

Syllabus for: (name of class) General Psychology / Psych. 1	
Semester & Year:	Fall 2012
Course ID and Section Number:	Psych1-E1959
Number of Credits/Units:	4
Day/Time:	TTH 2:50-4:15pm
Location:	CA 113
Instructor's Name:	Deanna Herrera-Thomas
Contact Information:	Office location and hours: CA 133 Phone: 476-4307 Email:Deanna-Herrerathomas@redwoods.edu
Course Description (catalog description as described in course outline): An introduction to empirical factors that influence human behavior, child development, learning, cognition, motivation and emotion, personality, social processes, biology and pathology.	
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.	

Psychology 1-E1959 (031959) General Psychology TTH 2:50-4:15

Meeting Information:

08/28/1012-2013 Room 113 Creative Arts.

Instructor Information:

Faculty Dr. Deanna Herrera-Thomas Extension X4307 Email Deanna-Herrerathomas@redwoods.edu

Office Hours M-Th. 11:30-12:30 Please schedule an appointment in advance or catch me after class.

Course Description

An introduction to empirical factors that influence human behavior, child development, learning, cognition, motivation and emotion, personality, social processes, biology and pathology.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to provide you with a foundational understanding of the riveting field of psychology.

Although this will not be an easy task, it need not be painful and we should have **fun** accomplishing this goal.

Keeping up with reading and assignments is essential to your success in this course. Be assured that no one has ever died as a result of taking this course and most students who read, work responsibly alone and in their groups while keeping up with assignments will pass the class.

Lecture content does not always follow the text as the instructor reserves the right to focus discussion on areas that elaborate on specific ideas or research presented by the text in any given chapter. Please give yourself the best possible foundation for success by attending lectures and completing all reading assignments. **Take bonus points/extra credit assignments seriously and turn them in on time!**

Course Texts

Weiten, W. (2007). Psychology: Themes and Variations Briefer Version (8th Ed.) Thomson Wadsworth.

Please note that you will be responsible for reading the material in the texts. It is critical that you read the chapter (s) before we discuss them in class. For example, you should have already read Chapter Three before the start of the third week. Although related material from the chapters will be discussed in class, course activities are intended to enhance your learning, not to simply review the reading material, so both attendance and reading are necessary for success in this class. **Also, the schedule below is a general outline of how we will proceed in covering the topics, but it may not always be adhered to depending upon the timing of class events, discussions and presentations. The instructor will announce in class any adjustments to the timing of topics covered or to the calendar in general.**

Student Learning Outcomes:

- 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.**

Student Learning Outcomes will be evinced by writing assignments, take home quizzes, in-class exams, oral reports and in-class activities.

Week	Topic	Reading	Assignments	Schedule Notes
I. Aug. 28 & Aug. 30	History	Chapter 1	Read	
II. Sep.4 & 6	Research	Chapter 2		
III. Sep.11 & 13	Biological Basis of Behavior	Chapter 3	Census is the 10 th Take Home Quiz I	
IV. Sep. 18 & 20	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 4		
V. Sep. 25 &27	Variations in Consciousness	Chapter 5		
VI. Oct. 2 & 4	Learning	Chapter 6		
VII. Oct. 9 & 11	Memory	Chapter 7		
VIII. Oct. 16 & 18	Motivation and Emotion	Chapter 9		
IX.	Human Development	Chapter 10	Quiz I Due	

Oct. 23 & 25				
X. Oct. 30 & Nov. 1	Personality Theory	Chapter 11	Midterm Take Home Quiz II	
XI. Nov. 6 & 8	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 13		
XII. Nov. 13 & 15	Treatment of Disorders	Chapter 14		
XIII. Nov. 20	Social Psychology	Chapter 15	No class on Nov.22	
XIX. Nov. 27 & 29	Review		Presentations Return Quiz II	
XX. Dec. 4 & 6	Review		Presentations	
XXI. Dec. 10-15			Final Exams	

Important Dates:

Census Day: Sep. 3 (DROP YOURSELF BY THIS DAY if you plan to drop the class). If you drop after this day then you will get an "F" in the class.

All College Holidays:

Veterans Day: Nov. 12, Thanksgiving, 22, 23rd and 23, Winter Break Dec. 17- Jan. 11.

Course Requirements and Grading

Students will be graded on attendance, performance on tests, class participation and class projects. Part of class participation includes acting appropriately as a responsible collaborator on group projects.

- *Tests* (275 points)

There will be three take home quizzes, one midterm and a final exam. The quizzes will consist of 25 multiple-choice items each worth 1 point. The first one will be a take-home study exam and will be designed to help you keep up with the reading. The second two are designed to test your understanding of the concepts rather than whether you read the material. They will be take-home as well and will be based on material covered in the book, lectures and video segments shown in class.

The midterm (100 points) will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions worth 2 points each, while the final exam (100 points) will include both multiple-choice and essay questions.

*****Late exams will not be accepted without exception*****

- *Group Research Paper and Focus Groups* (100 points)

You will be assigned a focus group where you will be given the opportunity to discuss topics and to engage in classroom activities related to the material presented in class. This group will also generate one research paper that will be presented to the class. The paper and presentation together are worth 100 points. Refer to research paper handout. **Please begin group projects ASAP after Midterm.** You will have 6 weeks to complete the project.

What if you don't want to work in a group? This is not an option unless there are serious and compelling reasons that you can demonstrate with documented evidence for being unable to participate.

Assignments	Points
Quiz 1 =	25 Pts.
Quiz 2 =	25 Pts.
Quiz 3=	25 Pts.
Midterm =	100 Pts.
Final =	100 Pts.
Group Research Paper =	100 Pts.
Participation=	25 Pts.

Bonus points=

20 Pts.

Bonus points will be made available throughout the semester. If you are absent when these are announced or collected you will not be eligible for them.

Grading Scale:

372-400=A (93%+)	332-345=B (83-86%)	280-307=C (70-76%)
360-371=A-(90-92%)	320-331=B- (80-82%)	240-277=D (60-69%)
348-359=B+(87-89%)	308-319=C+ (77-79%)	236 and below=F (59%-?)

Concerning disruptive behavior: Please be advised that students are expected to participate in class discourse, not private discussions during class time. Also, it is essential that students do not interrupt each other's speech (or the instructor's), yell, call each other (or the instructor) names or engage in disorderly behavior. Any student disrupting class will be asked to leave and administrative follow-up will result. Additionally, a student attending class while under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be asked to leave. Passing notes between students is prohibited. If I request that you move from your chair to another due to your disrespectful behavior you will be expected to move, otherwise I will ask you to leave class. Excessive questioning or badgering the instructor is not tolerated. Please refer to the student code of conduct in the CR district catalog if you have any questions about appropriate behaviors.

Any comments that clearly disregard the rights of other students to enjoy a safe intellectual climate in the classroom will not be tolerated.

The use of electronics is strictly prohibited (yes, this means no cell phones, texting and or computer use, etc.) by the CR student code of conduct. This does not apply if electronics are permitted for accommodations of disabilities, evinced by a notification from DRC, or due to an emergency situation.

Two verbal warnings will be given, one written warning and then notification of suspension from class. Suspension will be determined by the instructor as to whether the student will miss one or two class periods. Assignments or tests due on the dates missed will not be available to be retaken or turned in at another time.

This course will address content that is based on evolutionary (scientific) and cross-cultural models of behavior and will at times present controversial ideas and materials as they relate to the field of psychology. All opinions communicated by the instructor will be research-based. Because the fields of applied psychology and social psychology are closely interwoven with political events and decisions, we will explore how these areas of knowledge and politics mutually affect one another. Your grade will not be determined by your personal political beliefs and will be calculated based upon your performance in the class as evinced by your participation, ability to

analyze material, and all other criteria articulated in the syllabus. This class is geared towards adults; if you are not an adult you will be treated as one regardless of your age and under no circumstances will I speak with parents regarding your status in this class.

Speakers will be invited to speak to the class occasionally to highlight concepts. Their views are not endorsed by the college or by me, but are utilized to encourage class discussion.

This course will also address issues related to human sexuality (as it relates to human motivation), torture, racism, human genocide and war (as they relate to social psychological principles) and child rearing practices (human development). Images of the nude human body may be shown. **A student enrolled in this course should be aware that this is a college level class.**

Please inform the instructor of any disability accommodations needed. If you think that you may have a disability please let the instructor know so that we can work together to provide you with the resources that could be available to you (testing, access to the DRC, etc.).

