

**West Los Angeles College**  
**Psychology 001 - General Psychology I (UC: CSU) 3:00 Units**

**Syllabus and Course Schedule – winter 2015**

Department: Psychology

Subject Name and Number: General Psychology I, section 1760

Robert Irvin, PhD, MPH, Adjunct Assistant Professor

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M-Th. 10:45am-1:20pm, Room, BSC 330

Office hours: 30 minutes before and after class

**Required Text: Psychology in Everyday Life, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, David G. Myers, C. Nathan DeWall, Worthpublishers (MacMillan, 2014)**

Course Description: This is an introduction to psychology course. The course is designed to provide an overview of the field of psychology and human behavior. Introduction to research as presented in psychology-relevant journal articles; differentiation between professional peer reviewed journal research and non-peer reviewed research. Differentiate between “pop” psychology and pseudo psychology (e.g., astrology) versus scientific/research methods and /or psychological theories and research findings). Students employ library and other research services to locate, critically analyze, and discuss full text peer reviewed journal articles. Topics include and not limited to: development, motivation, emotion, abnormal behaviors and therapies.

Course objectives: As a result of completing this course students will:

- a. To understand the major contemporary scientific theories of human behavior,
- b. To appreciate the problems of scientific method in general and specifically as they Refer to the study of human behavior,
- c. To provide knowledge prerequisites for advance courses in psychology,
- d. To develop the ability to evaluate data relations to human behaviors by application of the Criteria of scientific method used in the behavioral sciences,
- e. To provide understanding of the theoretical bases used in the applied scientific approach To one’s self and others, by relation to psychological principles to the social interaction Of life situations.

Method of Instruction: lecture, discussion, and media/internet use, and or writing assignments. You are expected to attend all classes. It is important for your success that you read the material we discuss in class. Video media will be used to supplement class lecture material, (i.e., Psychology, the Standard Deviants, and CNN Today: Introduction to Psychology, Vol. IV, and the Secret life of the Brain, PBS home video. The student should be very comfortable navigating the web, use email, and a word processor.

Attendance: Attendance is strongly encouraged. An attendance log is made. The instructor will be notified prior to missing a class if it is impossible to attend. The student will then need to arrange to make up the work. Tardiness is to be avoided. Missing more than two classes may jeopardize your grade, or you could be excluded from the class. If you should decide to stop attending class, it is your responsibility to drop the course at admissions.

**Student Learning Outcome:**  
**Think critically about historical theories in psychology and tie them to current research methodology and research outcomes.**

Course Requirements: As you can see, we will be covering a significant amount of reading material each week. So it is important to attend every class meeting on time. Take all quizzes and exams on time. Read the textbook assignments and do any outside assignments. Participate in individual, group activities and discussions. All students are responsible for announcements made in class, even if they are absent.

Keys to Success: The College offers programs to help students strive for excellence in their academic goals. These programs include computer assisted instruction, word processing, the internet, tutoring, learning center, writing center, as well as workshops and related classes in reading, writing, library resources and grammar. Students are urged to take advantage of these programs offer at the college. It is important to stay informed about the college's enrollment deadlines. Suggested supplies for the class: three ring binder, notebook paper, one pack of 3x5 index cards, writing pad, a highlighting pen, and pencil/pen.

Guidelines for Sharing: I look forward to a rewarding and interesting session with you, and I really want you to succeed in this class. If you are having any problems that you think is affecting your performance, consult me, communication is extremely important, and I support your efforts. Feel free to leave me a message, phone or email.

<u>Point Distribution</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Total</u>
Quizzes	3	60	60
Psychology Research Topic Paper	1	20	20
Discussion/Participation	ongoing	10 (max.)	10
Final Examination	1	50	50
Total			140

**Course Marking Criteria**

A = (140-126 points) - excellent, distinctive work and sophisticated understanding-nuanced and insightful account, powerful and effective application of concepts

B = (126-100 points) – good above average work and accomplished understanding, thorough, well-documented account; adequate and apt application of concepts, frameworks and theories.

C = (100-70 points) – average, reasonable, sufficient work, but not distinctive, acceptable view with some misconceptions or oversight; not fully supported; acceptable but limited application of concepts, frameworks and theories

D = (70-42 points) insufficient work with naïve, limited or inadequate understanding, simplistic account and use of concepts, frameworks and theories discussed

F = (<42 points) failure, unacceptable work

Evaluation Procedures:

- ✚ Regular/Quality Participation,
- ✚ three (3) Quizzes,
- ✚ Psychology Research Topic Paper, and
- ✚ Final Examination.

**The “A-Student” quick start checklist for the first week of classes.**

Register for your classes before the term begins, obtain a printout of your classes, become familiar with the campus and locations of the departments/services and facilities, inquire how to access computer labs, email accounts, and the internet, visit the library, organize your notebooks, create a long-term calendar, decide on a system to record all coursework assignments, become familiar without textbooks by surveying each chapter, show the first day of class ready to learn, make a commitment to dedicate sufficient time each week to studying, plan to ask questions about the class, the expectations,, and the assignments, monitor your stress levels.

The **Psychology Research Topic paper** is a written assignment for you to identify an area in the afield of general psychology that interests you. You will discover that the textbook presents a wide array of topics. This is an opportunity for you to write and submit a three page single-spaced (12font, new times roman) description on how and why this area of general psychology captivates your interest. You must attach a brief photocopy (1 page) of the source material from which your topic is written.

**Standard Cover Page Format for all submitted material(s): [upper right corner]**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Course Title and Number: \_\_\_\_\_

College Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your paper must be typed and single-spaced. Late papers will not be accepted.

- ◆ Overall: 12pt New Times Roman, double spaced, 1 inch margins
- ◆ Title page: Include title, name, subject, date.
- ◆ Introduction: provide a paragraph or two of background information on the topic to set the scene. (I.e. why you selected this topic). State the aim of this paper. Describe the methods used to obtain the information required for this paper
- ◆ Review: State the exact nature of the psychological issue and describe it in detail. Include relevant contextual information to clarify how the topic or issue arose (e.g. Historical, political, cultural, technical, etc.)
- ◆ Examine the impact of the topic on human behavioral processes.

**Either of two formats (APA or MLA) can be used, to format your research paper. I recommend that you visit the websites below for assistance in choosing and formatting your paper presentation.**

**WLAC Writing Center (and other resources)**

[http://www.wlac.edu/library/info/lab\\_writing.html](http://www.wlac.edu/library/info/lab_writing.html),

<http://www.questia.com/aboutQuestia/permPage.html>,

<http://www.aresearchguide.com>,

<http://www.apastyle.org>,

[http://www.mla.org/style\\_faq](http://www.mla.org/style_faq),

<http://citationmachine-west.net/index.php>,

[http://college.hmco.com/collegesurvival/wong/essential\\_study/4e/students/interact\\_practice.html](http://college.hmco.com/collegesurvival/wong/essential_study/4e/students/interact_practice.html)

The synopsis should include; a title of the topic, author, publisher, and publication date. The purpose of the search is to learn about topic related to contemporary general psychology and to become acquainted with some contemporary research findings and/or problems. You should discuss, why you chose this article/why you are interested in it, what was the author(s) purpose, what was the focus of the topic, and were there any definitive or inconclusive statements or results discussed from the research. This will satisfy completion of the assignment.

**Psychology 1, WLAC, winter 2015**  
**Supplemental credit option/extra credit**

**\*Find the “In Your Everyday Life” section at the end of any the textbook chapters. Choose (two) 2 questions from this section and write/respond to both questions on a single sheet of white paper. These responses must be typed and printed out and turned to the professor. A maximum of 10 points maybe earned.**

**Due date: 1/29/15**

Your final course grade will be based on the total points earned from the quizzes/exam/behavioral observation reports/term paper, and any presentation and in- class participation that you offer. Everything you do is converted to points. Your letter grade is based on various percentages on estimated 140 total points.

**Course Policies:**

- Attendance: College policy is that students are expected to attend all class meetings, with necessary materials, texts, and preparation to ensure that you do not miss important information. It is the student's responsibility to be informed about the college's policy regarding drop/withdrawal from enrolled coursework. In case of absence, call another student to get necessary information and get notes from another student upon return. If you will be, absent for some time, write to the professor at the college, or send a message with another student. The professor's email address is noted at the top of the syllabus.
- Quizzes: However, I realize that something could prevent you from coming to class such as transportation problems, illness, or a family emergency. If that should happen on a quiz day, you should email me in advance and leave a message. If that is not possible, you should speak with me on the first day of your return. Excused absences are not automatic. You need a valid reason to receive one and you may be required to provide documentation. You are encouraged to take notes from your textbook. You are allowed to use those notes when taking your quizzes, providing you follow the guidelines. Any deviation from these guidelines will be considered and an indication of academic dishonesty--cheating. All of your notes must be in a standard notebook that has your name on the cover in clear and legible lettering. Notes must be handwritten, not photocopied/computer generated notes. You will not pass this class if you do not at least read the material closely enough to take effective notes. I want you to leave this class with useful information in your head, and I will support you in these efforts.

### **15-point substitute (quiz) essay grading scale:**

- 10-15 a discussion identical to #9 with the addition of some insight of your own
- 9-10 a discussion which evidences you have understand the text and lectures and thought about them
- 8-9 a discussion with evidences you have understood the text and lectures
- 7-8 a discussion which evidences you have read the text
- 6-7 a careless discussion which indicates you've not read the text and lectures
- 5-6 'hot air', sufficient to fill a balloon
- 4-5 'hot air', insufficient to fill a balloon
- 3-4 random and irrelevant paragraphs filling 1 page
- 2-3 random sentences filling 1 page
- 1-2 random words filling 1 page

**There are no make-up quizzes.** To replace one quiz, you may write one (1) 300-word essay, maximum 15 points. The topic of the essay should be related to the chapter material that is covered on the particular quiz missed. Written work should be well written, proofread, and grammatically accurate.

- Points for class participation may be earned. Included are frequency and quality of attendance, completion of assignments, refrain from private conversations and other interference with instruction. Only A's (perfect attendance), D's and F's will be assigned for this purpose.
- All cell phones/pagers must be turned off or set to a non-ringing mode. If you receive a message, you may leave for an emergency. This is a learning environment, and distractions must be kept to a minimum.

### **POLICY ON ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Academic dishonesty is defined as “*Dishonesty, such as cheating, or knowingly furnishing false information to colleges*” (Student Code of Conduct §9803.12). The consequences for academic dishonesty can be determined by the instructor and/or with the assistance of the Vice President Student Services. For repeat offenses, students will be subject to a system called progressive discipline, which affords students due process protocols. Although the facts and circumstances surrounding each incident of alleged academic dishonesty may differ, please read the basic examples illustrating academic dishonesty.

1. In-class academic dishonesty, or otherwise known as “cheating,” can occur when there is unauthorized looking at, procuring or sharing information from any unauthorized sources. An “authorized source” is from a college official. This can apply to looking at or operating any kind of electronic device during class when directed not to.
2. Out of class academic dishonesty, or otherwise known as “cheating,” can occur when students obtain an unauthorized copy of sealed test questions or any other kind of exam that has not been published to the public at large. It also applies to changing, altering, or any other kind of falsification of a scantron, essay, exam, or any other kind of test or college document with the intent of procuring another grade or benefit.
3. Plagiarism is the representation of expression of ideas from either published or unpublished work(s) as students own. We encourage students to always cite sources to avoid the appearance of plagiarism. Using text from internet sources without proper citation is considered to be plagiarism.

4. Furnishing false information can take the form of forgery, falsification, alteration, or misuse of college documents, records, or identification in class or laboratory situations.
5. Attempting to bribe a college official with an object of value or money to procure a higher grade than earned is considered to be academic dishonesty.

#### **Examples of Academic Dishonesty (non-inclusive)**

- Copying answers from another student during in-class or online exams and handing them in as one's own.
- The use of notes, books, dictionaries, or other references during an in-class or online exam that are not authorized by the instructor.
- Signing one's name to an official college document for another not present in class, in a lab, or for any other reason.
- Unauthorized use of electronic devices to communicate such as text messaging, cell phone, or emailing any other person during an in-class or online exam.
- Unauthorized talking during in-class exams.

#### **Consequences of Cheating**

At the time of the violation, penalties for academic dishonesty determined by the instructor can result in a zero score for the exam or item in question. In addition, the Vice President of Student Services, or designee, may impose other penalties for violations of the Student Code of Conduct.

**West Los Angeles College, Psychology 1 – winter 2015**

<b><u>Principal Chapters</u></b>	<b><u>Topics/Activity</u></b>
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| <i>1/5</i>  | <i>Introduction to the Course</i>  |
| <i>1/6</i>  | <i>Chapter 1 Psychology's Roots, Big Ideas, And Critical Thinking Tools</i>                    |
| <i>1/7</i>  | <i>Chapter 2 the Biology of Mind and Consciousness</i>   |
| <i>1/8</i>  | <i>Chapter 3 Developing Through the Life Span</i>  |
| <i>1/12</i> | <i>Chapter 4 Gender and Sexuality</i>  |
| <i>1/13</i> | <i>Chapter 5 Sensation and Perception</i>  |
| <i>1/14</i> | <i>Chapter 6 Learning</i>  |
| <i>1/15</i> | <i>Chapter 7 Memory<br/>Quiz 1 (Chapters 1-3)</i>  |
| <i>1/20</i> | <i>Chapter 8 Thinking, Language and Intelligence</i>   |
| <i>1/21</i> | <i>Chapter 9 Motivation and Emotion</i>  |
| <i>1/22</i> | <i>Chapter 10 Stress, Health and Human Flourishing<br/>Quiz 2 (Chapters 4-6)</i>               |
| <i>1/26</i> | <i>Chapter 11 Personality</i>  |
| <i>1/27</i> | <i>Chapter 12 Social Psychology</i>  |
| <i>1/28</i> | <i>Chapter 13 Psychological Disorders</i>  |
| <i>1/29</i> | <i>Chapter 14 Therapy<br/>(Psychology Research Paper Due)<br/>Quiz 3 (Chapters 7-9)</i>        |
| <i>2/2</i>  | <i>Appendix A - Statistical Reasoning in Everyday Life</i>                                     |
| <i>2/3</i>  | <i>Appendix B – Psychology at Work</i>   |
| <i>2/4</i>  | <i>Appendix C – Subfields of Psychology</i>  |
| <i>2/5</i>  | <i>Final Examination<br/>(50 Random Questions from All Quizzes and Includes Chapters 10-4)</i> |

### **General Resources and Information:**

\*Research Tutorial, <http://www.questia.com/?gclid=CLKI5JO8uLwCFSFo7Aod8D4Apw>,  
\*A Research Guide for Students <http://www.aresearchguide.com>,  
\*Learning APA Style <http://www.apastyle.org>,  
\*MLA Style Manual [http://www.mla.org/style\\_faq](http://www.mla.org/style_faq),  
\*Citation Machine <http://citationmachine.net/index2.php>,  
\*Essential Study Skills  
[http://college.hmco.com/collegesurvival/wong/essential\\_study/4e/students/interact\\_practice.html](http://college.hmco.com/collegesurvival/wong/essential_study/4e/students/interact_practice.html)

Learning Disabilities: If you have a specific and documented physical, sensory, or learning disability and would benefit from accommodations, please let me know early in the semester so that we can maximize your learning experience in this course. You will need to provide written documentation from the DSPS Office about your learning disability, and then I will be able and pleased to accommodate your needs.

I look forward to a rewarding and challenging semester with you. Here are some other important items:

- I really want you to succeed in this class. If you are having any problem that you think is affecting your performance, consult me, communication is extremely important, and I support you efforts.
- Talking to other students during a lecture or while another student is speaking is rude and is not acceptable behavior. Leaving during the middle of a class is equally rude and disruptive.
- If you should decide to stop attending class, it is your responsibility to be informed on college withdrawal procedures and deadlines.
- Periodically, I give worksheets or group exercises for in class work. If you are, absent on these days: (a) you simply have less graded work to be averaged. This means the ones you have are heavier, or (b) you have missed an opportunity to earn supplemental 'credit'. You are expected to find out what you missed in class if you are absent. I may make announcements in class for which you will be held responsible.
- Class participation: you will benefit from regular and consistent participation in the courses learning objectives and in class exercises. This is a factor of your final grade
- Email correspondence: when contacting or emailing the instructor, always include the name of the class in the subject box and if your name does not appear on the inbox, please include it in the subject box.
- Learning disabilities: if you have a specific and documented physical, sensory, or learning disability and would benefit from accommodations, please let me know early in the semester so that we can maximize your learning experience in this course. You will need to provide written documentation from the DSPS office about your learning disability, and then I will be able and pleased to accommodate your needs.



**West Los Angeles College**  
**Psychology 1- winter 2015**  
**Prologue**

*Please respond to the following questions, as they will assist me in the ongoing instruction of the course. Thank you.*

*Name:* \_\_\_\_\_

*What is your major? (If declared)* \_\_\_\_\_

*High School (when? where?)* \_\_\_\_\_

*AA/AS?* \_\_\_\_\_

*BA/BS?* \_\_\_\_\_

*Masters?* \_\_\_\_\_

*Other?* \_\_\_\_\_

*What previous college courses have you completed?*

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*Why are you taking this course?*

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