

General Psychology
Syllabus
Fall 2011

Instructor: Bev Birney

Textbook: Understanding Psychology by Richard A. Kasschau, PH.D – Glencoe

Course Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- define the science of psychology
- describe the history of psychology
- identify the methods for examining behavior and mental processes
- address how the brain processes information
- address how the body adapts to the demands of its environment
- examine how the brain makes meaning out of physical sensations
- examine the drives and needs that direct behavior and emotion
- demonstrate how behavior changes through the use of conditioning
- describe varying stages of awareness
- explain how nature and nurture influence development
- identify how psychologists measure & compare abilities & characteristics
- describe symptoms and treatments of behavior disorders
- demonstrate scientific explanations of personality development

Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated by the instructor in the following areas:

- unit and semester exams
- group or individual projects
- written assignments
- oral participation and presentation
- attendance
- a personal journal
- field experience

Grading Scale:

A	100% - 90%
B	89% - 80%
C	79% - 70%
D	69% - 60%
F	below 60%

Final Grade:

Total Points

School Phone # 620 – 826 - 3241

Home Phone # 620 – 826 – 3806

Class Schedule

- August 15 – Review Syllabus – hand out books – review classroom expectations
Chapter 1 – Introducing Psychology
Journal entry – The Nature of Psychology (ligh pink)
- August 22 – Chapter 2 – Psychological Research Methods & Statistics
Single Blind Experiment
- August 29 – Finish Chapter 2
Unit Test Chapters 1 & 2
Journal Section due
- September 5 –Labor Day Break
Chapter 6 – Body & Behavior
Journal entry – Motivation – Emotion – Stress (hot pink)
- September 12 – Chapter 7 – Altered States of Consciousness (Sensations & Perceptions)
Video – The Brain
Dream Schedule
- September 19 – Unit Test – Chapters 6 & 7
Journal Section due
Chapter 9 – Learning: Principles & Applications
Journal entry – Learning (purple)
- September 26 - Chapter 9 continued
Classical & Operant Conditioning examples/experiments
Virtual Rat
- October 3 – Chapter 9 Test
Journal entry due
Chapter 10 – Memory & Thought
Journal entry – Memory (light green)
- October 10 – Chapter 10 continued
Memory demonstrations
Test – Chapter 10
Journal entry due
- October 17 – Chapter 13 – Psychological Testing & Personality
Journal entry – Intelligence (yellow)
Journal entry – Personality (dark green)
- October 24 – Finish Chapter 13
Test – Chapter 13
Journal entry due

October 31- Chapter 3 – Infancy & Childhood
Journal entry – Developmental Psychology (peach)

November 7 – Finish Chapter 3
Test – Chapter 3
Journal entry due

November 14 - Field experience paper
Observational activity

November 21 – Chapter 16 – Psychological Disorders
Journal entry – Abnormal Psychology (light blue)
Journal entry - Treatment & Therapy (red)
Thanksgiving Break

November 28 – Continue Chapter 16
Test – Chapter 16
Journal entry due

December 5– Introduce Final Project

December 12– Final project due
Semester exam