PSYC 5: GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY (HONORS)
El Camino College ~ Section 2751 ~ Fall 2010

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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.

HONORS TRANSFER PROGRAM
As part of the Honors Transfer Program (HTP), this course requires more work than a traditional section of General Psychology. There is an additional text, and there are substantial writing assignments as well. All students must complete all required work, whether or not they are currently in the HTP. Students who join the HTP in the future may earn retroactive HTP credit for this course.

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:
• 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.

REQUIRED TEXTS
• 50 Great Myths of Popular Psychology by Scott Lilienfeld and others (2009)
Bring both books with you to class each day.
Study Guide for Exploring Psychology: Seventh Edition in Modules is highly recommended, but optional. It contains numerous practice questions and learning exercises for each module.

IN THE CLASSROOM
Classroom Environment: My #1 goal is to make our classroom a place where students have the best opportunity to learn, so please join me in following these commonsense rules for minimizing disruptions:
• Be early or on time.
• Stay in the room for the entire class period. Attend to personal needs before class starts.
• Turn cell phones off and put them away (out of sight).
• Listen carefully and stay on task.

Attendance, Lateness, Etc.: Regular attendance is required, and it is critical that you arrive on time and remain in the room for the duration of the class period. An absence is defined as missing a class, arriving late, leaving early, or leaving the room during class for any reason. Students are dropped after 5 absences.

In cases of repeated disruption, I follow the policy described on p. 26 of the ECC College Catalog (access here: http://www.elcamino.edu/admissions/catalog.asp)

Lectures and Participation: You are expected to engage actively in discussions, group work, and other in-class activities. 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.

ASSESSMENTS AND RELATED POLICIES
ETUDES Orientation Assignment: You will complete a brief assignment to orient you to ETUDES.

Pop Quizzes: Pop quizzes on the readings assigned for the day may occur at any time during the semester.

In-Class Work: You will be participating in different types of in-class work, both as an individual and as part of a group.

Exams: Four multiple-choice, non-cumulative exams are given on material presented in lecture and in the text. Bring a Scantron form 882-E for each exam.

Literature Review Assignments: You will investigate research on a psychological topic of your choice and write a review of the literature. To make this task more manageable, you will complete two preparatory assignments as well.

Grading: This class is graded on a straight scale based upon the percentage of total points you have earned (e.g., 90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, etc.). Keep all of your returned work! If there is ever a mistake in the grade file, you must have documentation to support it.

Learning: What It Takes: You will learn both inside and outside of the classroom. My job is to facilitate your learning in the classroom. We spend less than three hours together each week, but you should spend at least six hours reading and studying on your own. In other words, most of your learning occurs outside of the classroom.

Discussing Your Grades: I am happy to speak with you about your exam or assignment scores throughout the semester. In fact, reviewing your work is a great way to learn how to improve. Exams are kept in my office and can be reviewed during my office hours. If you wish to have a grade on written work reconsidered, you must first submit to me a written description of your reasons, along with the assignment or essay question response. This gives you the chance to collect your thoughts and make your best case. In order to make sure the material is still fresh in our minds, you must submit your request within one week of receiving the grade.
Writing Help: If college-level writing is a challenge, please visit the Writing Center on campus. You can even schedule a pre-writing conference to make sure you are on the right track with an assignment. It is located in Humanities 122 (ph 310-660-3593 ext. 3873, http://www.elcamino.edu/academics/humanities/writingcenter/). I am available to assist you with your papers, but only if you are prepared enough in advance to attend my office hours or schedule an appointment. I do not read drafts over email.

Academic Honesty: Academic dishonesty is not tolerated. I follow El Camino’s policy regarding cheating, plagiarism, and all other forms of academic dishonesty (see the College Catalog, p. 25, access here: http://www.elcamino.edu/admissions/catalog.asp). At minimum, offenders will earn a 0 on the assignment or exam.

Missed or Late Work: There are no make-ups for missed work, although the lowest pop quiz and in-class activity scores are dropped. Late assignments are not accepted.

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. Adequate documentation of the circumstance is required.

Disabilities: Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact the Special Resource Center (310-660-3295, http://www.elcamino.edu/academics/src/) as soon as possible to better ensure such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. As well, please contact me privately to discuss your specific needs.

COMMUNICATION
Email: Email is the best way to get in touch with me outside of class. Include your section number (2751) in the subject line, please. I respond to emails within 48 hours. If you have not received a reply from me by then, it is likely that I did not receive your message. Please resend.

ETUDES Course Website: The literature review assignments are submitted on ETUDES. Handouts and course grades can be found there as well. Lecture notes and presentation slides are not available. Login instructions:

STEP 1: Go to https://myetudes.org/
When you log in for the first time, you will be required to enter two pieces of information: your User ID and your Password (see Steps 2 and 3 below)

STEP 2: Your User ID is: the same as your user id used to login to MyECC. The Admissions office gives every student enrolled in El Camino College a Student Identification (ID) number. EXAMPLE: Albert Einstein is enrolled in an online ETUDES class 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 3: Your default Password is the month and date of birth included in your ECC record. EXAMPLE: Albert Einstein’s birth date is March 25 - His Password is: 0325

STEP 4: Starting on the first day of the semester (and after waiting 24 hours after you registered for the class), log in to your class by going to the ETUDES portal. (https://myetudes.org).

COURSE SCHEDULE
Please see the Syllabus link on ETUDES for a detailed calendar of assigned readings and assessments.

NOTE: I reserve the right to modify any part of this syllabus as the semester progresses. Any changes I make will be announced in class and on ETUDES.