

Syllabus for: PSYCHOLOGY 1 – GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY	
Semester & Year:	FALL SEMESTER, 2012
Course ID & Section Number:	032207, 01
Number of Credits/Units:	3
Day/Time:	MON/WED, 0830 TO 0955
Location:	DM 15
Instructor's Name:	MANCUS
Contact Information:	Office location and hours: E3, T/H 1415 to 1530 or BY APPT. Phone: 707-465-2362 Email: PHILIP-MANCUS@REDWOODS.EDU
Course Description (catalog description as described in course outline): A COURSE FOCUSING ON THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF BEHAVIOR AND MENTAL PROCESSES. THE CONTENT OF THE COURSE FOCUSES ON THE EXPLORATION OF MAJOR THEORIES AND CONCEPTS, METHODS, AND RESEARCH FINDINGS IN PSYCHOLOGY. TOPICS INCLUDE BIOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS, PERCEPTION, LEARNING, COGNITION, EMOTION, MOTIVATION, DEVELOPMENT, PERSONALITY, SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY, PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDERS AND THERAPIES, AND APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY. THIS COURSE IS TRANSFERABLE TO FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES AND IS A PREREQUISITE FOR MOST UPPER DIVISION PSYCHOLOGY COURSES.	
Student Learning Outcomes (as described in course outline) : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ANALYZE PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND SYNTHESIZE INFORMATION IN WRITING. 2. ANALYZE HOW EXPERIENCE, CULTURE, LEARNING AND BIOLOGY AFFECT BEHAVIOR AND COGNITIVE PROCESSES. 3. EXPLAIN CONCEPTS IN AREAS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL THEORY AND RESEARCH WHILE REPRESENTING APPROPRIATE BREADTH AND DEPTH OF KNOWLEDGE. 	
Special accommodations: College of the Redwoods complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request at least one week before the first test so that necessary arrangements can be made. No last-minute arrangements or post-test adjustments will be made. If you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability related services and may need accommodations, please see me or contact Disabled Students Programs and Services. Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS.	
Academic Misconduct: Cheating, plagiarism, collusion, abuse of resource materials, computer misuse, fabrication or falsification, multiple submissions, complicity in academic misconduct, and/ or bearing false witness will not be tolerated. Violations will be dealt with according to the procedures and sanctions proscribed by the College of the Redwoods. Students caught plagiarizing or cheating on exams will receive an "F" in the course. The student code of conduct is available on the College of the Redwoods website at: http://www.redwoods.edu/District/Board/New/Chapter5/Ap5500.pdf	
College of the Redwoods is committed to equal opportunity in employment, admission to the college, and in the conduct of all of its programs and activities.	

Syllabus

PSYCH 1: General Psychology

Credit: 3 units

Section: 032207

Fall Semester 2012

Del Norte Education Center, Room 15

~~Tuesday & Thursday~~, 8:30 A.M. to 9:55 A.M.

M/W

Instructor: Philip Mancus

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<http://dn.redwoods.edu/coursenotes/mancus/>

General Psychology: Catalog Description

A course focusing on the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. The content of the course focuses on the exploration of major theories and concepts, methods, and research findings in psychology. Topics include biological foundations, perception, learning, cognition, emotion, motivation, development, personality, social psychology, psychological disorders and therapies, and applied psychology. This course is transferable to four-year colleges and is a prerequisite for most upper division psychology courses.

Rationale For the Course

For centuries human beings have attempted to understand and explain what makes us human. How does the mind work, what is consciousness, how do we learn and think, what do dreams mean, what makes for individual variation in personality? Most attempts to answer these and similar questions have taken the form of speculation (philosophy), tradition (religion, custom, superstition), and bias (common sense). Systematic and empirical investigation into the human condition developed into a full fledged science late in the 19th century, and by the 20th century the discipline of Psychology was well on its way to being an influential area of research and knowledge. In this class you will become familiar with the basic concepts and theories of Psychology and apply these insights to your own life.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of the term you should be able to:

1. Analyze psychological research and synthesize information in writing.
2. Analyze how experience, culture, learning and biology affect behavior and cognitive processes.
3. Explain concepts in areas of psychological theory and research while representing appropriate breadth and depth of knowledge.

Required Textbook

The following *required* textbook is available at the CRDN Bookstore and/or from various booksellers online:

Psychology: Themes and Variations – Briefer Version, 8th edition, by Wayne Weiten (2009).
New York: Thomson Wadsworth.

A copy *Psychology: Themes and Variations* is on reserve at the circulation desk in the CR Del Norte library.

Assignments, Evaluation, and Grading

Your grade in this course will be based on the following:

Class Attendance and Participation (15%) Regular attendance and class participation are keys to success in all your classes and this class is no exception. Please be sure that you keep up with the chapter readings and are prepared to take notes and to discuss the material in class. Group discussion, activities, and in-class exercises will make up an important part of your day-to-day experience in this course.

Take-Home Assignments (15%) Written assignments comprise an important part of your learning experience, and your grade. Completion of assignments and handing them in on time is a key to success in this and all your classes.

Exams (50%) You will take ~~four~~ ^{three} exams during the semester. Exams will consist of a combination of multiple-choice, true/false, matching, sentence completion, short answer, essay, and other methods. You will have the entire period to take the exams. If you miss an exam without a legitimate excuse you will receive a zero for the exam. I will not allow make-up exams for any reason other than legitimate absences as defined below in the section on Missed Work. Please bring a green Scantron sheet and Number 2 pencil to the exams.

Please Note: On an exam you may be tested on any information found in the assigned reading, whether or not it is explicitly covered in class. The converse is also true: you may be tested on the material covered in class even if it is not found in the assigned reading.

Term Paper (20%) Your term paper for this class will be on a topic of your choosing that has psychological significance. The paper is to be written in two parts, a proposal draft (5 points) and a final draft (15 points). Each draft of the paper must be typed and properly formatted, with the final draft being approximately five pages in length (no less than four and no more than six pages) and is due at the end of the term. See Research Paper Guidelines for more information.

Please Note: I will not accept assignments, papers, or other coursework via email. All work done for credit must be submitted in hard copy to me or in my office mailbox.

Please Note: There are no extra-credit opportunities.

Calculating Your Final Score

Thirty class periods (variable number of in-class activities)	15 percent
Five take-home assignments	15 percent
Three exams	50 percent
Term Paper	20 percent
Total	100 percent

Grading Scale I use the standard CR grading scale below for determining your final grade. An **Incomplete (I)** is given at your instructor's discretion and will only be granted to those students who continue to come to class, have completed all prior work, and who make arrangements with me by the end of the 15th week. **Pass/No Pass (P/NP)** is an option that you must initiate on your own at the main office.

<u>Final Score</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Final Score</u>	<u>Grade</u>
93-100	A	77-79	C+
90-92	A-	70-76	C
87-89	B+	60-69	D
83-86	B	59 or below	F
80-82	B-		

Attendance and Enrollment

My policy is as follows:

- Attendance is expected of everyone. I keep track of attendance and consult that information when responding to requests made by you. Excessive absences may negatively affect your ability to learn the course material and may ultimately result in being dropped from the course.
- If the class has reached its maximum number of students (capped), you must sign up for the waiting list. You must then show up the first day of the course to gain permission to enroll in the class.
- If you miss the first day of class and the course is capped and someone else is on the waiting list to register for the course, you will be dropped from the course and will be responsible for getting on the waiting list to get back into class.
- After the first day of class, if you miss any of the subsequent classes prior to census day, you will be dropped from the course and will not be recorded on the census roll. Please do not ask me to make accommodations for your schedule or to allow you to miss one of these important attendance dates.
- After census day it is your responsibility to withdraw from the class if you are having trouble completing the requirements for the course.
- After the last day for a student initiated drop (see Academic Calendar, below), students who have missed more than one third of the total number of class periods that we meet and who have failed to complete at least two thirds of the required coursework will be manually dropped from the course. Faculty may now withdraw students for non-participation in a class after census through the end of the 10th week of the term (for fall 2012, this date is 11/04/12). I will attempt to contact you via your CR email address before I do, but if you do not respond within a week to my query I will initiate the drop myself.
- However, if you do not withdraw from the class before the last day to request a student initiated drop and your absences are below the maximum allowed, I will not drop you from the course and you will receive the grade that corresponds to the points you have earned.