

## Syllabus for: General Psychology

<b>Semester &amp; Year:</b>	Spring 2014
<b>Course ID and Section Number:</b>	PSYCH 1 E4794
<b>Number of Credits/Units:</b>	3
<b>Day/Time:</b>	TTH 1:05-2:40 PM
<b>Location:</b>	CA 113
<b>Instructor's Name:</b>	Deanna Herrera-Thomas
<b>Contact Information:</b>	Office location and hours: CA 133 Phone: 707-476-4307 Email: Deanna-Herrerathomas@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:

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: General Psychology**

**Meeting Information: T/Th beginning on 1/21/2013, Room 113, Creative Arts.**

### **Instructor Information:**

Dr. Deanna Herrera-Thomas, 476-4307, 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!

**Student Commitment:** This three credit-hour class will require about nine hours per week of your time. You will have to regularly attend class – four or more absences is considered excessive, carefully read textbook chapters, submit thoughtful daily writing assignments, complete a research paper, and successfully demonstrate your learning in exams. Conscientiousness, attention to details, reading, writing, and study skills are critical.

**Note:** Administrative procedure (AP) 5075 allows instructors to withdraw students from class for non-participation or excessive absences through the 10th week of class.

### **Course Texts**

Weiten, W. (2013). Psychology: Themes and Variations Briefer Version (9th Ed.) Cengage.

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	Assignment	Schedule Notes
One 1/21-1/23	History	Chapter 1	Read	
Two 1/28-1/30	Research	Chapter 2	Read	
Three 2/4-2/6	Biological Basis of Behavior	Chapter 3	Take-Home Quiz I	Census Day Feb. 3
Four 2/11-2/13	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 4	Read	
Five 2/18-2/20	Variations in Consciousness	Chapter 5	Read	
Six 2/25-2/27	Learning	Chapter 6	Read	
Seven 3/4-3/6	Human Development	Chapter 10	Read	
Eight 3/11-3/13	Human Development	Chapter 10	Quiz I Due	
Spring Break 3/18-3/20				
Nine 3/25-3/27	Motivation and Emotion	Chapter 9	Midterm Take-Home Quiz II	
Ten 4/1-4/3	Personality Theory	Chapter 11	Read	
Eleven 4/8-4/10	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 14	Read	
Twelve 4/15-4/17	Treatment of Disorders	Chapter 15	Read	
Thirteen 4/22-4/24	Social Psychology	Chapter 12	Turn in group Projects 4/22	
Fourteen 4/29-5/1	Review		Return Quiz II	

Fifteen 5/6-5/8	Presentations		Presentations	
Sixteen 5/13-5/15			Final Exam	

### **Important Dates:**

Census Day: Feb. 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. Access the Admissions page for all other dates (under pull-down menu: "Parents/Families").

All-College Holidays: Lincoln's Birthday Feb. 14, President's Day Feb. 17, Spring Break March 17-22.

Final Exams, 5/12-5/16

### **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 (270 points)

There will be two 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 (70 points) will consist of multiple-choice questions, 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. It will be up to the instructor to grade students separately in rare circumstances related to uneven collaboration.

- Participation (30 points)

**Assignment Points:**

Quiz 1 = 50 Pts.

Quiz 2 = 50 Pts.

Midterm = 70 Pts.

Final = 100 Pts.

Group Research Paper = 100 Pts.

Participation= 30 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- 332-345=B (83-86%) 280-307=C (70-76%)  
400=A (93%+)

360-371=A-(90-92%) 320-331=B- (80-82%) 240-277=D (60-69%)