in Texas.

Through the application and assessment of objectives within the institution's core curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world; develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world; and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning. Appropriate Odessa College faculty periodically evaluates all of the courses listed in the descriptions on the following pages of this catalog and keys them to Odessa College's Institutional Core Objectives (ICOs), as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). (Source: *Odessa College Catalog of Courses 2012-2013, page 73*)

Odessa College's Institutional Core Objectives (ICOs):

1. *Critical Thinking Skills* - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
2. *Communication Skills* - to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
3. *Empirical and Quantitative Skills* - to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
4. *Teamwork* - to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
5. *Personal Responsibility* - to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making
6. *Social Responsibility* - to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Identify various research methods and their characteristics used in the scientific study of psychology.

2. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology.
3. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology.
4. Use terminology unique to the study of psychology.
5. Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation.
6. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Outcome	ICO
1,2,3,4,5,6	<i>Critical Thinking Skills</i> - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
1,3,4	<i>Communication Skills</i> - to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
1,3,4	<i>Empirical and Quantitative Skills</i> - to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
3,4	<i>Teamwork</i> - to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
1,3,5	<i>Personal Responsibility</i> - to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making
1,3,4	<i>Social Responsibility</i> - to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

DROPPING A COURSE OR WITHDRAWING FROM COLLEGE

Students wishing to drop a non-developmental course may do so online using *WebAdvisor*, at the Wrangler Express, or Registrar's Office. A student wishing to drop a developmental course or withdraw from college should obtain a drop or withdrawal form from the Wrangler Express or the Registrar's Office. Students are encouraged to consult with instructors prior to dropping a class. Students may not completely withdraw from the college by use of the Web. Students must drop a class or withdraw from college before the official withdrawal date stated in the class schedule. Students who are part of the Armed Forces Reserves may withdraw with a full refund if the withdrawal is due to their being ordered into active duty. A copy of the student's orders must be presented to the Registrar's Office at the time of the withdrawal. For details, please contact the Office of the Registrar. **Not attending class does not automatically constitute withdrawal from that class, nor does a student's notification to an instructor that the student wishes to be dropped. Failure of a student to complete the drop/withdrawal process will result in a grade of "F."** (Source: *Odessa College Catalog of Courses 2012-2013, page 36*)

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