



Syllabus: General Psychology

Course Number: Psyc 2301

Semester & Year: Spring 2016

Instructor Information

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Conference: 7:15-7:40 and 3:35- 4:00

Textbook Information

Psychology: An Exploration 3rd Ed. By Ciccarelli & White

ISBN# 10:0-205-25641-4

13:978-0-205-25641-9

Student Learning Outcomes for the Course

- discuss in general terms the major concepts of general psychology.
- understand the connections between the mind and body.
- demonstrate basic working knowledge of human lifespan development.
- have general understanding of major personality theories & associated environmental factors.
- understand the appropriate application of psychological principles in daily life
- to engage in creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information (Critical Thinking Skills)
- to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities (Social Responsibility)
- demonstrate effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication (Communication Skills)
- to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions (Empirical and Quantitative Skills)

Student Requirements for Completion of the Course and Due Dates

Students will complete exams that will include usually 3 chapters per exam, brief quizzes covering course material presented in movies, one term paper according to directions given and occasional in class activities which may carry additional points. *In class activities and movie quizzes may not be made up in the event of absence unless the absence was excused, as outlined in the student handbook. Make up exams are given in the testing center. You do not need to make an appointment with me. Exams are placed in the testing center within 72 hours of the day the exams were given. You must complete all make-up exams no later than **NOON, Friday, December 6, 2013.** Your term paper is due **Monday, November 4, 2013.** Instructions for the paper are attached.*

Student Assessment

Movie quiz and activity points are added to chapter tests, as bonus points. All test grades and the term paper are averaged together to yield a final grade.

Grading Scale NOTE: This grade scale is based on the reality that most professional licensure and certification exams are founded on a “cut” score of 70. I expect my students to begin getting used to this now. However, I offset this higher standard by allowing you to use notes on MOST of your chapter tests, provided that they are your personal notes, hand-written and in a “blue-book.” These blue books are available at the bookstore for less than a dollar per book.

Grade	
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	75-79
D	70-74
F	69-below

Absentee Policy

Texarkana College’s absentee policy allows instructors to withdraw a student from a course due to excessive absences. If a student leaves and returns during class or leaves the class before the class is over, he/she **may** be considered absent. Three tardies constitute one absence

Faculty members **are not** obligated to provide opportunities for students to make-up missed assignments and tests as a result of a student’s absence from class. Experience demonstrates that regular attendance enhances academic success. As such, students are expected to attend each meeting of their registered courses.

A student should not stop attending a class without formally withdrawing from the course by the institutions published Last Day for Students to Drop. If a student stops attending class after the published Last Day for Students to Drop, the student **may** receive a grade of “F” in the class. The instructor will submit the last date of attendance for students receiving a grade of “F” or “W”.

Withdrawal from a course(s) **may** affect a student’s current or future financial aid eligibility. Students should consult the Financial Aid Office to learn both short and long term consequences of a withdrawal.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

A student’s absence due to school trips and/or school business will not be counted against a student’s allowable number of absences. Military duty and absences for Holy Days (FBD LEGAL) are covered in a separate section of the catalog and the student handbook. These are the only excused absences that are considered by Texarkana College. Responsibility for work missed for any absence is placed on the student. Instructors are

required to allow students to make up work missed if the absence is due to military duty* or religious holy days when students follow the correct notification procedures. Instructors are not required to allow students to make up work for absences due to other reasons.

MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE ABSENCES

After official registration, the following number of unexcused absences will be the maximum allowable before a student **may** be dropped from the class. Mandated program certification requirements detailed for certain programs regarding the maximum allowable unexcused absences takes precedence over the following information.

Academic Classes

A COURSE THAT MEETS FOR THE FULL 16 WEEK SEMESTER	
Class or Lab Meets:	An instructor may withdraw a student from a course if absences exceed:
Once a week (Night classes or Friday classes)	2
Twice a week (MW or TR classes)	4
Three times a week (MWF or TRF classes)	6
Four times a week (MTWR classes)	8
	Three tardies count as one absence

Make-up Policy

*In class activities and movie quizzes may not be made up in the event of absence unless the absence was excused, as outlined in the student handbook. Make up exams are given in the testing center. You do not need to make an appointment with me. Exams are placed in the testing center within 72 hours of the day the exams were given. All make-ups must be done by **NOON, Friday, December 6, 2013.***

Academic Dishonesty Policy

Scholastic dishonesty, involving but not limited to cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion, or falsification of records will make the student liable for disciplinary action after being investigated by the Dean of Students. Proven violations of this nature will result in the student being dropped from the class with an “F”.

This policy applies campus wide, including TC Testing Center, as well as off-campus classroom or lab sites, including dual credit campuses. This information can be found in the Student Handbook at

<https://texarkanacollege.edu/PDFFiles/CurrentStudents/studenthandbook.pdf>

Disability Act Statement:

Texarkana College complies with all provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and makes reasonable accommodations upon request. Please contact Larry Andrews at 903.823.3283, or go by the Recruitment, Advisement, and Retention Department located in the Administration building for personal assistance.

If you have an accommodation letter from their office indicating that you have a disability which requires academic accommodations, please present it to me so we can discuss the accommodations that you might need for this class. *It is best to request these changes at the beginning if not before the start of class* so there is ample time to make the accommodations..

Financial Aid:

Attention! Dropping this class may affect your funding in a negative way! You could owe money to the college and/or federal government. Please check with the Financial Aid office before making a decision.

NOTE: Every semester, no matter how hard I try and how many times I proofread – I may still miss something. If you are unsure about my requirements or due dates, you must ask! I cannot correct misunderstandings if they are not brought to my attention. The burden is yours.

Other rules:

1. All emails to me need to come from your college email address.
2. Put your class Psych 2301.01 or 2301.02 in the subject line.
3. Understand that I delete unfamiliar emails.
4. Coming late to my class might get you locked out.
5. Do NOT knock on my door or enter if the door is closed. You are too far into the period to be admitted. Allowing you to enter disrupts class.

Term Paper: Spiritual Autobiography

General Comments/Instructions: All papers must be typed, double-spaced and in a plain, 12 pt. font, such as Times New Roman or Courier New.

This paper is designed to get you thinking about how you developed into the person whom you have become – so far. There are four questions that you are expected to answer as honestly and completely as you can. No one will see these papers except me. I do not expect you do divulge any deep dark secrets that you do not feel safe revealing; I am not your therapist or minister. I simply want you to examine, for yourself, what the events are that have helped to shape you. Your paper is merely proof that you have at least attempted to do that.

Since this is a three-part paper, I expect your paper to be *divided* into three parts – each with a separate heading. The heading of each section should be the actual question, in bold print. Your answers should be in complete sentences, in essay format. The more you are able to explain your answers; the better off you will be, grade-wise. If you write a few sentences with little explanation of your thinking, your grade will suffer.

1. What are some specific events in your life that you consider to be turning points? These are things that have happened, decisions you've made, events within or beyond your control. Some may be positive; others are negative. Explain what each event is/was and tell how it influenced you, as a person. Sometimes it may involve a chain of events, such as a marriage or divorce that lead to moving to a new place and meeting certain people, etc. Take a serious look back at your life thus far. You should be able to pinpoint some defining moments, even if you are only 17!

2. What if you had taken different "forks in the road?" This does not mean that you want necessarily change anything. You may like the way things have turned out – even though it may have been a bumpy ride. We all recognize things that have happened, decisions that we have made that could have -- *or perhaps should have* been done differently. For example, maybe you got married at an early age. You may have children and be able to see good things that have come from your marriage – but you may also think that school would have been easier without all the additional responsibilities of married life. *How might your life be different if you had chosen differently or if certain events beyond your control had not occurred?*

3. If you were to overhear some people talking about you, what would they be saying? In other words, what do you think other people see in you? What would others say are the good things about you and the not-so-good things about you? Try to think seriously about the kind of person you really think you are – and whether or not others see this, as well. Do not tell me what you **hope** you would hear – nor what you **wish** you would hear. This is a chance for you to try to evaluate yourself through the eyes of others.

Grading

Each section is worth 25 pts. This is my evaluation of how well you answered the question. The last 25 pts. are reserved for technical issues – such as following directions!!

Due date: May 15, 2015

I accept no excuses on late papers; if you are absent but wish to receive full credit – you must email your paper as a WORD attachment. This means .doc or .docx only. I will accept your papers LATE until Friday of the same week...with a 25 point deduction. For the record: "Late" means that you failed to turn in your paper during the class period in which it was due. Emailing a paper in the wrong format is also considered late.