

Clarendon College: Clarendon Campus

Course Title: General Psychology (Psyc 2301) Spring 2011

Behavioral Science Department

Course Credit: 3 semester hours

Instructor: Mr. Gene Denney

Office Location: Instructional Center, Office Room #111

Office Hours:

Tues. & Thurs 8:30-9:30 am

Mon. & Wed. 11:00am – 12:00am – 1 – 4 p.m.

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Course Text:

PSYCHSMART by Beth Mejia Editorial director, ed. 2011, Mcgraw-Hill.

Course Description:

This will be a brief overview of the field of psychology. Psychology is the science of heredity and environment, control of emotions, behavior, learning, and the development, of personality.

Course Purpose: To improve the understanding, of relationships in real life and the labels of the intricate parts of their environment and improve their communication skills through this understanding.

This course also satisfies the Behavioral Sciences requirement of the core curriculum. It also partially satisfies the requirements for Psychology majors and is fully transferable to a senior college or University.

Course Objectives:

The student will show competence in the use of specific specialized vocabulary, as it is established in the textbook and in class discussions.

Exemplary Educational Objectives

1. To employ the appropriate methods, technologies, and data that social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
 - a. The learner shall evaluate professional journals and refereed research on the human condition.
2. To use and critics alternative explanatory systems or theories
 - a. The learner shall arrange historical events in an illustrated manner to show the predictability of future events.
 - b. The learner shall appraise the social institutions and processes through the perspective of the major social structure.
 - c. The learner shall appraise social institutions and processes through different cultural perspectives
3. To develop and communicate alternatives explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.
 - a. The learner shall critique various theories of human behavior.
 - b. The learner shall predict behavior according to the different theories of development
4. To analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on the area under study.
 - a. The learner shall argue the outcome of a behavior from different social perspectives.
5. To identify and understand differences and commonalities within diverse cultures
 - a. The learner shall assess the interrelationship between individual behavior and social forces.

Course Requirements:

1. You must obtain a textbook and bring it to class every day. I reserve the right to not allow you in class without it and this will count as an absence.
2. You must bring a notebook or some consistent means of taking notes to class every day. I reserve the right to not allow you into class without it and this will count as an absence.

Class Participation / Attendance Policy

The current catalog has this general attendance policy: *Clarendon College believes that the greatest single predictor of student success is attendance!* Students are expected to attend all classes in which they are enrolled. It is the responsibility of the student to consult with all instructors when an absence occurs. Instructors keep an accurate record of class attendance and inform students of the importance of attendance. Students who have attendance problems, for whatever reasons, are strongly encouraged to consult with each of their instructors as well as the Dean of Students. Clarendon College instructors have the right to define their attendance policy and determine what is excessively absent in their class. What constitutes excessive absenteeism is determined by the individual instructor but should be clearly defined to all students in the class at the beginning of each semester and in the course syllabus.

Class participation and attendance will together and for each of the following behaviors you can lose points up to the 20% of your final grade.

The specific participation/attendance policy for this class will be but not exclusive to:

1. The term “excessive absences” will be defined as any absences beyond the equivalent of two weeks’ worth of class time. You will lose a letter grade on your final course grade for each excessive absence.

2. Attendance will be taken in the first 5 minutes of each class period. I generally lock the classroom door once we start class. Do not attempt to enter the classroom once the door is locked.

3. If you exhibit inappropriate behavior I have the option to count you absent for that class period. Examples of inappropriate behavior:

- a. Leaving the classroom during class to get a drink of water or go to the rest room
- b. Putting your head on your desk to sleep
- c. Using any electronic device.
- d. Covering your head with a hood

4. Excused absences include the following. (Your participation/attendance grade will not be affected when you have an excused absence.)

- a. School sponsored trip (the sponsor will notify of who is eligible)
- b. Bad weather (All reasonable effort should be made to contact me on the day you miss.)

5. Make-up policy: Assignments are due on their due dates whether you have an excused absence or not. However, if you have an excused absence when an assignment is due or an exam is given, and I believe that you have made a “reasonable effort” to contact me BEFORE the assignment is due or BEFORE the exam is given, arrangements can be made to allow for the work to be submitted later with no penalty. If this is not done a zero will be given for that assignment or exam. All make-up work must be submitted within one calendar week of the due date.

i. Your final course grade will be lowered by one letter grade for every absence beyond “excessive absence.”

ii. In order for this course to meet its objectives, everyone is responsible for contributing meaningfully. Attendance also effects participation, but please do not think that if you simply attend classes you will get full class participation/attendance credit. One-half of your class participation / attendance grade will be based on your quality of participation in class. Quality participation is worth 10% of your grade and attendance is also worth 10%. If you have any question about your participation grade and what you could do to improve it, it is your responsibility to contact me.

Extra credit

You may complete as many as 10 different extra credit projects. Each project can add up to 1 point to your final grade. Due dates for each project are listed on the grade sheet. The projects will come from any of the following:

- Read an article from Psychology Today magazine and write a two paragraph critique. Paragraph one is to be a summary of the article; paragraph two will express your personal opinion about the article.
- Critique an article from another professional magazine. Paragraph one is to be a summary of the article; paragraph two will express your personal opinion about the article.
- Watch an approved movie with a psychological theme. Write a two paragraph critique. Paragraph one is to be a summary of the movie; paragraph two will express your personal opinion about the movie. These film will be found in the section “Psych at the Movie” from each chapter.
- Any other project approved by the instructor

Review Sheets

At the end of each chapter is a study guide. Each one is due the day of the chapter test. Each time you complete one and submit it with the appropriate chapter test, you can have as many as 5 points added to your chapter test grade.

Grading Policy:

Your final grade in this course will be determined by the following weighted grading system:

Chapter tests	80%
Attendance	10%
Participation	10%

Extra Credit: You can complete as many as 11 extra credit projects with each project worth up to 10 pts to each chapter test grade. There will be 11 of the top tests scores used to figure your final grade.

Your final course letter grade will be figured as set in the current catalog:

90 to 100.....	A
80 to 89.....	B
70 to 79.....	C
60 to 69.....	D
59 and below.....	F

If you have any questions about your grade at any point in the semester, it is your responsibility to contact me.

Academic Integrity and Dishonest Behavior.

Clarendon College is committed to a philosophy of honesty and academic integrity. It is the responsibility of all members of the Clarendon College community to maintain academic integrity at Clarendon College by refusing to participate in or tolerate academic dishonesty. Any act of academic dishonesty will be regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense.

Academic dishonesty violations include, but are not limited to: (1) obtaining an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise by stealing or collusion; (2) discovering the content of an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment before it is given; (3) observing the work of another during an examination or providing answers to another during the course of an examination; (4) using an unauthorized source of information during an examination, classroom activity,

laboratory exercise, or homework assignment ; (5) entering an office, classroom, laboratory, or building to obtain unfair advantage; (6) taking an examination for another person; (7) completing a classroom activity, laboratory exercise, homework assignment, or research paper for another person; (8) altering grade records; (9) using any unauthorized form of an electronic communication device during an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise; and/or, (10) plagiarism. (Plagiarism is defined as the using, stating, offering, or reporting as one's own, an idea, expression, or production of another person's work without proper credit. This includes, but is not limited to, turning in a paper purchased or acquired from any source, written by someone other than the student claiming credit, or stolen from another student.)

Students are responsible for reporting known acts of academic dishonesty to a faculty member, the program coordinator, the associate dean, and/or dean. Any student with knowledge of a violation who fails to report it shall him/herself be in violation and shall be considered to have committed an act of academic dishonesty. Additionally, any student who reports him/herself in violation of this code before it is likely that another might consider this possibility will be understood as repentant and acting in good faith. Though the confession will not excuse the student for the violation, the confession will be considered and the violation should not result in suspension from school except in the most extreme cases.

While academic integrity and honesty are the responsibility of the individual student, each individual faculty member, teaching assistant, and/or laboratory instructor is responsible for classroom management and for maintaining ethical behavior within the classroom and/or laboratory. Faculty who discover or suspect a violation should discuss the matter with the suspected violator(s) and attempt to resolve the case at that point. In cases of convincing evidence, the faculty member should take appropriate action. The faculty member and student should complete a Counseling Sheet regarding the violation. (The Counseling Sheet should contain at a minimum the date and time of the violation, the course, the instructor's name, the student's name, an explanation of the infraction or facts of the case, and the resolution to the incident.) This form should be signed by the student, faculty member, program coordinator, and the Dean of Students. The Dean of Students will maintain a file on all violations. If a faculty member prefers to report the case directly to the Dean of Students, it remains his/her prerogative to do so. Additionally, if the faculty member and the accused student cannot reach a resolution or if the faculty member believes that suspension from school is the only fair sanction, the case should immediately be reported by the faculty member, in writing, to the Dean of Students. If the Dean of Students observes any trends in student behavior which involve more than one violation or act of academic dishonesty, the Dean is responsible for notifying all faculty members involved, for contacting the student(s) involved, and after consultation with the faculty member(s) involved for taking the appropriate action. The Dean of Students is responsible for the timely notification (normally within two weeks) to all parties of an action taken.

Students wishing to appeal a disciplinary decision involving academic integrity or acts of academic dishonesty may do so through the Student Appeals and Grievance Procedure.

Withdrawing from (Dropping) the Course

If you decide that you are unable to complete this course or that it will be impossible to complete the course with a passing grade, you may drop the course and receive a "W" on your transcript instead. (The last day to drop a course is April 14.) If you fail the course and do not go through the formal withdrawal procedure, you will receive a grade of "F" on your transcript.

According to Texas state law a student is only allowed to drop the same class twice before he/she can be charged triple the tuition amount for taking the class a third time or more. Furthermore, beginning with the Fall 2007 semester, students in Texas may only drop a total of 6 courses throughout their entire undergraduate career. After the 6th dropped class, he/she will no longer be able to withdraw from any classes.

If you think you need to drop this course, please talk with me about it first. It is possible that there is something you can do to still pass the course. Don't hurt your chances for a passing grade in the course by not turning in assignments or taking chapter tests before we have discussed your situation. If we agree that you should drop the course, you will contact the college registrar to initiate the process.

Accommodations Statement:

Clarendon College provides reasonable accommodations for persons with temporary or permanent disabilities. Should you require special accommodations, notify the Office of Student Services (806-874-3571 or 800-687-9737). We will work with you to make whatever accommodations we need to make.

Grade sheet for PSYC 2301 (General Psychology)

Students name _____

Participation (worth 10% of your final grade) _____

Attendance (worth 10% of your final grade) _____

Chapter test
(up to 100 pts.ea.)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____
- 8. _____
- 9. _____
- 10. _____
- 11. _____
- 12. _____
- 13. _____

Class Contract

I have received and have read the syllabus for the _____ course taught by Mr. Denney and agree to abide by the policies written in it. I understand the policies and understand the consequences of failing to comply with these policies. I will only be allowed to take any exams or complete any assignments for a grade when I have signed and dated this contract.

Student's Name (printed)
Date

Student's Signature
