PSYCHOLOGY 5: GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY
Section 2747: MW 12:00 – 1:25 pm  ARTB 311

INSTRUCTOR: Amy Himsel, Ph.D.
EMAIL: amyhimsel@gmail.com  PHONE: 310-660-3593 ext 3572
OFFICE: ARTB 302F  OFFICE HOURS: M & W 11-12 pm, T 10-11 am
ONLINE OFFICE HOURS: M 8-10 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is a survey study of human behavior and mental processes with an emphasis on basic theory and research generated by the scientific method. Major topics include psychobiology, learning, human cognition, personality, lifespan development, psychological disorders, therapeutic approaches, and social psychology.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
1. Identify early schools of thought in psychology and contrast them to contemporary subfields in psychology.
2. Outline the steps of the scientific method, identify common research methods, and discuss ethical considerations of psychological research.
3. Describe the different functions of the neural and hormonal systems, emphasizing the functions of brain structures.
4. Explain the basics of genetics and assess the combined influence of genes and environment on a variety of human characteristics.
5. Differentiate between sensation and perception and identify the processes by which organisms recognize, organize, and make sense of stimuli in their environment.
6. Describe and discuss various states of consciousness, such as waking, sleeping, dreaming, and states induced by psychoactive substances.
7. Define learning and compare and contrast classical conditioning, operant conditioning, and observational learning.
8. Examine human cognition, focusing on memory, intelligence, and language, as well as the common errors of human thought processes.
9. Describe the forces that motivate human behavior, such as instincts, drives, and needs.
10. Identify and evaluate the major theories of emotion with an emphasis on behavioral, physiological, and cognitive components.
11. Describe processes of stability and change in the domains of biological, cognitive, and psychosocial development across the lifespan.
12. Compare and contrast the major theories of personality and describe and explain methods of assessing personality.
13. Evaluate the concept of “psychological disorder,” and discuss the assessment, classification, and possible causes of psychological disorders.
15. Analyze the impact of situational forces on human thought processes and behavior.
16. Discuss the influence of stress, personality, and other psychological phenomena on physical health.
Student Learning Outcome:
El Camino is developing student learning outcomes (SLOs) to assess learning, and professors must include SLOs in their syllabi as a matter of record. This is not an assignment.
• Students who successfully complete this course and its requirements will be able to identify and explain major historical trends, theoretical perspectives, and empirical findings relevant to mental processes and behavior.

REQUIREMENTS
Textbook: The required text is *Exploring Psychology: Seventh Edition in Modules* by David G. Myers (2008). Bring the text with you to class each day.

This text comes with a free companion website containing online flashcards, quizzes, and simulations: [http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/exploring7einmodules/](http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/exploring7einmodules/)

*Study Guide for Exploring Psychology: Seventh Edition in Modules* is highly recommended, but optional. It contains numerous practice questions and other learning exercises for each module.

Lectures and Participation: You are expected to engage actively in discussions, group work, and other in-class activities. Participation will be considered at the end of the semester for students whose course grades are on the borderline (within 3 points of the next grade).

You are responsible for all information presented in class. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to contact a classmate and find out what you missed.

In the Classroom: The classroom must be free of disruptions for you and everyone else to have the best opportunity to learn, so join the rest of us in following these commonsense rules:
• **Be early or on time. If you come late, the door may be locked. Do not disturb the class by knocking.**
• **Stay in the room for the entire class period.** Attend to personal needs before class starts.
• Turn all electronic devices (include cell phones) off and put them away.
• Listen carefully. Don’t disrupt others by talking during lecture.

In cases of repeated disruption, I follow the El Camino policy described on p. 25 of the College Catalog (access here: [http://www.elcamino.edu/admissions/catalog.asp](http://www.elcamino.edu/admissions/catalog.asp))

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION
E-mail: Email sent to instructors or other college staff should be written in a professional style, using Standard English. Include your section number (2794) in the subject line.

If you have not received a reply from me within 48 hours, it is likely that I did not receive your message. Please resend.
Course Website: Handouts and course grades are posted on the ETUDES course website. Handouts include materials passed out during class, such as study questions. Lecture notes and presentation slides are not available online. Follow the instructions below to gain access to the website:

ETUDES Log-in Instructions

You will be required to enter two pieces of information in order to login into Etudes and access your course (1) your User ID and (2) your Password (see Steps 1 and 2 below).

STEP 1: Locate your User ID. Your Etudes User ID is the same as your userid used to login to MyECC. EXAMPLE: Albert Einstein is enrolled in an online ETUDES classes and has the following User ID: albert_einstein [all lower case].

*SOME ECC student id numbers have been adjusted to accommodate multiple persons with the same name. If step 2 does not work please visit this site to verify your id: https://secure.elcamino.edu/portal/logininfo/main.aspx?item=forgot

STEP 2: Locate your Password. Your default Password is the month and date of birth included in your ECC record. EXAMPLE: Albert Einstein's birth date is March 25 so his Password is: 0325.

STEP 4: Now you are ready to login! Starting on the first day of the semester (wait at least 24 hours after registering) log in to your class by going to the Etudes portal https://myetudes.org/

STUDENT EVALUATION
Exams: There will be four non-cumulative exams that cover material from the text and lecture. Each exam will be worth 50 points and may consist of multiple choice, short-answer, and essay questions. You will need Scantron form 882-E for each exam. Dates are listed in the Course Schedule at the end of the syllabus.

Assignments: Written assignments are assigned throughout the semester and submitted through the ETUDES course website. Dates are listed in the Course Schedule at the end of the syllabus.

GRADING
Your course grade will be determined by the percentage of points you have earned.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90 – 100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 – 89%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 – 79%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 – 69%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59% and below</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Keep all of your returned work! If there is ever a mistake in the grade file, you must have documentation to support it.
Extra Credit: Extra credit questions may appear on exams or in pop quizzes, but there will be no separate or last-minute extra credit assignment.

Success in This Course: Learning occurs both within and outside of the classroom. I provide a number of tools to help you learn about psychology, including lectures, in-class activities, and discussions. I am also available outside of class during office hours if you need assistance or if you want to discuss the course, college in general, or future education or career plans.

The rest of the learning process is your responsibility. To do your best in this course, read the assigned material before class meets, attend every class and take careful notes, and review your lecture notes between class meetings. You should expect to spend three hours working outside of class for every hour of lecture. With three hours of lecture per week, this means you should spend nine hours studying the material on your own.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY
Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with El Camino College policy (see the ECC College Catalog, p. 25). The student will receive an F for the work and may be suspended from the class. The student will receive a 0 for the work and may be suspended from the class.

MAKE-UP POLICY
If you miss one of the first three exams, you may make it up only by taking a make-up test during the two last weeks of the semester. The score you earn on the make-up will be reduced by 10 points. You must submit a written request (email is fine) by Friday 5/29, requesting the make-up. Exam 4 cannot be made up.

In the event of emergency circumstances (medical emergencies, car accidents, death of a close family member), the above policy may be modified if you discuss your situation with me in advance of the exam or the due date. In fairness to all students, I require you to verify the extreme circumstance with adequate documentation.

DROP POLICY
If you miss two or more exams by Friday 5/14, you will be dropped with a W. You may also be dropped if it appears as though you have stopped participating in the class (e.g., you have not attended class for several days in a row). After Friday 5/14, all students enrolled in the class will be given a letter grade, regardless of participation.
## COURSE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Modules</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W 2/17, M 2/22</td>
<td>Introduction to Psychology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W 2/24</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 3/1, W 3/3</td>
<td>Biology and Behavior: The Brain</td>
<td>3, 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 3/8</td>
<td>Biology and Behavior: Nature/Nurture</td>
<td>5, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W 3/10</td>
<td>EXAM #1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 3/15, W 3/17</td>
<td>The Developing Person</td>
<td>7, 8, 9, 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 3/22</td>
<td>States of Consciousness</td>
<td>15, 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W 3/24, M 3/29</td>
<td>Learning</td>
<td>18, 19, 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W 3/31, M 4/5</td>
<td>Memory</td>
<td>21, 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W 4/7</td>
<td>EXAM #2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 4/12, W 4/14</td>
<td>Spring Break (no class)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 4/19, W 4/21, M 4/26</td>
<td>Language &amp; Intelligence</td>
<td>24, 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W 4/28</td>
<td>Motivation</td>
<td>26, 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 5/3, W 5/5</td>
<td>Emotions</td>
<td>29, 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 5/10</td>
<td>Stress and Health</td>
<td>31, 32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W 5/12</td>
<td>EXAM #3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 5/17</td>
<td>Personality</td>
<td>33, 35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W 5/19, M 5/24</td>
<td>Psychological Disorders</td>
<td>36, 37, 38, 39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W 5/26</td>
<td>Therapy</td>
<td>40, 42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W 6/2, M 6/7</td>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
<td>43, 44, 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W 6/9</td>
<td>EXAM #4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is no class on M 2/15 (Washington’s Day Holiday) and M 5/31 (Memorial Day Holiday).

## OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

- Last Day to Add: Friday, 2/26
- Last Day to Drop and be Eligible for a Refund: Friday, 2/26
- Last Day to Drop without Notation on Permanent Record: Friday, 3/5
- Last Day to Drop with a “W”: Friday, 5/14

**NOTE:** I reserve the right to modify any part of this syllabus as the semester progresses. Changes to scheduled readings and/or due dates will be announced in class.