

Syllabus: General Psychology (PSY201)

Winter 2020

Instructor: Laura Jones, Ph.D. **Office:** SSH-109

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Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 12:00-12:50

Required Materials

- Myers & Dewall (2018) Psychology, 12th Edition. In Modules. NY: Worth.

Course Description

General Psychology is an introduction to several of the different subfields and methods of study in psychology. Students should leave this course with an understanding of the biological and cognitive aspects of psychology, including history, methodology, biological foundations of behavior, human development, sensation, perception, learning, memory, language, and problem-solving.

Course Learning Outcomes

As a result of successfully completing this course, you will:

- Describe major facts and theories from the domain of psychology.
- Recognize/articulate interplay between social, psychological and biological forces.
- Apply relevant psychological phenomena to everyday relationships and situations.
- Combine and synthesize psychological concepts and theories to draw reasonable conclusions, develop intelligent skepticism, and critically analyze information.

What happens day to day in the class? Although there is lecture, the class is interactive; that is, you will be getting up and moving around; you will be working in pairs and in small groups. These experiences will make it easier for you to remember the concepts and use the material you learn. At times, the activities might seem unusual, but know that they are in service of specific teaching goals. If you prefer a class focused solely on lecture and large group discussion, this is not the class for you.

How to avoid getting dropped. The following activities must be completed by the deadline or you will be dropped from the class:

1. Attend both classes the first week
2. Enter the [Moodle](#) course shell and read your syllabus before 9 am on Friday, 1/10

Instructor Responsibilities My aim is to facilitate a classroom environment that encourages active, effective and respectful activities, discussion and learning. I will:

- Post your current week's content and assignments.
- Be available to support your learning when requested.
- Hold you accountable.

Student Responsibilities

- Critically read/analyze assigned information

- Use your LBCC email account to communicate with me
- Effective/timely participation in class assignments, activities, quizzes, and exams.

Important Note: LBCC will enroll you in the Moodle site for this course during the 1st week of classes. You will take your quizzes on Moodle, in addition to accessing the syllabus, and your gradebook. You must be able to upload assignments and take exams on Moodle. It is an expectation for this course that you will use Moodle independently and seek help from the eLearning center if you have questions related to using Moodle. For information on how to use Moodle, [check out this site](#). Alternatively, you can visit the [Helpdesk in the library](#) any time during the library's open hours. If you are not prepared to work independently with Moodle, drop this course immediately.

Email Policy: I can only respond to emails from your LBCC email account. In addition, I teach 5 courses so when you email me, it is very important that you identify your full name (in LBCC system), course you are attending and course time. Due to time considerations, it is not possible to respond to emails that do not include this information.

Attendance This is a lecture, small group, and student participation class so attendance is important. Participation activity points are given for in-class activities. If you miss a class, **there is no need to contact me.** Connect with fellow students to get the information you need. If you plan to miss more than 2 classes in a row, please do let me know.

Class Slides are uploaded to Moodle before each class. These slides do not replace lecture notes. They contain only a brief outline of lecture not all information covered in class. For example, to preserve active participation, I do not include material generated in your in-class group activities. In addition, I often do class informational demonstrations not included in the slides. Moreover, to keep the class flowing naturally, I can only make a guess about how much and what we'll cover in class each day, so the posted slides might not align exactly with the slides you see in class. Rather, the slides are intended as an in-class tool to facilitate group process and to make your note taking easier. It will be very helpful if you print these slides and bring them to class. This will allow you to take more efficient notes. [Click here to learn how to print multiple slides to one page.](#)

Course Requirements

Note: Weekly quizzes and exams *take place on Moodle outside of class time.*

Quizzes and assignments are posted before noon on Monday and must be completed/ submitted on Moodle before 9am on the following Monday.

Your final grade in this class will be determined by your performance on the following (see Course Requirements and Course Calendar for more information):

Quizzes: There will be 8 open book quizzes at the Moodle site for this course. Item types include true/false, multiple choice, and matching. T/F = 1 point; multiple choice with 1 answer = 1 point; multiple choice with more than one 1

answer = 2 points; matching = 3 points. You will have 15 minutes to take each quiz.

In-class Review Assignment: Participate in a review session each week to strengthen conceptual understanding. You must be in class to receive points.

Exams: Two exams will assess your understanding of the course material. Exam 1 covers lecture material and text modules from weeks 1-5. The Moodle portion of Exam 2 covers lecture material and text modules from weeks 6-10. Items consist of multiple-choice, true/false and matching. The written comprehensive portion of Exam 2 will include short essay and fill in the blank items. This portion is comprehensive. **Important note:** I shut down Moodle and all associated activities for grading noon the day after Exam 3 closes. Exam 3 and all course materials cannot be accepted after 5pm on Wednesday, 3/18 under any circumstances. Be sure to check your exam score and your gradebook between 5 pm on Wednesday and noon on Thursday of Finals week.

Class Activity Participation: Classes designated for participation points are chosen randomly at the beginning of the term. You will know if it's a class participation credit day by a yellow highlight on the relevant date on your sign in sheet. You also may receive credit for select activities on some of the participation days.

Paper: One of the main objectives of this course is to learn how to be a wise consumer of psychological research. The research paper assignment will give you practice evaluating and critiquing published research.

Campus Resources: Many resources such as the Learning Center, the Writing Desk, and Family Connections are available to you as a student. These resources are described in the student services section of the schedule of classes.

Preparedness: Please come to class prepared to discuss the assigned reading. Your quiz for each set of modules take place before we discuss the topic. This is to ensure that you can meaningfully participate. If you miss class, check the Moodle site for handouts or class activities that may be due. Do not contact me to see what you have missed. Find a student in the class with whom you can access this information.

Summary of Course Requirements					
Requirement	Summary	Points Possible per unit	Units	Total	
In-Class Review Assignment	Review topics from class.	3	X9	27	
Class Activity Participation*	Participation during in-class activities. 10 class dates are randomly selected. Attendance will take place twice on these days to ensure full class participation. Lowest grade will be dropped at the end of the term.	5	X10 classes	50	
Weekly Text Quizzes*	8 online, open book quizzes <u>over the text only</u> . Lowest grade will be dropped at the end of the term.	10	X8 quizzes	80	
Research Paper	Final Paper	100	X1	100	
Exams	Exam 1 (Weeks 1-5)	75	X2 exams	200	
	Exam 2 (Weeks 6-10)	75			
	Exam 2 Written (Comprehensive)	50			
Total Possible Points				457*	

*Your lowest quiz and participation grade will be dropped at the end of the term, so your actual possible maximum is 442.

Course Calendar		
Week	Topic	<i>Point earners due each Monday before 9 am (on date listed below). Complete <u>before</u> you come to class</i>
1 1/6	Introduction to the Class Thinking Critically (Modules 1-3)	January 13 Weekly online text quiz: Mod 4-6
2 1/13	Biology of the Mind (Modules 4-6)	January 20 Weekly online text quiz: Mod 7-9
3 1/20	No class on 1/20. College is closed. Consciousness and the Two-Track Mind (Modules 7-9)	January 27 Weekly online text quiz: Mod 10-12
4 1/27	Nature, Nurture and Human Diversity (Modules 10-12) Research paper	February 3 Weekly online text quiz: Mod 13-14
5 2/3	Developing Through the Life Span Course paper prep session (Module 13-14)	February 10 Weekly online text quiz: Mod 15-16
6 2/10	Developing Through the Life Span (Modules 15-16)	February 17 Exam 1 due (Weeks 1-5) No quiz
7 2/17	No class on 2/17. College is closed. Sensation and Perception (Modules 17-19)	February 24 Weekly online text quiz: Mod 20-22
8 2/24	Learning (Modules 20-22)	March 2 Weekly online text quiz: Mod 23-25
9 3/2	Memory (Modules 23-25)	March 9 Weekly online text quiz: Mod 26-27 Paper due
10 3/9	Thinking and Language (Modules 26-27)	March 16
11 3/16	Exam 2: 2 Parts: (1) Moodle portion opens 9am Friday, 3/13; closes at 5 pm Wednesday, 3/18 (covers weeks 8-10 and related class material) (2) Meet for written portion during scheduled finals time .	