PSYC 3: PSYCHOLOGY OF THINKING (ONLINE)
El Camino College   Section 4196, Summer 2008

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Online Office Hours: W 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

GETTING STARTED: To participate in this course, you must first read the instructions and advice on this webpage:
http://www.elcamino.edu/faculty/ahimsel/psyc3online/index.html

ETUDES ACCESS
This course is administered through ETUDES. To gain access to the course website, follow these instructions:
1. Go to the ETUDES portal: https://etudes-ng.fhda.edu/portal
2. Enter your User ID, which follows this format: firstname_lastname (all lowercase) e.g., amy_himsel
   Note: If you have trouble with your User ID, go to this site to verify it:
   https://secure.elcamino.edu/portal/logininfo/main.aspx?item=forgot
3. Enter your Password. By default, your password is the month and day of your birth. e.g., My birthday is January 14th, so my password would be 0114. You can change your password later.
4. Press Login.
5. Click on ECC PSYC 3 4916 AH SU08

REQUIRED READING & LISTENING
Texts to purchase:

Other requirements (free of charge):
• Lectures - PDF slides and podcast, click MODULES
• Articles - click RESOURCES
• Announcements (read each time you log in) - click ANNOUNCEMENTS

You will need Adobe Reader to access some required readings. Download the free software here: http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2_allversions.html
COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course focuses on the psychological study of the nature of thinking. Its emphasis is on the progressive development and refinement of critical thinking and writing skills. These skills are expressed through the reading and writing of analytic and argumentative essays. Principles are applied from such areas as philosophy, psycholinguistics, and cognitive psychology. The logic of the scientific method and the analysis of experimental designs are also addressed. The key components of arguments are studied as well as various forms of fallacies in reasoning.

REQUIRED WORK
Start-Up Quiz: After reviewing the syllabus and announcements, take the 10-point Start-Up Quiz available in the TEST CENTER. You may take the quiz multiple times, and it must be completed by Monday, 6/23 at 11:45pm. (10 points)

Writing Assignments: The bulk of your grade in this class is based on writing assignments, which include essays and discussion. There are four essay assignments listed at the end of this syllabus and specific instructions for each essay will be posted in ASSIGNMENTS at a later date. Discussion participation occurs in the DISCUSSION AND PRIVATE MESSAGES area, under CLASS DISCUSSION. There will be at least four discussion assignments throughout the semester, some of which are listed on the course schedule and others which will be announced in the future. (200+ points, to be determined)

If you struggle with writing, get help! The ECC Writing Center is a wonderful, free resource for students: http://www.elcamino.edu/academics/humanities/writingcenter/
You can also get help from me during office hours. Please note that I do not read drafts over email, but I can answer specific questions.

Exams: You will take two non-cumulative exams, each worth 50 points. Each test may be taken only once, and questions appear one at a time. It is not possible to stop or rewind the questions once you begin, so make sure to have a long stretch of uninterrupted time to complete the exams. The dates of the exams are listed at the end of this syllabus, and you are expected to clear your schedules accordingly. Click TEST CENTER to find the exam when the exam window opens. (100 points).

Class Wrap-Up: During the last week of class, you will be asked to reflect on the course in discussion. Details will be provided at a later date. (10 points)

A Note on Participation: In cases of borderline grades, I will take into consideration overall participation. In other words, it is to your benefit to engage actively in the course by making meaningful contributions in all areas of discussion. A side benefit is that you will also get more out of the course by doing so. It’s a win-win situation.
ADVICE
Online classes are challenging! Each semester, nearly 50% of online students drop. Don’t let this happen to you. Here are some tips for doing your best in this online course:

- Get started right away and don’t fall behind.
- Spend at least 20 hours on this class each week. At least!
- Create and stick to a regular work schedule for this class.
- Log in every weekday and at least once over the weekend.
- Check for new announcements and discussion posts each time you log in.
- Complete ALL writing assignments, including ALL discussions.
- Prepare a technology back-up plan in case your computer/internet fails you.
- Ask questions and contribute replies. Engage in the course.

COURSE POLICIES

Asking Questions. Please do not hesitate to ask questions. Just make sure you know how and where to ask them!
- Basic course questions: Post your question in the QUESTIONS forum. Click DISCUSSION AND PRIVATE MESSAGES, QUESTIONS, NEW TOPIC and write your question.
- Personal questions: Email me at amyhimsel@earthlink.net with your section number in the subject line.

Grading. It will be possible to earn a certain number of points in this class. Grades will be determined by the percentage of total points earned.

A = 90 – 100%
B = 80 – 89%
C = 70 – 79%
D = 60 – 69%
F = 0 – 59%

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 your grade. If you wish to have a grade on written work reconsidered, you must first submit to me a written description 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.

Drop Policy. Students who have not completed the last three required assignments (including discussion) before T 7/15 will be dropped from the course with a W.
**Extra Credit.** Students who complete a course evaluation survey will receive four extra credit points. Small extra credit opportunities may occasionally arise as part of other required course elements as well.

**Missed Work.** Writing assignments will be penalized 10% per each day late, including weekend days. One missed exam may be made up near the end of the semester, but at least 10 points will be deducted from the score.

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.

**Academic Dishonesty.** Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any student who cheats, plagiarizes, or engages in any other form of academic dishonesty will receive a score of zero for that work and may be suspended from all classes as well. In an online course, cheating also includes plagiarism in discussion posts, taking the exam with other students, and/or informing other students of exam content. For more information, see pp. 25-26 of the ECC College Catalog.  
http://www.elcamino.edu/admissions/catalog.asp

Unfortunately, I have found that at least a few students engage in plagiarism every year. Students are given a 0 for plagiarized work, and this often has a devastating impact on their course grade. If you have any questions about what plagiarism is and how to avoid it, read this website: http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml

**Online Communication.** One great thing about online courses is the opportunity for dialogue with other students. However, online communication differs from face-to-face communication because we do not have the luxury of facial expressions or tone of voice to convey our ideas (although emoticons help). Unfortunately, misunderstandings are common in an online context. Do not take misunderstandings personally or respond out of anger. If you think you have been the target of someone else’s anger or disrespect, email me immediately. Do not allow yourself to be provoked by someone else’s post, because you will be held responsible for the content of your posts regardless of who started the conflict. Disrespectful communication of any kind will be handled according to the Standards for Student Conduct described in the ECC College Catalog (see p. 24).

Note: I have taught several online courses in the past year, and I have had only one incident of disrespectful communication. Let’s keep it that way!
COURSE SCHEDULE
M/P = Moore & Parker’s Critical Thinking
S = Stanovich’s How to Think Straight about Psychology

M 6/16 – M 6/23: Modules 1, 2, & 3
Module 1: Critical Thinking and Psychology
M/P Ch. 1, S Ch. 1

Module 2: Falsifiability
S Ch. 2, Loftus (2004)

Module 3: Language and Critical Thinking
M/P Ch. 2; S Ch. 3

Due Monday 6/23 - Start-Up Quiz (10 points)
Due Monday 6/23 - Essay #1 – Brief Argumentative Essay (20 points)

M 6/23 – W 7/2: Modules 4, 5, & 6
Module 4: Credibility of Sources and Messages
M/P Ch. 3

Module 5: Case Studies & Testimonials
S Ch. 4

Module 6: The Anatomy and Varieties of Arguments
M/P Ch. 7, 10

Due Sunday 6/29 - Essay #2 Credibility Analysis (50 points)
Tuesday 7/1, 7pm to Wednesday 7/2, 9pm – Exam #1 (50 points)

M 7/7 – M 7/14: Modules 7, 8, & 9
Module 7: Addiction
Readings on ETUDES

Module 8: Rhetorical Devices
M/P Ch. 4, 5, 6

Module 9: Correlation and Experimentation
S Ch. 5, 6, 7

Due Sunday 7/13 – Essay #3 Argumentative Essay (Addiction)
M 7/14 – W 7/24: Modules 10, 11, & 12
   Module 10: Homosexuality and Conversion Therapy
   Readings on ETUDES

   Module 11: Converging Evidence & Multiple Causation
   S Ch. 8, 9

   Module 12: Understanding Statistical Reasoning
   S Ch. 10, 11

   Due Sunday 7/20 – Essay #4 Argumentative Essay (Homosexuality)
   Wednesday 7/23, 7pm – Thursday 7/24, 9pm – Exam #2 (50 points)

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:
   Last Day to Add – Th 6/19
   Last Day to Drop and be eligible for a Refund – Th 6/19
   Last Day to Drop Without Notation on Permanent Record – W 6/25
   Last Day to Drop with a "W" – T 7/15
   Campus is closed on Th 7/3 and F 7/4

   Although you are not required to log in to the class on holidays (e.g., July 4th),
   CourseCompass will be available if you choose to do so.

   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 online.

   Get started as soon as possible. Good luck and have fun!