

Syllabus for: Psych 1 – General Psychology	
Semester & Year:	Fall 2013
Course ID and Section Number:	Psych -1 E3936
Number of Credits/Units:	3
Day/Time:	Wednesday 6:05 – 9:15
Location:	Creative Arts
Instructor’s Name:	Tonja Speed
Contact Information:	Office location and hours: Creative Arts 109 Email: Tonja-speed@redwoods.edu
<p>Course Description (catalog description as described in course outline): 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 applied psychology, biological foundations, cognition, development, emotion, learning, motivation, personality, psychological disorders and therapies, and social psychology. This course is transferable to transferable four-year colleges and is a prerequisite for most upper division psychology courses.</p>	
<p>Student Learning Outcomes (as described in course outline) :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyze psychological research and synthesize in writing. 2. Analyze how experience, culture, learning and biology affect behavior and cognitive processes. 3. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding representing appropriate breadth and depth in selected content areas of psychological theory and research. 	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>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</p>	

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.

**General Psychology
Fall 2013**

Section E3936

Wednesday 6:05 – 9:15pm

Creative Arts Bldg. Rm 109



**Instructor: Tonja Speed, MA Psychology
Office & Office Hours: T.B.A**

E-mail: Tonja-Speed@redwoods.edu

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 applied psychology, biological foundations, cognition, development, emotion, learning, motivation, personality, psychological disorders and therapies, and social psychology. This course is transferable to transferable four-year colleges and is a prerequisite for most upper division psychology courses.

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Required Text:

Weiten, W., (2011-2013). Psychology: Themes and Variations 9th Edition Wadsworth Cengage Learning

Consideration Code

- Please respect the opinions of fellow students by not insulting or demeaning their comments. Violation of this code may lead to a student's dismissal from the course.
- Please turn off cell phones before class begins. No texting either.
- Arrive to class on time, but if you do arrive late, please enter the class quietly.
- Please don't start packing up your belongings until at least 5 minutes before the class ends, unless you need to leave early.
- Please no eating in class. (Janitors rule)
- Please read the College of the Redwoods student's code of conduct, as those rules apply in this class.

Notice

*Chapter readings should be done before the class meeting date. Reading the chapters beforehand is important in order to gain a better understanding of the lectures and discussions for that day/week.

Schedule:

DATES	TOPIC	READINGS/ ASSIGNMENTS
August 28 th	Introduction to Psychology History of Psychology	Chapter 1 – Evolution of Psychology
September 4 th	Research	Reaction Paper Due – Improving Academic Performance (Personal Application) Chapter 2 – The Research Enterprise in Psychology
September 11 th	Biological Bases of Behavior	Chapter 3 – The Biological Bases of Behavior
September 18th	Sensation and Perception Quiz #1	Chapter 4 – Sensation and Perception Research Article Summary #1 Due: September 18th
September 25 th	Consciousness	Chapter 5 – Variations in Consciousness
October 2nd	Exam #1 Chapters 1-4 Classical Conditioning	Chapter 6 – Learning
October 9 th	Operant Conditioning & Memory	Chapter 7 – Human Memory
October 16th	Memory & Quiz #2	Share Research Article
October 23 rd	Intelligence	Due: Research Article Summary #2 Chapter 8 – Cognition and Intelligence
October 30 th	Exam #2 Chapters 5-7 Human Development	Chapter 10 – Human Development Across the Life Span

November 4 th	Health Psychology	Research Paper Outline Due Chapter 13 – Stress, Coping, and Health Motivation and Emotion
November 13 th	Personality Quiz #3	Chapter 11 – Personality
November 20 th	Personality & Disorders Exam #3 Chapters 8,10,13	Chapter 12 – Psychological Disorders
November 27 th	Disorders & Treatment	Chapter 14 – Treatment of Disorders
December 4 th	Treatment	<i>Research Paper Due December 4th</i>
December 11 th	Final Exam (Final Time TBA)	

Notice

*Chapter readings should be done before the class meeting date. Reading the chapters beforehand is important in order to gain a better understanding of the lectures and discussions for that day/week. Quizzes will be given throughout the semester in order to test for reading comprehension.

*This class schedule is subject to change at any time. I will notify the class of any changes and it is the responsibility of the student to update changes via asking another student or contacting the instructor.

Grading:

You can earn a total of 915 points throughout the semester. Points will be divided up accordingly:

Quizzes: 75 points

Exams: 300 points

Final Exam: 100 points

Paper: 125 points

Participation: 125

Outline: 40 points

Research Articles: 100

Reaction Paper: 50

*** 5 point penalty for late assignments ***

Student Withdrawal from class:

Please note that if you decide not to continue with the class you must drop the class officially. Instructors will drop students that do not attend the first 3 weeks of class, after that it must be initiated by the student. The last day to drop without a “W” is **09/06/2013**. The last day for a student initiated drop is **11/01/2013**.

Attendance:

Please be aware that if you decide to not continue with the class you should drop the class and let me know about your decision. An Administrative procedure, (AP) 5075, now allows instructors to withdraw students from class for non-participation through the 10th week of class. Non-participation includes missing 3 classes in a row and not taking test, exams or turning in assignments. If you need to miss class due to illness or emergency please let me know. Census date is **09/09/13**, where I will dropping students that have not been participating in class. The end of the 10th week is **11/01/13**. Please keep me informed of anything that is interfering with your participation/attendance in this class.

Class Participation:

In order for you to learn the material, it is important that you interact with it, by taking part in discussions and listening to the material being presented. I encourage you to ask questions and offer opinions on the subject matter. It is therefore also important that you be present at every class meeting. If you are not present at a class, please make every effort to get notes from another student.

Class Projects:

There may be several in-class projects or papers worth 1-5 points each, which will be included as part of class participation. These projects or papers will be exercises designed to stimulate the use of psychological theories into real life applications. If you are absent when a class project or paper is assigned, we should talk.

The topics discussed in class will stimulate class discussions. Discussion will be an important time for learning. For this to happen in a comfortable environment, students need to be respectful of each other. College of the Redwoods has a student code of conduct outlining appropriate classroom behavior. Failure to comply with the code of conduct will result in a request to leave the class.

Quizzes:

We will have 3 quizzes throughout the semester on the material from the text. The quizzes will consist of 25 multiple choice questions worth 1 point each. If you are not able to make it to class on the day of the quiz please let the instructor know as soon as you are aware of this so that arrangements can be made. Make ups will not be given after the quizzes are graded and returned.

Exams: (100 points each)

Three exams and a Final Exam will be given during the semester. They may consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank and/or short answer/essay questions. You must take the exam on or before the date of the exam. No make-up exams will be given after they have been graded and returned.

Research Article Summary: (50 points each)

This assignment is to provide you with exposure to primary research in the field of psychology. There will be 2 research article assignments. Students will provide a summary of a current peer reviewed scholarly journal article. The assignment will begin with an APA referenced format and include a section regarding the research question, hypothesis, methodology, results, significance of research and a conclusion. The paper will be no longer than a page. A handout will be provided.

Reaction Paper (50 points each)

The purpose of this assignment is utilize critical thinking skills and provide exposure to the personal application of psychology. The paper will be no more than 2 pages long double spaced in APA format. Each paper will include a summary of the reading showing your understanding of the main idea of the readings. In addition, you will describe and provide an analysis or evaluation of the readings and your reaction to the readings. A handout will be provided.

Research Paper:

Research papers are due on **December 4th**. A typed outline of the paper including the topic at least 2 research articles from a peer reviewed journal is due on **November 4th**. The outline is worth 40 points and the paper is worth 125 points. Each day that the paper is late 10 points will be deducted. **No papers will be accepted after December 4th**. A handout will be provided. In addition, please **do not e-mail** your research **papers**. A hardcopy must be provided.

Choose a topic from the following list. (Topics that are **not** included on this list **must be approved**.)

1. Research different fields in psychology explain them and then examine what field you are interested and why.
2. Research a major theorist that has contributed to the field of psychology. Give her/his history and describe their theory of counseling along with how individuals change.
3. Research a major psychological disorder and its current recommended treatments.
4. Research sleep and current theories on dreaming.
5. Examine current research on sex differences in the brain.
6. What is the current research on the brains ability to repair itself after injury?
7. What are the effects of psychological medications on the brain?
8. Research autism and the effects on language, learning, behavior and the current treatments available.
9. Examine the current research on perceptual differences in individuals with a hearing or vision deficit.
10. Research the different ways that behavior modification is being utilized to treat disorders in children.
11. What does research indicate about the correlation between scores on intelligence tests and success?
12. Discuss psychological treatments and research on the effectiveness of these treatments.

The paper needs to be 4 pages long, double spaced not including the reference or title page. The paper must be written in APA format including the reference page. The research should be current, relevant and verifiable by author and or organization (peer reviewed journal articles). Utilize the research tools available through the library **not Google**. The paper should include 4 sources including **one** book. This project is worth 165 points including the outline.

You can access a handout on APA formatting on the CR library homepage. OWLS at Purdue and Diana Hacker .com are also good online sources for help with formatting.

**Again, I will make every effort to follow the standards and schedule of this syllabus. There may be times when changes are necessary and I will inform the class if this occurs.*

-Please do not hesitate to ask questions regarding the syllabus

