COURSE SYLLABUS

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK and MATERIALS
Mastering the World of Psychology by Wood, Wood and Boyd 3RD ed.
Four Scantrons #882E and four small #815 (available in the book store) and #2 Pencil

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.

A goal of this class is to emphasize development of critical thinking skills and to prepare you to be a cautious and analytical consumer of information that is proclaimed scientific or based on research. You will be required to study, think, analyze, and discuss views often different from those previously held.

COURSE OBJECTIVES – PSYCHOLOGY 5

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 Outcomes**

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. Students will be assessed by exams, oral presentations, or research-based papers.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Reading:** It is essential that you read all assigned textbook chapters, and any additional reading given during the session, if you wish to do well in the course. Reading helps you to prepare for class lectures and activities and improves critical thinking and comprehension skills. Make it a habit to keep up with assigned readings. I recommend that you take notes on all reading assignments including textbook reading.

You are expected to complete your reading prior to coming to class. Exam questions are based on information covered in textbook chapters, additional readings, lectures and films. Class lectures will not cover all the material in your reading but you are still responsible for the information in your text. **DO NOT read your textbook or outside materials in class.** You may bring your textbook to class but do not open it during lecture unless asked to do so. There will be times when you will work on assignments in class and use your books but all other times, your attention, focus and participation should be directed toward lectures and discussions.

We will follow the textbook in the order of the chapters. The chapters are relatively brief; therefore all information is pertinent, noting definitions and key figures.

**PARTICIPATION and ATTENDANCE:** Lack of participation and attendance will have a negative impact on your grade. Examples of poor participation and attendance include, leaving class early, tardiness, absences, class disruptions including conversations and cell phone or pager announcements. Do not engage in any of these behaviors or you may be directed to leave the room.

If you are not in your seat when roll is taken you will be marked absent. Once the lecture and class activities begin the door will be closed and you may not be permitted inside. Arrive on time and plan to stay the duration of the scheduled class period.

Attendance is required. Miss more than 20% of the course or two consecutive days and you may be dropped. If your status in the class drops below the required standard of passing or you if you choose to no longer attend, it is your responsibility to follow the steps for officially dropping the class with the office of admissions and records.

There will be several activities and demonstrations in which your participation will be expected and valued.
**EXAMS:** There will be four exams worth 50 points each. The exams may consist of multiple choice, essay, short answer and true/false questions. Questions will be based on material from class, including films and demonstrations, and your required reading. On the day of the exam you will need a Scantron #882 and a #2 pencil. All exams are timed and will be given at the beginning of class. If you arrive 15 minutes or more late you may not be allowed to take the exam. **No one is to leave the room while taking the exam. There is no talking during the exam.** You must take all of the exams to pass the class.

**There will be no make-ups given.** If you miss an exam under special circumstances, you may take a comprehensive final with a point penalty or you may have to take two exams on the day of the final, with a point penalty.

**In order to receive this option, you must submit a written request for approval prior to missing the scheduled exam.** Examples for consideration include funerals and mandatory court appearances; this does not include scheduled appointments of any kind, vacations or the desire to attend another event. On going preparation will help to alleviate anxieties associated with test taking.

I will give you your exam scores but retain the Scantron. It is your responsibility to keep track of your scores and any exams you may have missed. Anyone who misses more than one exam will automatically fail. If notes are allowed during testing, they must be approved by the instructor. Photo copies of material, shared work and downloaded material will not be allowed.

**Pop Quiz:** There may be four to five short essay/short answer questions (**pop quizzes**) including a syllabus quiz (unannounced, no make-ups).

**Extra Credit:** Do not ask. Devote your time to reading, studying and completing homework assignments. This should be sufficient for passing the class and earning your desired grade.

**Written Assignments:** All reports and assignment submitted must be typed, double spaced. All reports with the exception of the community project and the oral presentation must be submitted electronically as a word document. It must be submitted under the file attachment section of your group page. Any work submitted after the deadline will lose 5 points for each day late.

**Students with disabilities:** Please contact the **Special Resource Center** on campus and speak to me in private.

Prior to the week of final examinations **ALL work assigned (except exam 4) must be completed satisfactorily to pass the course. An “I” (incomplete) will only be assigned for documented inability to take the final examination.**

**Grading:** Points from all areas will be calculated. Your final grade will be based on the total points earned. Grade Distribution: (90%) = A, (80%) = B, (70%) = C, (60%) = D, below 60% = F. If the short essays are not given, the scale will be adjusted accordingly. To calculate your grade divide your total points earned by the number of possible points and multiply by 100, this will give you a percentage.

**Dropping the Class:** Do not assume that you will be automatically dropped from the class if you stop attending. It is your responsibility to follow the proper procedure for withdrawing from the class. If this procedure is not followed your grade for the course
may result in an “F”.
Check your school catalogue or class schedule for the “Standards of Student Conduct” adopted by the college.

**Academic Honesty Policy:**
Students are expected to abide by ethical standards in preparing and presenting material that demonstrates their level of knowledge, in which is used to determine grades. Plagiarism, cheating, or furnishing materials or information in order to enable another student to plagiarize or cheat will not be tolerated.

**Classroom Behavior:**
You are in a collegiate environment that must be respected. In order to maintain a productive atmosphere and to maximize your productivity, active cooperation with rules and order are required. At all times you are expected to demonstrate common courtesy and respect toward your instructor and fellow students. Disrespectful or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and you may be asked to leave the class. This includes excessive chatting with your classmates, passing notes, inappropriate comments, outburst and whispering. **DO NOT read outside materials in class, answer cell phones, sleep or listen to headphones during class. Do not eat in class**

**Audio or Visual recording of lectures or any parts of the instructors image is not allowed**

Many times when students are asked why they are taking this class the reply is “because I have to...” Think about the reasons why you “want” to take this class. Remember the goals of psychology are to describe, predict, explain and understand YOU, YOUR behavior. Take this as an opportunity to learn more about you and those around you.

**As a Reminder**
All cell phones, pagers and non-essential electronic devices, this includes all musical and texting devices, should be turned off or placed on a non-beep mode and put away.
Stay awake during class and sleep at home. “This is no rest home”, Principal Vernon, “The Breakfast Club”.

I reserve the right to adjust scale and schedule as needed. It is the student’s responsibility to keep track of any changes or adjustments made to schedule, exam dates and material.

**Provisional Schedule**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Chapter/Subject</th>
<th>Exam/Class Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2/16-2/19</td>
<td>Introduction to class, Chapter 1 History of Psychology</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>2/22-2/26</td>
<td>Chapter 1 Research Methods in Psychology</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>3/1-3/5</td>
<td>Chapter 2 Biology and Behavior</td>
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<td>3/8-3/12</td>
<td>Chapter 3 Sensation and Perception</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>3/15-3/19</td>
<td><strong>Exam 1</strong> covering chapters 1-3/ reading and Lectures Chapter 4 States of Consciousness</td>
<td>Exam 1 MWF class 3/15, Exam 1 T Th class 3/17</td>
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<td>3/22-3/26</td>
<td>Chapter 4 States of Consciousness, Chpt. 5 Learning</td>
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<td>3/29-4/2</td>
<td>Chapter 5 Learning &amp; Chapter 6 Memory</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>4/5-4/9</td>
<td>Chapter 7 Cognition, <strong>Exam 2</strong> Chapters 4-7</td>
<td>Exam 2 MWF class 4/9, Exam 2 T TH class 4/8</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>4/12-4/16</td>
<td><strong><strong><strong><strong><strong><strong><strong><strong>Spring Break</strong></strong></strong></strong></strong></strong></strong></strong>**</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>4/19-4/23</td>
<td>Chapter 8 Human Development</td>
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<td>4/26-4/30</td>
<td>Chapter 9 Motivation and Emotion</td>
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<td>5/3-5/7</td>
<td>Chapter 10 Health and Stress</td>
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<td>5/10-5/14</td>
<td>Chapter 11 Personality Theory and Assessment</td>
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| 14 5/17-5/21 | 3     | chapters 8-11, Psychological Disorders | Exam 3 MWF class 5/17
|            |       |                           | Exam 3 T TH class 5/18 |
| 15 5/24-5/28 |       | Psychological Disorders, Chapter 13 Therapies |               |
| 16 6/1-6/4  |       | Therapies, Chapter 14 Social Psychology |               |
| 17 6/7-6/11 |       | Social Psychology         | Final Exam MWF class 6/11
|            |       | **Exam 4** Chapters 12-14 | Final Exam T TH class 6/10 |

Record your exam scores here

Exam 1_____
Exam 2_____
Exam 3_____
Exam 4_____

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