

# **SYLLABUS for PSYCH 1101 – Introduction to General Psychology**

## **Fall 2009**

### **1 PM – 1:50 PM M/W/F, ROOM J-101**

**INSTRUCTOR** Dr. Janye Hickman  
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**OFFICE HOURS** Mon/Wed 2-3pm, Tue/Thurs 1:30-3pm or by appt.  
**TEXTBOOK** Introduction to Psychology (8<sup>th</sup> Ed). Plotnik, Rod, & Kouyoumdjian, Haig (2008). Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth. ISBN# 10: 0-495-10318-7

### **COURSE GOALS**

The student will be able to:

1. Describe the basic theories, principles, and concepts of psychology as they relate to behavior and mental processes.
2. Apply psychological theories, principles, and concepts to everyday life, including industry and organizations
3. Make sense of their environment as it related to their mental and behavioral functioning.
4. Compare and contrast materials from, and information about, other cultures.

### **GENERAL POLICIES**

1. Late assignments will not be graded; no exceptions. Please turn them in at the **beginning** of class.
2. Students are expected to read the corresponding chapters prior to class.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance will be taken. Your attendance at the lectures is expected and will be necessary for achieving the best performance on the exams. Therefore, 5% of your grade is class attendance. Lectures will provide additional material (on the tests) that may not be available simply by reading the book. Changes to the reading and exam schedule may be announced during class time.

### **CLASS PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES**

I welcome and encourage your participation in class. It is usually helpful and informative for your fellow students, being involved helps you to learn more, and class participation stimulates me to do a better job of teaching. Class participation on a regular basis will earn you one (1) point extra credit that will be added to your final GPA.

### **IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES & HOMEWORK**

Certain class periods will be used to practice a certain skill or complete a task/assignment. You will also have assignments to be completed at home and turned in before the next class period. Because of the cost of printing you may turn in assignments as a PDF via email, [jhickman@spsu.edu](mailto:jhickman@spsu.edu) or post on WebCT. These assignments are 15% of your final grade. If you miss an assignment, there is no make-up.

### **EXAMS**

Five (5) Regular Exams and One (1) Final Exam will be given. The lowest of the four regular exam scores will be dropped. Class exams will be announced at least a week in advance. You must receive permission in advance to miss an exam (except in the case of a documented emergency).

Make-up exams will be allowed only at the discretion of the professor, and when allowed will be designed to test the student's knowledge more fully. Students have ONE week to make up the exam. There will be a final exam that will be given during the final exam schedule. The final exam will be partially cumulative, but that will be explained fully later in the semester.

### **EXCUSED ABSENCES AND LIFE DIFFICULTIES**

Excused absences MUST have documentation. If you are sick and stay home your roommate, spouse, parent sending a note with you is NOT an excused absence. If you are sick, go to the doctor/health center/urgent care/ER, otherwise come to class.

Life can get difficult. Schedule a meeting and talk to me or send me an email explaining your circumstances. If you are going to miss a month of class you need to talk to me and you really need to talk with your academic advisor about the appropriate route to take to continue your academic journey.

### **GROUP PROJECT**

Exploring Psychology

Select an area of psychology from the list of the divisions of APA. For that area your group is to explore this division of psychology in-depth. You will be in groups of 3-4 students. Your final grade is worth 30% of your grade and will be made up of the grade of your paper outline, final paper, presentation, and group member evaluation. Each group member will anonymously give a grade and evaluation of each individual member based on that member's effort and contribution.

### **DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

<http://www.spsu.edu/catalog/ugrad/regulations.html#behavior>

A faculty member reserves the right to remove any student from his or her course if the student's behavior is of a disruptive nature or if there is evidence of academic dishonesty. In instances of disruptive behavior and/or academic dishonesty, the faculty member will discuss the circumstances with the student(s) before taking final action. In the event the student cannot be reached, he or she will be given the grade of "Incomplete" until such time as he or she can be reached. The student shall have the right of appeal of the faculty member's decision

- first to the faculty member's Department Chair
- then to the appropriate school dean,
- and, if necessary, to the Vice President for Academic Affairs

Removal from a course under this provision will result in a grade of "F". A grade of "F" issued under these circumstances shall not be superseded by a voluntary withdrawal, and will be included in the student's cumulative grade point average calculated for graduation purposes.

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the counselor working with disabilities at 678-915-7244 as soon as possible to better assure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

### **EMERGENCY PLAN**

In the case of an emergency, such as H1N1 Flu outbreak, or some type of emergency where the campus is shut down for more than 2 days, I will execute my emergency course continuation plan. During this time it is vitally important that you continue to check your SPSU email because the university and I will use that medium as a first line of contact. I will conduct our classes via Skype, where you can login, see me, and have discussions. Also, the PowerPoint slides will be emailed to you prior to the beginning of class. To access Skype all you need is an internet connect and to

download the software. It is just like Instant Messaging, but with greater flexibility because outside phone lines can call in as well. My Skype ID: drjamyehickman

### EXTRA CREDIT

The counseling center offers several activities throughout the semester, such as skillshops and career fairs. As these opportunities are announced by the counseling center you will be given 1 point extra credit for each campus-wide activity attended (up to 5 extra credit points). These points will be added to your final grade point average. I will explain this more during the semester.

### GRADING

Your final grade is determined as follows:

- 100-90 is an A
- 89-80 is a B
- 79-70 is a C
- 69-60 is a D
- below 60 is failing

Your final grade will be determined based on the following weightings:

- Regular Exams (5, lowest dropped)      40%
- Final Exam      15%
- Group project/Paper      30%
- In-class assignments/activities      10%
- Attendance      05%

### ANTICIPATED COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS (subject to change; updates will be distributed in class or web)

Date		Modules/Readings	Deliverable/Deadline
8/24/2009	Monday	1. Introductions/Course Syllabus	
8/26/2009	Wednesday	1. Discovering Psychology	
8/28/2009	Friday	APA format – in class activity	
8/31/2009	Monday	2. Psychology & Science	
9/2/2009	Wednesday	3. Brain's Building Blocks	
9/4/2009	Friday	3. Brain's Building Blocks	
9/7/2009	Monday	<b>No Class – Labor Day</b>	Groups formed
9/9/2009	Wednesday	4. Incredible Nervous System	
9/11/2009	Friday	4. Incredible Nervous System	
9/14/2009	Monday	<b>Exam 1 – CH 1, 2, 3, &amp; 4</b>	
9/16/2009	Wednesday	5. Sensation	
9/18/2009	Friday	5. Sensation/ 6. Perception	Topic Selection due
9/21/2009	Monday	<b>Return Exam 1 – in class activity</b>	
9/23/2009	Wednesday	6. Perception	
9/25/2009	Friday	7. Sleep & Dreams	

9/28/2009	Monday	8. Hypnosis & Drugs	
9/30/2009	Wednesday	<b>Exam 2 – CH 5, 6, 7, &amp; 8</b>	
10/2/2009	Friday	9. Classical Conditioning	
10/5/2009	Monday	10. Operant & Cognitive Approaches	
10/7/2009	Wednesday	<b>Return Exam 2 – in class activity</b>	
10/9/2009	Friday	11. Types of Memory	Topic Outline due
10/12/2009	Monday	12. Remembering & Forgetting	
10/14/2009	Wednesday	<b>Exam 3 – CH 9, 10, 11, 12</b>	
10/16/2009	Friday	13. Intelligence	
10/19/2009	Monday	14. Thought & Language	
10/21/2009	Wednesday	<b>Return Exam 3 – in class activity</b>	
10/23/2009	Friday	15. Motivation	
10/26/2009	Monday	16. Emotion	
10/28/2009	Wednesday	<b>Exam 4 – CH 13, 14, 15, 16</b>	
10/30/2009	Friday	17. Infancy & Childhood	
11/2/2009	Monday	18. Adolescence & Adulthood	
11/4/2009	Wednesday	<b>Return Exam 4 – in class activity</b>	
11/6/2009	Friday	19. Freudian & Humanistic Theories	
11/9/2009	Monday	20. Social Cognitive & Trait Theories	
11/11/2009	Wednesday	<b>Exam 5 – CH 17, 18, 19, 20</b>	
11/13/2009	Friday	21. Health, Stress, & Coping	
11/16/2009	Monday	22. Assessment & Anxiety Disorders	
11/18/2009	Wednesday	<b>Return Exam 5 – in class activity</b>	
11/20/2009	Friday	23. Mood Disorder & Schizophrenia	Final group paper early turn-in (5 pts)
11/23/2009	Monday	24. Therapies	Final group paper
11/25/2009	Wednesday	<b>No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday</b>	
11/30/2009	Friday	<b>No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday</b>	
12/2/2009	Wednesday	25. Social Psychology	
12/4/2009	Friday	<b>Topic Presentations</b>	
12/7/2009	Monday	<b>Topic Presentations</b>	
12/9/2009	Wednesday	<b>Topic Presentations</b>	
		<b>Final Exam – CH 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, plus previous chapters</b>	