

SYLLABUS
PSY 140.52 Introduction to Psychology
James McDivitt Rm 217
Monday/Wednesday 6:00-9:56 pm
Winter, 2019
Instructor: Christin Lett, MA, LLP

Welcome to Introduction to Psychology! In this course you will learn a great deal about human behavior by examining the theoretical foundations of the science of psychology. During class meetings, we will review the key elements of the reading assignments, discuss and clarify psychological concepts through engaging activities, group work, and individual assignments. We will work together, engage in critical thinking, and explore scientific concepts to answer critical questions in our growing understanding of human behavior.

Goals: As a result of taking this course, you should be able to:

1. Define psychology and explain how the focus of psychology is different from that of other social and biological sciences.
2. Describe the major features of the scientific method and explain the steps and key considerations in research.
3. Define basic psychological terminology and explain important features of major psychological concepts and theories.
4. Identify leading contributors to the field of psychology and describe their work.
5. Explain how biological, psychological, and social factors can affect behavior.
6. Identify and describe specific psychological principles in real life situations.
7. Critically analyze information about human behavior and distinguish between conclusions supported by scientific evidence and conclusions based on nonscientific ways of knowing.
8. Recognize real-life situations that may require professional psychological help and know how to use community resources to find help when needed.

Reading and Planning Schedule: Our course uses *Psychology* (12th edition), by David G. Myers and C. Nathan DeWall. Text Book Zero: An electronic version of this text is available at the bookstore on Central Campus.

Each week you **MUST** complete the assigned reading **before** class. The majority of activities during class expand on the textbook concepts. Your success depends on your ability to apply what you learned from the reading. Please follow the schedule listed at the end. I will notify you of any changes in class and on JetNet.

TEXTBOOK ZERO: An electronic version of this text is available at the bookstore.

General Education Outcomes: Essential goals of the course include the achievement of an important measurable outcome defined by the college as vital to the educated individual at the Associate Degree level. This General Education Outcome is:

- The ability to provide alternative interpretations of specific patterns of human behavior, consistent with current research and theories (GEO #5, Understanding Human Behavior and Social Systems).

Tests: Of course, there will be tests. In order to provide frequent opportunities for feedback (so you don't have to wonder how well you're doing), we'll have a test each week, typically (but not always) at the end of our class time. Each test is worth about 10 points. No make-up tests are provided.

Reflection Papers: Beginning with the second class meeting, you are expected to submit a reflection paper at the beginning of class on each day for which a chapter is assigned. After you have read and studied the materials, please write a brief (minimum two pages--typed) reaction to any one aspect or research finding in the readings. In your reflection paper, please do NOT summarize the information in the text, but instead describe your feelings about the issue and tell what you think about it, including implications in your own experience, and any further research you believe would answer the next set of questions. Each reflection paper is worth up to 20 points toward your course grade. Only those reflection papers submitted on time are accepted.

Final Projects: You are to apply your knowledge, preparing a written and oral presentation, in which you discuss an issue or topic related to psychology that particularly interests you. Examples: you may conduct an experiment and present your results, you may explore a case study, you may visit a local agency and discuss your experiences, you may identify recommendations to improve our social/psychological health, you may complete a community service project. All final projects are to be approved by the instructor before pursuing the project. Additional due dates are in the table in the syllabus, and additional information will be provided in class.

Final project requirements:

- Approximately 7-10 pages
- Documentation in APA or MLA format
- Provide an in-depth study of your approved topic, applying concepts from the class readings and discussions
- Oral presentations are to be 10 minutes or more, using PowerPoint or another presentation style

Your final project is worth a total of 200 points: 100 points for your written paper and 100 points for your class presentation.

Attendance: You are expected to attend all scheduled class meetings, and your participation in class activities is evaluated as part of your grade. However, sometimes life events prevent attendance. If for any reason you must miss class, please email or call and leave word for the

instructor. You will receive points toward your final grade for each class you attend and actively participate in.

Late Work: Unless arrangements have been made in advance, work submitted late will be discounted 50%.

Grades: Your final course grade will be determined by summing points earned in the reflection papers, tests, attendance, and comprehensive requirement detailed above.

Grade	Pct of max
4.0	90
3.5	85-89
3.0	80-84
2.5	75-79
2.0	70-74
1.5	65-69
1.0	60-64

JC Academic Honesty Policy: Academic honesty is expected of all students. It is the ethical behavior that includes producing their own work and not representing others' work as their own, either by plagiarism, by cheating, or by helping others to do so. (Please see the complete and detailed text of this policy in the student handbook.)

Help for this course: First, please communicate with your instructor if you need assistance throughout the term. Please remember, if you are struggling with a topic or having difficulty understanding, others in the class likely are as well. Please also take advantage of JC's Center for Student Success and the Learning Resource Center. Both are excellent resources that can assist with any of your courses.

Classroom Expectations: This course involves a number of instructional formats. In order to facilitate the best learning possible, each student is asked to comply with the following expectations:

- Only one person will speak at a time, so all can hear clearly.
- Electronics are not to be used during class. Research shows that hand writing your notes aids in information processing and retention.
- We will speak to each other with respect and civility.
- As sensitive personal issues or experiences may be shared during class, confidentiality of information discussed by peers is paramount.

Contacting the Instructor: At any time that you have questions or concerns, or want to discuss in more detail some aspect of the course, please feel free to contact me. The most efficient way to reach me is by email, at lettchristil@jccmi.edu. I will respond to all emails or messages within 24 hours, if not sooner.

Reading and Course Schedule

Date	Read Before Class	Additional Deadlines
Jan 14	Pages xxvii-xxxiv and Prologue pages 1-20	
Jan 16	Chapter 1	
Jan 21	Chapter 2	Final project ideas due for approval
Jan 23	Chapter 3	
Jan 28	Chapter 4, Chapter 5	
Jan 30	Chapter 9	
Feb 4	Chapter 7, Chapter 8	
Feb 6	Chapter 10	
Feb 11	Chapter 11	
Feb 13	Chapter 12	Final project rough drafts due
Feb 18	Chapter 13	Final project presentations
Feb 20	Chapter 14, Chapter 15	Final project presentations
Feb 25	Chapter 16	Final project presentations
Feb 27	Final Projects	Final project presentations