

**St. Petersburg College
Downtown Campus
General Psychology PSY 1012_705
Fall 2015**

Professor: Adriana Uruena-Agnes, Ph.D.
Office Hours: After Class OR by
appointment

Email: Uruena.Adriana@spcollege.edu
Class Time: MW 11:00-12:15pm
Class Location: DT-DC Room 122

Required Textbook:

**Hockenbury & Hockenbury (2014). *Discovering Psychology*. 6th edition,
New York: Worth Publishers.**

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

General Psychology is a course designed to familiarize students with the theoretical and experimental approaches to understanding the processes involved in behaviors.

- 1) History
 - a. Identify the major theorists within the field of psychology and describe how research contributions from the psychoanalytic, personality, humanistic, behavioral, cognitive and Gestalt approaches have contributed to the scientific understanding of psychological processes.
- 2) Research Methods in Psychology
 - a. Describe and distinguish between descriptive (e.g. case study, naturalistic observation, survey), correlational, and experimental approaches to conducting behavioral research.
 - b. Relate experimental research performed in non-human animals to our understanding of behaviors in humans.
- 3) Fields of Psychology
 - a. Describe the biological and psychological processes involved in the processes of sensation and perception, as well as physiological processes contributing to various forms of learning and memory, contributing to behavior.
 - b. Describe how biology and environment impact motivation and emotion-regulated behavior.
 - c. Identify the stages of development. Describe how normative psychological development contributes to optimal maturation of cognitive and social functioning. Describe at a basic level the short- and long-term clinical implications of impeding normative neurodevelopment (i.e. prenatal drug exposure and drug use during developmental time periods).
 - d. Identify theories of social interaction and behavior
- 4) Clinical Implications
 - a. Identify states of emotion and personality traits. Discuss the clinical manifestation of psychopathology (i.e. abnormal psychology) and how these psychological disorders are diagnosed and treated.

FORMAT:

Course relevant material lectured and discussed in class will come from the textbook, research articles, from my own professional expertise and from student presentations. Class discussion relevant to the lecture topic is highly encouraged. I recommend reading the assigned material **before** coming to class and also taking notes during class. While you are permitted to record lectures, you are not permitted to use those recordings or any notes taken during class for the purpose of sale.

COURSE POLICIES:

Class Etiquette.

Students are expected to come to class prepared and refrain from distractions. This includes the following: end ALL phone calls BEFORE entering the classroom, NO listening to music or wearing headphones in the classroom, NO texting during class. Students are expected to be respectful while communicating (i.e. verbal and/or written) with the professor. Disrespect will not be tolerated.

Technology in the Classroom.

The use of laptops, tablets, and phones is **not** permitted during lecture, other than for recording and/or note-taking purposes. **No headphones, ear buds, etc for any purpose.**

Communication.

Please note that the best way to communicate with the professor is via MyCourses.

Please compose a well-written, grammatically correct, and professional email, when addressing your professor and when listing concerns. Disrespectful, non-professional emails will be ignored. In the case student progress is of concern, the professor will email the student and make an appointment to discuss student progress. Students are encouraged to approach the professor (in class or via email) with any concerns pertaining to student success in the course.

Minimum Technical Skills Required.

Students are expected to have regular access to a computer to view posted course material on MyCourses. Email may also be used to deliver course-related information. Students are required to use Microsoft Word to compose the abstract and term paper (Critical Film Review), which are to be submitted electronically (via MyCourses) by the due date (see course schedule).

Attendance.

SPC Fall academic calendar can be accessed by visiting the following website: <http://www.spcollege.edu/calendar/#tab=2>. Additional student information pertinent to student success can be accessed <http://www.spcollege.edu/addendum/>. Regular attendance is **strongly** encouraged and expected. Attendance will be taken on a daily basis to maintain compliance with SPC's "No Show," "Withdrawal" and "Unofficial Withdrawal" policies (<http://www.spcollege.edu/withdrawal/>). A student that does not show up at least once for class the first two weeks, will be administratively removed from the course as a "No Show." You will be allowed 5 absences prior to October 22nd. If a student misses 6 or more classes prior to October 22nd, the student will be identified as no longer "actively participating," resulting in a "W/F" grade. Following the 60% mark, students are expected to attend class regularly and are allowed ONLY 5 absences (regardless of number of absences prior to October 22nd). Additional absences will result in an earned "F" at the end of the semester. Students are expected to

email a notification of absence prior to the scheduled class meeting. Only students can voluntarily withdrawal from a class. The professor cannot withdrawal you from a course. **The last day to withdrawal is October 22, 2015.**

Students are responsible for all assignments and all material covered on days they are absent, even if such assignments and activities deviate from the attached course schedule. In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for SPC to suspend normal operations. During this time, SPC may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to: MyCourses, Skype, and email messaging and/or an alternate schedule. It's the responsibility of the student to **monitor their email and MyCourses websites** for each class for course specific communication, and the main websites, emails, and emergency messages for important general information.

Academic Dishonesty.

St. Petersburg College is committed to the development of each student to become a productive and responsible citizen who embraces the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. The scholarly community at SPC strives to instill values that uphold academic integrity and promotes an ethical standard that does not condone academic misconduct. Violation of academic integrity and academic misconduct tarnish the reputation of the University and discredit the accomplishments of past and present students. Sanctions for violation of academic integrity and academic misconduct include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, or suspension or expulsion from the University. I take integrity **very seriously**, including academic integrity. I will monitor all submissions and exams for violations of the academic integrity policy. **Students are held responsible for knowing and observing the SPC's Academic Integrity Policy** posted at: <http://www.spcollege.edu/academichonesty/>. If you have any questions about the policy, please feel free to talk with me.

COURSE PLATFORM: MyCourses

You can access the class syllabus and lecture handouts on the MyCourses web site (<https://mycourses.spcollege.edu/login.asp>). The materials provided on the web site are not intended to replace the class lecture or textbook material. You will be tested on items covered during lecture, but not everything covered during lecture will be provided in the handouts, videos and/or textbook.

ASSESSMENTS AND GRADING:

Student progress will be assessed from the following: 1) Abstract; 2) In Class Presentation 3) Critical Film Review; 4) Examinations (3 highest scoring exams and the mandatory final exam). This course requires students to write 2,000 words minimum. The mandated writing component will be divided across assessments. Specifically, students will write a 500 word abstract and a 500 word paper (Critical Film Review). The remaining 1000 words will be pooled from essay questions across examinations.

Abstracts/In Class Presentations (25 points each; 50 points total).

All students are required to present a short (3 minutes) presentation one time this semester. Students will be assigned their presentation time slot on the first day of class (08-17-15). The presentation will encompass a theme from the testing module. For instance, those students who are assigned to present on 09-02-15, "In class presentation 1," will present relevant material on "Schools of Psychology, Research Methods, the Brain, Biology, Behavior, AND/OR Neuroanatomy/Neurophysiology." The abstract is schedule to be submitted prior to the

presentation date. These dates are firm and missed assignments (i.e. abstract and/or presentation) CANNOT be made up. The schedule is as follows:

Assignment: 08-17-15

In Class Presentation 1: Abstract due on 08-26 at 11:59pm and Presentation Date on 08-31

In Class Presentation 2: Abstract due on 09-23 at 11:59pm and Presentation Date on 09-28

In Class Presentation 3: Abstract due on 10-19 at 11:59pm and Presentation Date on 10-21

In Class Presentation 4: Abstract due on 11-16 at 11:59pm and Presentation Date on 11-18

The purpose of the presentations is to review testing module information, while assessing learned information. In order to accomplish this goal, students will write a 500-word abstract highlighting 3 topics from the testing module (see above). The presentation will cover the same three topics written in the abstract. The abstract will contribute to 25 points and the oral presentation will contribute to 25 points of the final 50 possible points earned. A question and answer session will assess the student's capability to convey information. The grading rubric is as follows:

Abstract (500 words; 25 points total)

Written in APA format (visit <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>)

2.5 points – APA format (title page, abstract, references; running head)

15 points – Introduce, list and discuss the 3 topics of information that will be addressed at the time of the presentation. Information will be assessed for accuracy and grammar.

5 points – Material will be assessed for the following: information is correct; ideas are conveyed in a manner easy to understand; appropriate use of grammar (i.e. logical sentences, wording, punctuation, etc)

2.5 points – Abstract fulfills but does not exceed the 500 word maximum limit

Presentation (3 min presentation and 2 min Q&A for a total of 5 min; 25 points total)

10 points – Introduce and present the addressed 3 topics from the abstract, with adequate and correct information in a manner easy to understand.

10 points – Be able to answer questions from students and/or professor

5 points – Meets the 3 minute minimum presentation time

Critical Film Review (50 points total):

All students are required to write a 500-word critical film review in APA format (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>) to one of the following documentaries provided below. The review is due on 12-06-15 at 11:59pm, however you are welcome to submit it at an earlier date. ***A letter grade will be deducted every 24 hours it is late. Point deduction will begin at 12:00 am on 12-07-15.***

Option #1: The Secret Life of the Brain: The Baby Brain

<https://youtu.be/0UIH-Ptz5j0>

This documentary highlights the neurodevelopmental processes critical within early stages of development. For this film review, provide a summary of the critical neurodevelopmental processes. Then propose a novel scientific approach (a hypothetical research experiment) demonstrating the impact of teratogens on the developing brain, ultimately impacting cognitive processing, behavior and overall function. Must be in APA format (title page, summary, references).

Option #2: Science of Sex Appeal (2009)
<http://www.discovery.com/tv-shows/other-shows/videos/other-shows-science-of-sex-appeal-videos.htm>
This documentary describes how human attraction is consequential to chemical and physical (i.e. symmetry) attractions. For this film review, briefly discuss the theories of human attraction that are presented in the film and then propose a new theory of human attraction. Think about how Harry Harlow defined the emotion of love and incorporate his research findings and others discussed in class or in your textbook, supporting your novel theory. Also list any possible limitations to your theory.

Examinations (100 points each):

There will be five in-class examinations (09-02, 09-30, 10-26, 11-23) including the cumulative, mandatory final exam (12-02-15). **No one will be able to start taking the test once the first person has finished.** Students may not leave the classroom during the exam. If you must leave the classroom during the exam, for any reason, your exam must be turned in at that time. **So, use the restroom before exams.** The test format will consist of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and/or essay questions. Exam questions will be drawn from in-class lecture and other assigned materials.

Student with Disabilities.

If there is any student who has special needs because of a disability, please go directly to the Disability Services (<http://www.spcollege.edu/dr/>). Accommodations will be granted accordingly with appropriate paperwork. Please feel free to discuss this issue in private if you need more information.

Extra Credit.

Formal extra credit is not an available option. However occasional assignments may be made available during class that can count as extra credit. Therefore, it is recommended that you attend lecture.

Dropping the Lowest Exam Grade and Make-Up Policy.

The lowest exam grade will be dropped and will not count towards your final grade. **EXCEPTION: Final Exam cannot be dropped.** The final exam is cumulative and mandatory. **Make-up exams are NOT permitted.**

Grading.

Your cumulative grade will be calculated using the following percentage distributions:

| | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 3 EXAMS | 60% of your final grade | (300 points total) |
| FINAL EXAM | 20% of your final grade | (100 points) |
| PRESENTATION | 10% of your final grade | (50 points total) |
| FILM REVIEW | 10% of your final grade | (50 points) |

Your final letter grade will be calculated using the following scale:

| | |
|----------|----------------------------------|
| A | 90%-100% (450-500 points) |
| B | 80%-89% (400-449 points) |
| C | 70%-79% (350-399 points) |
| D | 60%-69% (300-349 points) |
| F | 59%-0% (000-299 points) |

COURSE SCHEDULE:

I reserve the right to change the course schedule as it is described in the syllabus, either to incorporate mid-course adjustments designed to enhance student learning, to adjust to external constraints such as inclement weather and unforeseen circumstances, to adjust assignments so they are consistent with material covered in class, or simply to correct errors. Students are responsible for complying with any deviations noted in the course schedule, which may be made available to them during normal class meetings and/or through email announcements.

| DATE | TOPIC / TESTING | ASSIGNMENTS |
|--------------|--|--|
| 08-17 | Introduction to General Psychology/Student Sign Up | Syllabus, Assignment |
| 08-19 | Schools of Psychology and Research Methods | Chapter 1 |
| 08-24 | The Brain, Biology and Behavior | Chapter 2 |
| 08-26 | Neuroanatomy and Neurophysiology | Chapter 2 Abstract 1 Due 11:59pm MyCourses |
| 08-31 | In Class Presentations 1 | |
| 09-02 | Exam 1 | Chapters 1; 2 |
| 09-07 | Sensation and Perception | Chapter 3 |
| 09-09 | Sensation and Perception | Chapter 3 (V) |
| 09-14 | Consciousness | Chapter 4 |
| 09-16 | Learning and Memory | Chapters 5-6 |
| 09-21 | Learning and Memory | Chapters 5-6 |
| 09-23 | Maladaptive Learning | External Sources Abstract 2 Due 11:59pm MyCourses |
| 09-28 | In Class Presentations 2 | |
| 09-30 | Exam 2 | Chapters 3; 4; 5; 6 |
| 10-05 | Development | Chapter 9 |
| 10-07 | Impeding Normative Development | External Sources |
| 10-12 | Personality and Social Behavior | Chapters 10; 11 |
| 10-14 | Personality and Social Behavior | Chapters 10; 11 |
| 10-19 | Psychopathy: <i>"I am Fishead"</i> | (V) Abstract 3 Due 11:59pm MyCourses |
| 10-21 | In Class Presentations 3 | |
| 10-26 | Exam 3 | Chapter 9; 10; 11 |
| 10-28 | Psychological Disorders & DSM 5 Part 1 | Chapter 13; External Sources |
| 11-02 | Psychological Disorders & DSM 5 Part 2 | Chapter 13; External Sources |
| 11-04 | Psychological Disorders Review | External Sources |
| 11-09 | Psychopathology and Treatment Part 1 | External Sources |
| 11-11 | NO CLASS | Veterans Day |
| 11-16 | Psychopathology and Treatment Part 2 | External Sources Abstract 4 Due 11:59pm MyCourses |
| 11-18 | In Class Presentations 4 | |
| 11-23 | Exam 4 | External Sources |
| 11-25 | NO CLASS | Thanksgiving! |
| 11-30 | Review | |
| 12-02 | Cumulative Final Exam | 1-6; 9-11; 13; External Sources |
| 12-06 | Critical Film Review Due | 11:59pm in MyCourses |

August 17, 2015

Student Agreement:

I, _____, agree and will adhere to the policies, procedures and student expectations listed within the syllabus.

_____ (printed name)

_____ (signature)

About the student:

Please fill out the following information:

1. First and Last name:
2. Year (Freshman, etc):
3. Major:
4. Why are you registered for this course?
5. What expectations do you have for this course?

6. List your educational or professional goals.