

**St. Petersburg College  
Tarpon Springs Campus  
General Psychology PSY 1012  
Spring 2015**

**Instructor:** Adriana Uruena-Agnes, Ph.D.  
**Office Hours:** After Class OR by  
appointment  
**Email:** Uruena.Adriana@spcollege.edu

**Class Times Per Section:**  
Section 1587 TR 11:00-12:15pm  
Section 588 TR 5:30-6:45pm  
**Class Location:** Room PS-120

**Required Textbook:**

**Hockenbury & Hockenbury (2014). *Discovering Psychology*. 6<sup>th</sup> 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 email) by the due date (see course schedule).

### **Attendance.**

SPC Spring academic calendar can be accessed by visiting the following website: <http://www.spcollege.edu/calendar/>. 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 March 25, 2015. If a student misses 6 or more classes prior to March 25<sup>th</sup>, the student will be identified as no longer "actively participating," resulting in a "W/F" grade. Following the 60% mark, students are allowed ONLY 2 absences (regardless of number

of absences prior to March 25<sup>th</sup>). 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 March 25, 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 MyCourse 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 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) Examinations (cumulative final included); and 4) Critical Film Review. 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 1,000 word paper (Critical Film Review). The remaining 500 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 (5 minutes) presentation one time this semester. Students will sign up for their presentation time slot on the first day of class (1-13-15). The presentation will encompass a theme from the testing module. For instance, those students

who signed up to present on 2-2-15, "In class presentation 1," will present relevant material on "Schools of Psychology and Historical Figures, Research Methods, the Brain, Biology, Behavior, OR Neuroanatomy/Neurophysiology." An abstract (500 words) of the presentation topic is due the class prior to the In Class Presentation days. Therefore, the schedule is as follows:

**Sign Up: 1-13-15**

**In Class Presentation 1:** Abstract due on 1/29 at 11:00am and Presentation Date on 2/3

**In Class Presentation 2:** Abstract due on 3/3 at 11:00am and Presentation Date on 3/5

**In Class Presentation 3:** Abstract due on 4/7 at 11:00am and Presentation Date on 4/9

**In Class Presentation 4:** Abstract due on 4/23 at 11:00am and Presentation Date on 4/28

The purpose of the presentations is to review testing module information, while assessing learned information. The abstract will contribute to 50 points and the oral presentation will contribute to 50 points of the final 100 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/>)

5 points – Introduction and list 3 topics of information that will be discussed

15 points – Discuss all 3 topics with adequate and correct information in a manner easy to understand

5 points – abstract fulfills but does not exceed the 500 word maximum limit

**Presentation (5 min presentation and 5 min Q&A for a total of 10 min; 25 points total)**

10 points – Present an introduction and the 3 topics 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 – Meet the 5 minute minimum presentation time

**Critical Film Review (25 points total):**

All students are required to write a 1,000 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 4-23-15 at 11:00am, 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 11:01 am on 4-23-15.**

Option #1: Sigmund Freud: Under Analysis (2014)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KHq\\_lz2iZo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KHq_lz2iZo)

This documentary highlights the works of Sigmund Freud. Sigmund Freud viewed psychoanalysis as a scientific approach for studying psychological processes, however psychoanalytic approaches are mostly used in the clinic for therapy. For this film review, propose a novel scientific approach (a hypothetical research experiment) validating psychoanalysis as an experimental model to study development or learning and memory. Use your knowledge in research ethics (i.e. IRB or IACUC) and the scientific method when writing up your answer.

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.

Option #3: The Medicated Child (2008)

[http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x17awuw\\_the-medicated-child-2008\\_news](http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x17awuw_the-medicated-child-2008_news)

This documentary highlights the increased prevalence of childhood bipolar disorder and associated pharmacological treatment. The benefits and disadvantages of psychiatric care for this age group are discussed. For this film review, you are asked to choose a position for either supporting or not supporting the use of mood stabilizers, antipsychotics in treating childhood bipolar disorder. List supporting evidence for your argument (do not just write, because it is or is not good treatment). Think about how additional research may be able to shed more light into this situation.

### **Examinations (100 points each; 400 points total):**

There will be five in-class examinations, including the cumulative final exam (**2-3-2015, 3-5-2015, 4-9-2015, 4-28-15; FINAL EXAM for SECTION 1587 = 5-5-2015 and FINAL EXAM for SECTION 588 = 5-7-2015**). 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:

<b>3 EXAMS</b>	<b>60% of your final grade</b>	<b>(100 points each = 300 points total)</b>
<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>20% of your final grade</b>	<b>(100 points)</b>
<b>PRESENTATION</b>	<b>10% of your final grade</b>	<b>(25 and 25 = 50 points)</b>

**FILM REVIEW            10% of your final grade    (50 points)**

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

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

**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
1/13	Introduction to General Psychology Student Sign Up	<b>Syllabus, Sign-Up</b>
1/15	Schools of Psychology and Historical Figures	Chapter 1
1/20	Research Methods in Psychology	Chapter 1
1/22	The Brain, Biology and Behavior	Chapter 2
1/27	Neuroanatomy and Neurophysiology	Chapter 2 <b>Abstract Due</b>
1/29	<b>In Class Presentations I</b>	
2/3	<b>Exam 1</b>	Chapters 1; 2
2/5	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 3
2/10	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 3 (V)
2/12	Consciousness	Chapter 4
2/17	Learning and Memory	Chapters 5-6
2/19	Learning and Memory	Chapters 5-6
2/24	Maladaptive Learning	
2/26	Motivation	Chapter 8 <b>Abstract Due</b>
3/3	<b>In Class Presentations 2</b>	
3/5	<b>Exam 2</b>	Chapters 3; 4; 5; 6; 8
3/10	<b>No Class</b>	Spring Break
3/12	<b>No Class</b>	Spring Break
3/17	Development	Chapter 9
3/19	Impeding Normative Development	
3/24	Personality and Social Behavior	Chapters 10-11
3/26	Psychopathy: "I am Fishead"	(V)
3/31	Psychological Disorders & DSM V	Chapter 13
4/2	Psychological Disorders & DSM V	Chapter 13 <b>Abstract Due</b>
4/7	<b>In Class Presentations 3</b>	
4/9	<b>Exam 3</b>	Chapter 9; 10; 11; 13
4/14	Psychological Disorders Review	
4/16	Psychopathology and Treatment	
4/21	Psychopathology and Treatment	<b>Abstract Due</b>
4/23	<b>In Class Presentations 4</b>	<b>Critical Film Review Due</b>
4/28	<b>Exam 4</b>	
4/30	<b>Review</b>	
<b>5/5</b>	<b>Cumulative Final Exam for 11am (1587)</b>	<b>10:00-11:50am on 5/5</b>
<b>5/7</b>	<b>Cumulative Final Exam for 5:45pm (588)</b>	<b>5:00-6:50pm on 5/7</b>

January 13, 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. Preferred email address:
3. Student ID number:
4. Year (Freshman, etc):
5. Major:
6. Minor:
7. Why are you registered for this course?
8. What expectations do you have for this course?
  
9. List your educational or professional goals.