

## **College Credit Psychology**

4.0 college credits and 1.0 high school credit

**2011-12**

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**Required Text:** Ciccarelli, Sandra, Meyer, Glen, *Psychology*, 2006, Pearson, Prentice Hall.

**Course Description:** Introduces perspectives in psychology; scientific methods of inquiry; biological foundations; sensation and perception; consciousness, learning, emotion and motivation; sexuality and gender; stress and health; personality theory, abnormal behavior; therapeutic interventions; and careers in the field of psychology.

### **Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:**

1. Define commonly used terms in the field of psychology.
2. Identify modern psychological perspectives, including their main concepts and leading proponents.
3. Explain the scientific method and psychology's use of various research techniques.
4. Differentiate the strengths and weaknesses of research designs.
5. Identify the mental processes used in human perception and consciousness.
6. Compare models of learning based on association, reward, and motivation.
7. Describe the role of emotions in human behavior and the theories, which attempt to explain their operation.
8. Distinguish the major approaches of various theories of human personality.
9. Summarize the symptoms, causes, and development of the major classes of psychopathologies.
10. Describe the development, use, and efficacy of psychological and biomedical treatments.

### **Outline for the Course**

- I. Psychological Perspectives
  - A. Biological
  - B. Psychodynamic
  - C. Behavioral
  - D. Cognitive
  - E. Humanistic

## II. Scientific Methods

### A. Case Study

### B. Survey

### C. Observation

#### 1. Naturalistic

#### 2. Controlled

### D. Correlation

### E. Experimentation

## III. Biological Foundations

### A. Neural Structure and Function

### B. CNS/PNS

### C. Major Structures and Function of the Brain

## IV. Perception

### A. Basic Principles

### B. Sensory Systems

### C. Principles of Organization

## V. Consciousness

### A. Sleep and Dreams

### B. Altered States

## VI. Learning

### A. Classical

### B. Operant

### C. Observational

### D. Motivational

#### 1. Instinct

#### 2. Drives Reduction Theory

#### 3. Social Motivation

#### 4. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

## VII. Emotion

### A. Physiology of Emotion

### B. Theories of Emotion

### C. Stress and Health

## VIII. Personality

### A. Psychoanalytic Perspective

### B. Trait Perspective

### C. Humanistic Perspective

### D. Social-Cognitive Perspective

## IX. Psychological Disorders

### A. Perspectives on Disorders

1. Anxiety
2. Somatoform
3. Dissociative
4. Mood
5. Schizophrenia
6. Personality

X. Therapy

A. Psychological Therapies

1. Psychoanalytic
2. Humanistic
3. Behavior
4. Cognitive

B. Biomedical Therapies

1. Drug
2. Electroconvulsive
3. Psychosurgery

## **Grading System**

I grade on a points system. All work is worth a certain amount of points. At the end of the grading period I total the points and grade on a percentage basis.

To receive a(n):

**A = 90 – 100 points**

**B = 80 – 89 points**

**C = 70 – 79 points**

**D = 60 – 69 points**

**F = 59 – 0 points**

Examples of things you receive points for:

Daily assignments, notes, or projects

Tests & Quizzes

Participation in Class Discussions

Attendance

Research Projects, Book Reports – this is the equivalent of a college class, as such you will be required to choose topics appropriate to the subject of psychology, research and present it.

The instructions for these projects will be given more extensively in the future.

### **General Policies**

You are responsible for adhering to the following policies and expectations.

#### **Late Work**

Full points will only be possible for those assignments turned in on time. All work must be turned in. Weekly assignment sheets are given out in class and posted on the web every Monday. All work is due by the following Monday unless specified differently in the assignment. Points are deducted for late work. If you have special circumstances such as illness please communicate with the teacher so arrangements can be made to help you get your work completed.

#### **Plagiarism**

I trust that all work will be your original thoughts and ideas. Plagiarizing or copying from another student, the Internet, or any published source without citing the source is forbidden. If such practice occurs, district discipline policies on plagiarizing will be enforced.

#### **Attendance**

Attendance is very important especially on a four-day week. If you miss 1 day of class you have missed the equivalent of 1- $\frac{1}{4}$  days under a 5-day system. Students are expected to be in the classroom, ready to work when the bell rings.

Your participation in the class is important to everyone. Other students benefit from your ideas and point of view and, of course, you will benefit from listening respectfully to others.

#### **Reading Assignments**

This is an equivalent of a college class so there will be a fair amount of reading expected outside of class. Please read the assigned

chapters previous to the class so you can fully participate in class discussions and projects. Notes on the readings will be graded.

### **Written Assignments**

There will be assignments that I will require to be typed, double-spaced, and in 12-point font. When these assignments come around, there may be lab time available, but not guaranteed so expect to work on these assignments outside of class.

### **Alternative Assignments**

This is a college level class designed for adults. If there is ever a time in which you are uncomfortable with the content of an assignment, please see me so I can assign you an alternative one.

### **Classroom Rules**

1. Come to class on time everyday and be prepared to learn as much as you can.
2. Do the work.
3. Respect other people's opinions and listen respectfully.