



PSY 101- Introduction to Psychology

Mercer County Community College

Spring 2009

Tuesday/Thursday

Professor Heather Jennings

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Office Hours:

Tuesday 10:00-10:30am

Thursday 10-10:30 am and 2:45-3:45pm (WW)

Saturday (JKC) 12:00-1:00pm

Webpage: www.mccc.edu/~jenningsh

Required Textbook:

Carpenter, S., Huffman, K. (2008). *Visualizing Psychology*. NY, NY: Wiley Publishers

Textbook website: www.wiley.com/college/carpenter

Books that Can Really Help You!

Perrin, R. (2004). *Pocket guide to APA style*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company

American Psychological Association Publication Manual, Fifth Edition. (2001).

Gelfand, H., Walker, C., American Psychological Association. (2001). *Mastering APA Style: Student's Workbook and Training Guide*.

Welcome to Psychology 101!

This class will provide you with the basic principles of psychology. For many of you, this may be the only course you take in psychology in order to satisfy your general education requirements or as a general elective. However, some of you will decide to pursue further coursework in psychology by electing psychology as a major.

In this class you will learn what psychology really is, which includes a wide-range of issues relating to all areas of our lives. This course will introduce you to each of the sub-areas of psychology that you can pursue later on in more depth if you wish, such as developmental, cognitive, social, personality, and abnormal psychology. This will allow you the opportunity to decide what specific topics within psychology most excite you.

Whatever your motivation was for signing up for this course, I sincerely hope this will be a wonderful experience for you, as you are introduced to the fascinating, controversial, and always intriguing, field of psychology.

Academic Integrity

The work a student produces must be their own and should result solely from their own efforts. Plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Student's who violate this policy will receive an "F" for the course. Please refer to the Mercer County Community College Academic Integrity Handbook, or request one from the professor.

Reasonable Accommodations for Students with Documented Disabilities

Mercer County Community College is committed to supporting all students in their academic and co-curricular endeavors. Each semester, a significant number of students document disabilities, which may require learning, sight, hearing, manual, speech, or mobility accommodations to ensure access to academic and co-curricular activities. The college provides services and reasonable accommodations to all students who need and have a legal entitlement to such accommodations.

For more information regarding accommodations, you may visit the Office of Academic Support Services in FA129 or contact them at 609.570.3422 or urbanb@mccc.edu.

It will be the student's responsibility to arrange an accommodation. If you are a student with a disability or special need, please advise the professor within the first 2 weeks of the course so appropriate accommodations can be made.

Attendance and Conduct

As college students you choose to be here. You have elected to register for this course and YOU will determine your overall experience in this class. Although I do not expect students to attend every class due to demands of life, attendance is very important and required. If you miss class, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to get the information you have missed. Do not expect or request the notes to be supplied by me if you did not attend lecture. Attendance and lecture notes are crucial to success in this class.

Without question, students who attend class perform better than those who do not...make sure you get to class. If you are often absent, it should lead you to ask the question, "**Why did I register for this course?**" You will not hurt my feelings if this class is not for you, but please don't just disappear- drop the class as soon as you realize you don't want to be here. If you choose to not return without officially dropping the course, you will receive an "F" on your transcript.

Attendance Bonus

Students who attend every class will receive a 4 point bonus. If you miss only one class, you will receive a 2 point bonus. Lateness is not acceptable from college students; therefore two lates will be equal to one absence. If you arrive to class after I have taken role, it is YOUR responsibility to advise me that you arrived late, otherwise you will be marked as absent. All absences without a doctor's note will be considered unexcused. It is at my discretion to add additional points for active participation.

Exams

Grades will be based on three 75 question (multiple-choice/true-false) exams, for a total of 225 points. All exams will be administered in class on designated testing days provided in the course schedule (See below). It is the **student's responsibility** to take the exam on time. Make-up exams are not an option in this course. Should you miss an exam, you will have the option of taking EXAM 4, a cumulative final exam, which will replace your lowest exam grade. Exam 4 will be available at the testing center only.

Journal Review Assignment (50 points)

Each student will be required to review and analyze TWO scholarly journal articles. These are two separate assignments...you are not reviewing two articles together. Each article review must answer the questions listed in the table below and must be typed (double-spaced, 12-point font, 1-inch margins). You must select two of the articles listed below. Each article can only be used once. All articles are from the journal *Current Directions in Psychological Science* and are attached in the syllabus.

Articles to choose from:

- Representation of Objects and Events: Why do Infants Look So Smart and Toddlers Look So Dumb?
- Spanking Children: Evidence and Issues
- When Photographs Create False Memories
- Does Drinking Promote Risky Sexual Behavior?
- Who Develops Posttraumatic Stress Disorder?
- Math Anxiety: Personal, Educational, and Cognitive Consequences

In your review, no direct quotes are permitted. Please paraphrase it – put it into your own words. You will lose 1 point for every direct quote in your review. Your review must be at least 1 page in length but no more than 2 pages. At the end of the review make sure to include the full APA citation for the article.

Each article review is worth 25 points	
5 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What were the researchers interested in? ▪ What research question(s) were they trying to answer?
5 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Who participated in their research? Describe the characteristics of the participants. Where did they get their participants from?
5 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How was the research conducted (describe what the researchers did)? ▪ Does the research fit one of the basic research methods we discussed in chapter 1 - naturalistic observation, survey/questionnaire, case study of single individual, experiment, correlational research? Which? ▪ If it was an experiment, what variables were manipulated? What variables were measured, recorded or observed?
5 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What did the researchers find? What were the results? ▪ What conclusions do the researchers make?
5 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Correct APA citation of the article

Hollywood Film Critique- (25 points)

A lot of what we see portrayed in movies may not be based in reality, which can lead to confusion about psychological disorders. Select one of the following films and review the film as a Psychology student, not just a movie-watcher. You must provide a summation of the selected movie and discuss it from a psychological viewpoint. You should explain and discuss the mental illness depicted in the film. Based on your knowledge from class and your text, determine if the film accurately depicts the disorder identified or if it is flawed. Be sure to discuss the observable behaviors that are consistent with the disorder. This is a review based on psychological information provided in the textbook and/or lecture. This should be a concise 2-3 page paper, not an overview of what you think about the movie in general. No sources in addition to the textbook are required.

- Ψ **As Good as it Gets** (1997; Comedy, Drama, Romance; Jack Nicholson, Helen Hunt, Greg Kinnear)
- What disorder did Melvin (Jack Nicholson) have in the movie?
 - How did this disorder impact Melvin's (Jack Nicholson) relationships with others? How does Melvin behave when his well-established routine is interrupted? What internal feelings might lead to those behaviors?
 - What form of treatment did Melvin use in the movie? Is this a successful treatment? Explain.
- Ψ **A Beautiful Mind** (2001 Drama/Mystery; Russell Crowe, Jennifer Connelly).
- What type of schizophrenia does John Nash (Russell Crowe) have? Discuss a scene that depicts the "positive symptoms" of

schizophrenia. Discuss a scene that depicts the “negative symptoms.”

- Do you think the film implies that a person with schizophrenia can fully recover? Do you think the film implies that a person can recover without medication? Explain and justify your answers.

Ψ Personality Disorders

Select one of the following movies and answer the discussion questions that follow:

- **Girl Interrupted** (1999 Drama; Angelina Jolie, Winona Ryder, Whoopi Goldberg)
 - **Natural Born Killers** (1994 Thriller/Drama; Woody Harrelson, Juliette Lewis)
 - **American Psycho** (1999 Drama/Suspense; Christian Bale)
- Identify the character and the psychological disorder they display.
 - Did the movie accurately portray the symptoms of the disorder? Was this an accurate clinical picture? Explain in detail and provide examples from the movie.
 - Discuss any inaccuracies and misconceptions perpetrated of the disorder in the movie. If the disorder was misrepresented explain how this could be misleading to a typical movie-goer.

Ψ Dissociative Disorders

Select one of the following movies and answer the discussion questions that follow:

- **Me, Myself And Irene** (2000 Comedy; Jim Carey, Renee Zellweger)
 - **Identity** (2003 Thriller; John Cusack, Ray Liotta, Amanda Peete)
 - **Fight Club** (1999 Action/Drama; Brad Pitt, Edward Norton)
 - **Secret window** (2004 Thriller; Johnny Depp, John Turturro)
- Identify the character and the psychological disorder they display.
 - Did the movie accurately portray the symptoms of the disorder? Was this an accurate clinical picture? Explain in detail and provide examples from the movie.
 - Discuss any inaccuracies and misconceptions perpetrated of the disorder in the movie. If the disorder was misrepresented explain how this could be misleading to a typical movie-goer.
 - Many reputable theorists believe DID does not exist. What do you think? Support your thoughts.

Once you select a movie be sure to plan ahead to watch it...students sometimes find it hard to obtain a movie, especially if many classmates plan to rent the same one. Several of the movies are available at the MCCC library. The movies available cannot be checked out, but you can watch them in the library.

Late Assignments

All assignments and exams must be completed by the due date listed below in the course schedule. If you miss a due date please do not attempt to submit the assignment, I will not accept late papers. However, you may submit ONE late assignment during the course. The ONE late assignment MUST be submitted with a "late pass" (attached below). This late pass will allow a ONE day extension...not one class...one day only. So for example, if the assignment is due on October 1st, you can submit the assignment on October 2nd without penalty. Once the one day extension has passed the assignment will not be accepted. Therefore, if you want to earn extra credit in this course YOU MUST PLAN AHEAD.

Extra Credit Opportunities

Journal Review

Students will have the option of submitting an additional journal review paper. This extra credit paper will follow the same guidelines as the required assignment. This paper can be submitted at any time during the semester however, it MUST be submitted by April 28th. This paper will be worth 10 extra credit points.

Each extra credit article review is worth 10 points	
2 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ What were the researchers interested in?▪ What research question(s) were they trying to answer?
2 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Who participated in their research? Describe the characteristics of the participants. Where did they get their participants from?
2 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ How was the research conducted (describe what the researchers did)?▪ Does the research fit one of the basic research methods we discussed in chapter 1 - naturalistic observation, survey/questionnaire, case study of single individual, experiment, correlational research? Which?▪ If it was an experiment, what variables were manipulated? What variables were measured, recorded or observed?
2 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ What did the researchers find? What were the results?▪ What conclusions do the researchers make?
2 point	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Correct APA citation of the article

Flash cards

To encourage good study habits, I will give 4 extra credit points per exam to students who make flash cards of the chapter material. It may not sound like much, but that adds up to 12 extra credits points which will be added to your overall final points. Take advantage of this opportunity!

Course Grading

Your final grade for this class will be calculated on a point system. Your grade will be based on exam totals for a total of 300 possible points for the course.

The final grades can be computed as follows:

<u>Points</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
279 +	A	93%
270	A-	90%
261	B+	87%
249	B	83%
240	B-	80%
231	C+	77%
210	C	70%
180	D	60%
Below 180	F	

Use the space below to keep track of your cumulative points from the exams, paper and extra credit.

EXAM 1 _____/75 pts. FLASHCARDS EXAM 1 _____ pts.
EXAM 2 _____/75 pts. FLASHCARDS EXAM 2 _____ pts.
EXAM 3 _____/75 pts. FLASHCARDS EXAM 3 _____ pts.

Total Exam points _____ / 225 pts.
Article Review #1 _____ / 25 pts.
Article Review #2 _____ / 25 pts.
Film critique _____ / 25 pts.
Total flashcard pts. _____ / 12 pts.
Extra credit paper _____ / 10 pts.
Attendance Bonus _____ pts.

TOTAL POINTS _____pts.

I sincerely hope that you find this subject to be interesting and enjoy this psychology course. It is my goal for each of you to successfully learn in this class, as well as, think critically about issues related to Psychology. Please feel free to contact me at any time during the semester in class, during office hours, by phone or email with any questions.

Week of:	Course material	Exam Date	Assignment Due Dates
January 20 th	Ch.1-Introduction and Research Methods		
February 3 rd	Ch.2-Neuroscience and Biological Foundations		
February 17 th	Ch.6 –Learning	<u>Exam 1</u> February 26 th (Ch.1, 2 and 6)	Journal Review #1 Due February 16 th
March 3 rd	Ch. 7 –Memory		
March 10 th	Ch. 9-Life Span Development I		
March 16-22nd	SPRING BREAK	COLLEGE CLOSED!	
March 24 th	Ch. 10-Life Span Development II		Journal Review #2 Due March 26 th
March 31 st	Ch.12- Personality	<u>Exam 2</u> April 7 th (Ch.7, 9,10 and 12)	
April 9 th	Ch.13- Psychological disorders		Hollywood Film Critique Due April 21 st
April 23 rd	Ch.5- Consciousness		
April 28 th	Ch. 4- Sensation and Perception		
May 7 th	LAST CLASS MEETING!	<u>Exam 3</u> (Ch.4, 5, and 13) May 7 th	
		<u>Exam 4-</u> Cumulative Make Up Exam Available ONLY in the testing center May 4-11th	

Please cut and staple the “late pass” to the late assignment before turning in your one late assignment

<p>PSY 101</p> <p>Introduction to Psychology</p>	<p>“LATE PASS”</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Assignment: _____</p> <p>Original Assignment Due Date: _____</p> <p>Date submitted: _____</p>
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ONE MORE THING! What to do if class is cancelled

In the event that class is cancelled you will be required to watch a video on a topic related to a current psychological concept. These are streaming videos can be accessed through **Annenberg CPB Videos**. This website is an archive of streaming videos that are “on demand” so students can watch from any computer with an internet connection.

This is a free service that requires registration before accessing the video archives. Follow the link below to register. If class is cancelled I will send a class-wide email through the MCCC email system to notify students of the cancellation. In this email I will provide the link and/or title of the required video. A class discussion will occur in the following class and this information will appear on the next exam.

http://www.learner.org/view_programs/view_programs.html

And, of course, ENJOY the day off 😊