PSYC 5: GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY (ONLINE)
El Camino College - Section 4198, Summer 2008

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Online Office Hours: W 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
TECHNICAL SUPPORT: 1-800-677-6337, M-F 5 am - 5 pm, Su 2 - 9 pm (PST)

GETTING STARTED: To participate in this course, you must first read the instructions and advice on this webpage: http://www.elcamino.edu/faculty/ahimsel/psyc5online/index.html

NOTICE FOR MAC USERS: If you are using Mac OS 10.4 or later, Tech Support recommends that you download Safari 2.0 for use with CourseCompass and click “Accept All Cookies” in Preferences (see Security). Otherwise, you will not be able to access all of the videos, simulations, and practice quizzes for the class. Download Safari 2.0 here: http://michelf.com/projects/multisafari/

TEXT AND ONLINE ACCESS

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is a survey of the scientific study of the behavioral and mental processes of organisms. This course emphasizes basic theory and research design, including experimental techniques. Extended discussion of the contribution of nature and nurture to the understanding of behavior and mental processes is conducted. Major topics include psychobiology, learning and conditioning, cognitive psychology, motivation and emotion, personality theory, developmental psychology, psychological disorders, and social psychology.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
As a result of active participation in this class, the successful student will:
• think critically about “why we do what we do” as humans.
• apply information learned about human behavior and mental processes to the real world.
• be prepared to take advanced courses in psychology.

REQUIRED WORK
Course Information: Read all of the information contained under these buttons on the course menu: Announcements, Syllabus, Discussion Guidelines, and Exams.

Policy Quiz: After reading the required Course Information, take the Policy Quiz located under Exams on the course menu. You may take the quiz multiple times. It is due by Monday, 6/23 at 11:59pm. (10 points)

Introductions: Get to know your classmates by posting an introduction and a reply to another student. Click Open Discussion on the course menu. Then, click Introductions. The introductory message should cover two topics: (1) something interesting/unusual about you and (2) something that concerns or excites you about online learning. Be sure to include both of these topics in your introductory post. Click “start new thread” to make this post. Also, post a reply to at least one other student’s introductory post (click “reply” within their message). Both your introductory post and your reply must be made by Monday, 6/23 at 11:59pm. (10 points)

Topic Guides: Topic Guides are required reading for each chapter and can be found under the Topic Guides button on the course menu. Use the guides as you read the text, complete the multimedia resources, and review for exams. In these guides, I highlight terms/concepts that students typically find challenging, provide additional examples, include outside material (e.g., an interesting, relevant news story, a link to a related website), and/or draw attention to particular multimedia resources in the e-book. You will need Adobe Reader to access the Topic Guides. Download the free software here: http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2_allversions.html

Discussion Group Participation: Discussion group participation begins during the second week of the course. You will receive an email by Monday, 6/23 with a group assignment. Click the Groups button on the course menu after you have received your group assignment. (60 points)
Exams: There will be five non-cumulative 50-point multiple choice exams. The exams must be taken during the 26-hr window listed on the course schedule. The exam window always opens on Wednesdays at 7pm and closes on Thursdays at 9pm. Click the Exams button on the course menu when the exam window opens. (250 points)

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 where to ask them.
• Technical questions: Contact CourseCompass Tech Support (see Syllabus, General Information).
• Basic course questions: Post your question in the Course Questions forum (click Open Discussion on the course menu)
• Personal questions: Email me at amyhimsel@earthlink.net with your section number in the subject line.

Grading. The following scale will be used to determine course grades.
A = 297 – 330 points
B = 264 – 296 points
C = 231 – 263 points
D = 198 – 230 points
F = 0 – 197 points

Drop Policy. Students who miss two or more exams by Tuesday 7/15 (the deadline to drop with a W) will be dropped from the course.

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. Make-ups are not available for the Policy Quiz, Introductions, Discussion Group Participation, or the Class Wrap-Up. If you miss an exam, you may make it up only by taking a make-up exam between M 7/21 and Th 5/24. You may make up only one exam, and the score you earn on the make-up will be reduced by up to 10 points. It is not possible to earn an A on a make-up exam. In order to have enough time to write the make-up exams, I require that you submit to me a written request noting which exam you wish to make up. I must receive your request by Friday, 7/18. Students who do not submit a request on time will not be permitted to make up the exam. Exceptions to this policy will be made only in cases of a documented emergency if you contact me in advance of the deadline. Technological problems are not adequate excuses for missed deadlines, so make sure you have a technology back-up plan.

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. See pp. 25-26 of the ECC College Catalog for more information.
http://www.elcamino.edu/admissions/catalog.asp

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. 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!

Email among Students. The email address you registered with CourseCompass is displayed to all other students whenever you post. Students sometimes use email to get to know each other, solidify study group plans, or share information. However, please respect the wishes of others if you have been asked to stop emailing. If you are receiving unwanted emails from another student, I recommend you block their address from your email program.

COURSE SCHEDULE
The exam window always opens on 7pm and closes the next day at 9pm. Please note that all exams but Exam #2 open on a Wednesday. All other work is due by 11:59 pm on the due date. See Discussion Guidelines for more information about the timing requirements for discussion posts.

Ch. 1: Introduction to Psychology
Ch. 2: Biology and Behavior
**EXAM 1: W 6/25 – Th 6/26**

Ch. 5: Learning
Ch. 6: Memory
Ch. 8: Intelligence and Creativity
**EXAM 2: T 7/1 – W 7/2**

Ch. 9: Child Development
Ch. 10: Adolescence and Adulthood
Ch. 11: Motivation and Emotion
**EXAM 3: W 7/9 – Th 7/10**

Ch. 12: Human Sexuality and Gender
Ch. 13: Health and Stress
Ch. 14: Personality Theory and Assessment
**EXAM 4: W 7/16 – Th 7/17**

Ch. 15: Psychological Disorders
Ch. 16: Therapies
Ch. 17: Social Psychology
**EXAM 5: W 7/23 – Th 7/24**

**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.