Psychology 1100
General Psychology. Syllabus. Spring 2008
College of DuPage

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Office Hours

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<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
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<td>8:30-10:00</td>
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<td>12:00-1:00</td>
<td>12:15-2:00</td>
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Because I am often meeting with people, it is safest to make an appointment with me during my office hours (although you are welcome to drop by). I can also meet outside of my regular office hours by appointment.

Text
The textbook is a pre-publication draft of a book that I am writing. Students will be ordering it directly from University Readers (www.universityreaders.com). Although you can order it before the start of the semester, instructions will be provided on the first day of the semester. When you order it online, you will be able to download a portion of the book, so you can begin reading right away.

Other Resources Needed
You will need to purchase an I-Clicker Student Response Pad unit from the COD Bookstore. You need to bring the response unit to every class, as we will be using it for quizzes and class participation.

Course Description (from COD course catalog)
A survey of the study of behavior and mental processes with emphasis on the scientific nature of contemporary psychological investigation. Topics discussed include research methods, the biology of behavior, sensation and perception, stress and adjustment, learning, memory, cognition, motivation, emotion, life-span development, personality, abnormal behavior and its therapies, social behavior, and individual differences. (3 lecture hours)
Course Objectives
By taking, and actively participating in, this course you will:

- learn about the major subfields and topic areas in psychology.
- understand how psychological principles apply to real life situations.
- learn to think critically about psychology and about research in general.
- appreciate the study of psychology as a science.
- be prepared to take more advanced undergraduate courses in psychology.
- learn about some possible careers that can be launched with training in psychology.
- learn a little about yourselves and people you know.

Blackboard/Web Page
This course will use the Blackboard course management system. With it, you will be able to access the syllabus and assignments, turn in assignments, download PowerPoint lectures of textbook material, check grades, and participate in online discussions, among other activities. Instructions for logging in to Blackboard will be provided in class. In addition, I have a web page at www.cod.edu/grayke. The web page contains links to my different courses, as well as advising information for psychology majors.

Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exams</th>
<th>45% of final grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reading-on-time points</td>
<td>15% of final grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>25% of final grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>15% of final grade</td>
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Exams
There will be three in-class exams during the semester. They are not cumulative, and each is worth 15% of your final grade. The exams will contain multiple-choice and essay questions and will cover material from the text, class activities, and lectures.

Exam Dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exams</th>
<th>MWF 10:00 section</th>
<th>MWF 11:00 section</th>
<th>TuTh 9:30 section</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1 (Units 1 and 2)</td>
<td>Feb 20</td>
<td>Feb 20</td>
<td>Feb 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2 (Units 3 and 4)</td>
<td>Mar 21</td>
<td>Mar 21</td>
<td>Mar 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 3 (Units 5 and 6)</td>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>May 15</td>
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Reading-on-time Points
You are required to read textbook material by the dates listed on the schedule. There are 2 different ways that you can demonstrate that you have read the required material, thus earning these points.

• Reading check quizzes. The simplest way is to earn a high enough score on Reading Check Quizzes. These will be several short quizzes that will be given throughout the semester (plan for approximately one per week). The quizzes are multiple-choice, and will be given at the beginning of class when a reading assignment is due. The quizzes are intended to ensure that you read prior to class, and to assess your understanding of the text material. Grading will be all-or-none. If your quiz score is at least 60% of the highest score in the class, you receive full credit. If it is below 60% or if you are absent the day of the quiz, you do not receive any credit for that quiz. Quizzes will be scored immediately in class, and I will use the results to help decide the day's activities.

• Written summary of reading material. If you do not earn a high enough score on the reading check quiz (or are absent the day it is given), you may submit a summary of the assigned reading material. The summary must demonstrate that you read the material, and it is due no later than one class day after the quiz. Summaries must be submitted electronically.

Reading-on-time points are worth 15% of your final grade.

Assignments
There will be several homework projects assigned throughout the semester. Three of them will be:

• Personal Connection assignment. You will turn in 6 personal experiences or observations that illustrate psychological concepts from the course. The Personal Connection assignment is due on the day of the last regular class meeting.

• Independent choice assignment. You are required to spend 8 hours throughout the semester on activities related to psychology that you choose. The record of how you spent your time will be due on the day of the last regular class meeting.

• Library Research assignment. You will be writing a very short paper that compares psychological claims made on a website to scholarly research on the same topic.

I will be giving more information about these three assignments during the semester. Keep in mind, there may be additional assignments given to you in class. Together, the assignments will count for 25% of your final grade.

Attendance and Participation
You are expected to attend class every day and participate actively in discussions and classroom exercises. A portion of your participation grade will be based on i-clicker in-class exercises and material that you will hand in at the end of many class periods to demonstrate that you have indeed participated in class activities. You must be present in class to earn this portion of the participation grade. Attendance and Class participation are worth 15% of your final grade.

Grading Scale

<table>
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<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90% and up</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80% - 89%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70% - 79%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60% - 69%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59% and below</td>
<td>F</td>
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Please note that your exam grades will provide you with an approximate estimate only of your current grade. Final grades often change substantially (up or down) when Reading-on-time points, Assignments, and Attendance and Participation are factored in.

Exam Makeup Policy

You must notify me beforehand if you will miss an exam in order to be allowed to make it up. All makeups must be completed within one week of the original exam date. Please be aware that I might use alternative versions of exams as makeups.

Withdrawal Policy

I will withdraw students who are failing to make progress on course goals at Mid-Semester. After Mid-Semester (March 14), permission to withdraw from the course will be granted on a case-by-case basis.

Course-Related Communication

All students are expected to use their College of DuPage email accounts and Blackboard for course-related electronic communication. I occasionally send out messages to the whole class through these systems, and if you do not use them, you will miss these messages. In addition, if you choose to not use the COD system, your email messages to me are more likely to be removed by the college's junk mail filter. Please see me if you would like any assistance setting up your COD email or using Blackboard.

Academic Assistance

Students who are having difficulty with the course should consider taking advantage of the services offered through the Academic Support Center. The Center offers tutoring services and reading assistance (help with reading comprehension, study skills, and organizing information). Most of the services that the Center offers are free.

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty, such as cheating and plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Students who are caught may be penalized up to the level of receiving a failing grade in the course. In addition, all cases will be referred to the Office of Student Affairs for possible further action. For more information, read the College's statements on Student Rights and Responsibilities and Course-Related Academic Integrity (COD Catalog 2007-2009, pp. 51-52).

Research Disclosure

From time to time, I conduct research on teaching methods to improve your educational experiences. Please be assured that all data will be kept completely confidential, and participation will not affect your grade. If you have any questions or concerns about this policy, please do not hesitate to contact me.