

Syllabus for: Psychology 1	
Semester & Year:	Fall 2012
Course ID and Section Number:	PSYCH 1 - #032424
Number of Credits/Units:	3
Day/Time:	Wednesday 6:00 p.m. – 9:10 p.m.
Location:	Room 111, Mendocino Coast Education Center
Instructor's Name:	Steven Siler
Contact Information:	Office location and hours: available by appointment Phone: 707-937-1316 Email: steve-siler@redwoods.edu or silermfc@mcn.org

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) :**
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.

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Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the college catalog and on the College of the Redwoods homepage.

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: General Psychology
College of the Redwoods, Mendocino Coast Campus

Fall 2012 Syllabus

Course ID: PSYCH 1

Course section: # 032424

Number of credits: 3

Day/time: Wednesdays 6:00 – 9:10 pm

Instructor: Steven Siler

e-mail: steve-siler@redwoods.edu or silermfc@mcn.org

off-campus office number: (707) 937-1316

office hours: available throughout the week by appointment; please arrange in advance

Textbook Information

The course textbook is available in the bookstore and on reserve in the library:

Text: Psychology: Themes and Variations, 8th Edition, Wayne Weiten, Wadsworth
Cengage Learning

In addition, there will also be reading assignments handed out in class, assigned on-line website articles, and open research assignments.

Course Description:

Psychology is 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.

English 150 is a recommended prerequisite. Students must be able to write at this level of skill.

Student learning outcomes:

1. Draw connections between research findings and their theoretical implications.
2. Develop an overview of the scientific field of psychology including the major theoretical approaches.
3. Draw the distinction between scientific and non-scientific methods of understanding and analysis
4. Relate the areas of psychology to each other and to other fields within the Social Sciences.
5. Compare and contrast the assumptions and methods of psychology with those of other disciplines

6. Respect and use scientific approaches to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.
7. Demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, core empirical findings and historic trends in psychology (e.g. the history of intelligence testing)
8. Identify and explain the primary objectives of psychology: describing, understanding, predicting and influencing behavior and mental processes
9. Explain (including advantages and disadvantages) and compare major theoretical perspectives of psychology (e.g. behavioral, biological, cognitive, evolutionary, humanistic, psychodynamic and socio-cultural)
10. Describe major applied areas of psychology (e.g. clinical, counseling, industrial/organizational, human factors, school and health)
11. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding representing appropriate breadth and depth in selected content areas of psychological theory and research representing each of the following nine general domains: (1) biological bases of behavior and mental processes, (2) sensation and perception, (3) learning, (4) cognition, (5) individual differences, psychometrics, personality, (6) social processes (including those related to socio-cultural and international dimensions), (7) developmental changes in behavior and mental processes that occur across the lifespan, (8) psychological disorders, and (9) emotion, motivation
12. Explain the interaction between heredity and the environment
13. Recognize, understand, and respect the importance of the impact of diversity on psychological research, theory, and application, including (but not limited to) race, ethnicity, culture, gender, socio-economic status, disability and sexual orientation
14. Apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues
15. Develop insight into their own and others behavior and mental processes and apply effective strategies for self management and self improvement
16. Develop awareness of the principles embodied in the APA code of ethics
17. Demonstrate information competence (e.g. locate and choose relevant sources from appropriate media, read and accurately summarize the general scientific literature for an area of psychology and search the World Wide Web for high quality information)

Class Guidelines

Expect lectures, group discussions, individual and group exercises, films and exams in class. Additional out-of-class activities will include readings (with required written responses), web research, and personal reflection. Expect to spend 1 - 3 hours per week outside of class on homework assignments. Please complete all assigned readings prior to class. Assessment will include both mid-term and final essay exams, writing a series of 4 papers responding to additional assigned readings, and participation in various classroom activities.

The complexity of our society today requires that we have well developed critical thinking skills which require considered thought and a sensitivity to a wide range of views on important issues. These skills will be fostered in this course as we explore several charged and perhaps controversial issues. You are expected to prepare yourself for discussion, questioning and informed debate on these issues. You are expected to be respectful of other students' opinions even when they are directly opposed to your own views.

The mid-term and final essay exams must be taken at the scheduled time. The only exceptions are illness and personal emergency. If you have such problems, contact me immediately, preferably before the exam. Late work will not be accepted.

Please, let's have a clear understanding that there is no place in class for cheating or plagiarism. Copying someone else's work is cheating, and so is allowing someone else to copy your work. Portraying someone else's ideas or words as your own is plagiarism. Not giving credit for the source of the ideas, even if you have reworded the work, is also plagiarism.

I expect you to be present, prompt, prepared and focused on the activities of the class. Many of the class activities involve discussion, and sharing of ideas and insights. Establishing a classroom environment which includes a sense of community is important. Expect to participate and support such a classroom atmosphere. This is not a class in which you can get by just taking lecture notes and completing the exams. If you are habitually late for class, unprepared, or detract from the goals of the class, we'll need to meet privately and re-assess your continued enrollment in the course. If you miss 3 classes in a row without contacting me or if you miss more than 4 meetings in the semester, I'll drop you from the class. It is your responsibility to initiate an official withdrawal with the registrar's office. If you don't officially withdraw with the registrar, you may find an "F" on your transcript because you didn't follow up with official procedures to drop the class. Please don't let this happen. If you drop the class, be sure and follow the procedures to have your name removed from the roll.

Finally, a word of counsel. I intend for the course to be personal, challenging and rigorous. The implications of the impact of the key concepts of psychology on our selves and our society is profound. A serious examination of this field requires deep personal reflection, sophisticated insight, mature reasoning and college level communication skills. I expect the material I'll be presenting to challenge your thinking, stimulate exciting discussion, open new lines of consideration and compel you to reconsider your perspectives regarding personal identity, cultural norms and the foundations of who and how we think we are.

Classroom Decorum

Maintaining a serious academic standards in the classroom is important to me. I like a relaxed and friendly atmosphere as well. To do both just needs a clear understanding of

expectations, specifically:

- Use the bathrooms either before or after class. Don't leave class to use the bathroom and return to class a few minutes later. It's interruptive and distracting. I'll provide a break mid-way during each class as well.
- Be on time. If there is a problem or conflict in your scheduling that makes arriving on time difficult, please discuss it with me before the course begins.
- Stay until class is dismissed. Please don't leave early.
- Don't use cell phones, including texting, during class. No exceptions.
- Turn in all work on time. Track assignments given in class and assume personal responsibility for their timely completion.

Grading Policy

The grading policy for the class is as follows: Your grade for this course is determined by the quality of your learning as demonstrated by your performance in the following areas:

- * 4 1-2 page "Response Papers" (worth 50 points each)
critiquing or responding to specific assigned readings, discussions, or in-class activities. Each assignment will be introduced and discussed in class, then students will be given a week to write their paper, submitting their finished work at the next class meeting.
- * Mid-Term take-home essay exam (worth 100 points)
- * Final take-home essay exam (worth 100 points)

Grade Breakdown

Response papers:	200 points
Mid-term exam:	100 points
Final exam:	<u>100 points</u>
	400 points total

400 - 350	A
350 - 300	B
300 - 250	C
250 - 200	D
<200	F

Two optional extra-credit assignments will be developed during the semester to improve your grade. It is your responsibility to check your grade regularly and stay in touch with me about your status. I am open to modifying assignments to meet individual needs or interests as long as the integrity of the work is preserved.

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Class Calendar

Wednesday, August 29	Introduction to Psychology	readings: text, Chpt 1
Wednesday, Sept. 5	the Art & Science of Psychology	readings: text, Chpt 2
Wednesday, Sept 12	the Brain <i>Response Paper # 1 due</i>	readings text Chpt 3
Wednesday, Sept 19	Sensation & Perception	readings: text Chpt 4
Wednesday, Sept 26	Variations in Consciousness	readings: text, Chpt 5
Wednesday, Oct 3	Learning <i>Response Paper # 2 due</i>	readings: text Chpt 6
Wednesday, Oct 10	Memory	readings: text, Chpt 7
Wednesday, Oct 17	Cognition & Intelligence <i>Mid Term Exam due</i>	readings: text, Chpt 8
Wednesday, Oct 24	Motivation & Emotion	readings: text, Chpt 9
Wednesday, Oct 31	Life Span & Human Development	readings: text, Chpt 10
Wednesday, Nov 7	Personality <i>Response Paper #3 due</i>	readings: text, Chpt 11
Wednesday, Nov 14	Stress	readings: text, Chpt 12
Wednesday, Nov 21	Psychological Disorders	readings Text, Chpt 13
Wednesday, Nov 28	Strategies & Treatment <i>Response Paper # 4 due</i>	readings: text, Chpt 14
Wednesday, Dec 5	Social Behavior	readings: text, Chpt 15

Wednesday, Dec 12

Review & Conclusions
Final Exam due