



Intro to Psychology

PSY140-I51

Fall 2019

Instructor: Dr. Christopher Boulter

Number of Credits: 4

Contact Email: boulterchristor@jccmi.edu

Days Class Meets: Online

Office Hours: TBD

Office: Online

Online: online

Contact Phone: Email me if you need to talk.

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the study of psychology. It is intended to provide broad coverage of the field by presenting basic theories, research, and applied use of psychology. It will give students a background from which to either pursue more advanced psychological courses, or to retain the information as a basic knowledge of psychology in general. Areas that will be covered include: research methods, biological bases of behavior, human development, sensation, perception, learning, intelligence, motivation, emotions, personality, mental disorders and their treatment, and social psychology. These areas will be approached from both theoretical and applied perspectives.

Prerequisite(s)

ENG 085 and ENG090

General Education Outcome

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#) Essential goals of the course include the achievement of several measurable general education outcomes defined by the college as vital to the educated individual at the Associate Degree Level. General education outcome #5 is embodied in this course, and will be assessed.

- Understand human behavior and social systems, and the principles which govern them.

Course Objectives

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.

Textbook

Nevid, Jeffrey S. (2012) Essentials of psychology :concepts and applications (5th ed).Belmont, CA : Wadsworth, Cengage Learning

This textbook is available in an electronic version: <https://www.cengage.com/dashboard/#/course-confirmation/MTPP6PNNGX12/initial-course-confirmation>

Text Book Zero! *This text is available in a digital format. Please see the links posted on our class Jet Net site. This text is available to rent or purchase in digital format through the JC Bookstore.*

Grading Procedure

1. Quizzes: There will be twelve 35 question multiple choice quizzes given after each “topic” is completed (see Topic-Test Schedule for exact material to be covered on each test). THE TESTS WILL BE TIMED (45 MINUTES). You are allowed 3 attempts to take the quiz. Once you open the quiz, the clock begins. If you attempt to close the quiz once you have opened it, the clock DOES NOT stop. Please remember this very important point. Do not open the quiz until you are absolutely ready to take it. Also, I suggest that you save your responses frequently while taking the test. Pay attention to the clock because when the time is up your answers will be submitted whether you have saved them or not. You will have a total of 3 attempts to take the quiz. If you do not receive the score you want on the attempt you can take it again. Your final score will be the highest of the 3 attempts. If you do not take the time between attempts to further study the material, you will not improve your score. Please take note that the quiz will not be available until after you have submitted the lab and the homework for that chapter. You must work in order and the quiz will be locked until after you have completed the work for that unit.

2. Online Forum Discussions: Participate in 10 online discussions. Each individual is required to

create a post on the subject. Students will then react to the opinions of at least two fellow classmate
Your comments to your colleagues' statements do not have to be as comprehensive as your first post but should certainly be more than "I agree", "I disagree"; "Good job!", or something similar. For maximum points, you must bring arguments to support your position! It is expected that your replies be complete and thoughtful. Your answers should reflect our chapter readings or you must use a reference from outside readings (but make sure you include your sources). Just sighting a reference is not enough. Explain the references and your position on the topic. The postings should be in your own words, not copied from the textbook or other sources. The forums do have set deadlines. You may submit early, but if you fall behind and miss the discussion, you will not be able to make up the lost points. Please make sure that you remain aware of the dates and do not miss those discussions.

Forum post grading rubric

Discussion Boards You will have 10 discussion boards, one for each module.

Please answer the question and also respond to at least two other posts. Impress me by using information from the book, outside sources and webpages. You should think critically and creatively, and use appropriate grammar and spelling (it is OK to have some fun too).

0 = No Post

2=Post but did not use book or any critical or creative thinking

5=Post, did not respond to others

7=Average post, with average responses to at least 2 other students

8=Good post, used book, good answer, good responses to 2 other students

10=Excellent post and excellent responses to at least 2 other students

3. Homework: There will be several short homework assignments. Directions for each assignment will be posted. All work will be uploaded to me through JetNet. The submission button will appear in the week it is due. No late work will be accepted.

Submitting Files

Instructions will appear when you click on the assignment "submit here" link. IMPORTANT: ALL work MUST be submitted as a Rich Text File (save as RTF) which allows the JC computers to read your files. Please do not put your files in a zip drive or send me to google docs to view. If I can open the file, I will grade it within 2 days of the due date. If I can't open the file, I will send you a message

indicating that I can't read the file. It is your responsibility to upload the file in a form that I can open it. Therefore, you should check your grades in JetNet frequently and make sure that I have been able to grade an assignment. You will only have 2 weeks to re-submit a file before that grade will convert to a zero.

4. Lab Reports There are lab assignments for this class. These will require you to do an activity and write a brief summary of your findings. Each paper is worth 10-20 points. The purpose of these papers is to apply what you are learning in psychology to the world around you. The labs must be completed before the quiz for that chapter will open.

This is a special note for those of you who are under 18...Some of the labs require you to take online inventories and then analyze your results. Several of these require that the individual be an adult. If you are under the age of 18 you will need to find an individual who will take those inventories for you. You are still responsible for the analysis portion. An excuse of "I wasn't old enough to take the test" will not be accepted as a waiver for completing the assignment.

Work at your own pace

There are no firm deadlines for this course; however, I have organized this course so that you should complete 1-3 chapter per week. I realize that some of you may want to go faster than the pace I have set-up. This course is organized so that you can do that. There are no firm deadlines or cut off dates for the tests or the assignments. You could choose to complete the course early or to take a week off without a problem. This flexible schedule allows students to take longer on the chapters that are more difficult while allowing you to work quickly through the things that seem easier. The only problem is when people procrastinate and do not make progress towards completion. If I do not see students making progress in the course, I will drop them from the class.

Grading Scale

Grade	Points Required
4.0	707-800
3.5	667-706
3.0	628-666
2.5	589-627
2.0	550-587
1.5	510-549

1.0	470-509
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Failure

If students fail to submit work for 2 weeks, they will be dropped from the course.

Academic Honesty Policy

Academic Honesty is defined as ethical behavior that includes student production of their own work and not representing others' work as their own, by cheating or by helping others to do so.

Plagiarism is defined as the failure to give credit for the use of material from outside sources.

Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- Submitting other's work as your own
- Using data, illustrations, pictures, quotations, or paraphrases from other sources without adequate documentation
- Reusing significant, identical or nearly identical portions of one's own prior work without acknowledging that one is doing so or without citing this original work (self-plagiarism)

Cheating is defined as obtaining answers/material from an outside source without authorization.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- Plagiarizing in any form
- Using notes/books/electronic material without authorization
- Copying
- Submitting others' work as your own or submitting your work for others
- Altering graded work
- Falsifying data
- Exhibiting other behaviors generally considered unethical
- Allowing your work to be submitted by others

Course Management

The *Withdraw deadline* for this semester can be found online through the academic calendar. If you do not wish to complete the class and receive a grade, you must withdraw by this date. The instructor may withdraw any student who does not attend class, complete assignments and/or tests in a timely manner. *However, do not assume that I will withdraw you. Incompletes* will be given only in accordance with JC policy. (Excerpt from JC policy; see instructor for a copy of the complete policy.) A student may request an incomplete from the instructor. The incomplete will be granted only if the student can provide documentation that his or her work up to that point is sufficient in quality, but lacking in quantity, due to circumstances beyond the student's control.

Furthermore, a written plan for making up the missing work within one semester must be completed by the student. Final determination of whether an incomplete will be given is the instructor's decision.

Makeup Policy

All work will be due on December 19, 2019. Any work submitted after that date will not be accepted and will be marked in the gradebook as a zero.

Help

Available learning services or opportunities for students seeking help with their course work. May include information about tutors, learning centers, reserved library materials, open labs, counseling services.

It is important to contact a Center for Student Success professional prior to the start of the semester in order to receive accommodations in a timely manner. While we will make every effort to coordinate accommodations in a timely manner, failure to self-identify prior to the start of the semester may delay notification to instructors and timeliness of acquiring accommodations. Accommodations do not automatically carry over to the next semester.

<https://www.jccmi.edu/center-for-student-success/accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities/>

Flexibility of time is one of the best advantages of an online course. On-line courses allow you to tailor your time to suit your own unique schedule. Time management however, is crucial in order for you to be successful in this course.

Just as in a traditional classroom course, regular class attendance and keeping up on the reading and assignments is strongly correlated with survival in college. Distance learning records show that students who submit work on time are also more likely to complete the course than those who delay. In other words, don't procrastinate!!

It is my recommendation that you plan to do your assignments and take your exams BEFORE the last day they are due. If problems occur, there is time to fix them before the deadline. There is a pace chart at the top of Jetnet for you to see that you are on track.

For help with all technology questions, call 1-888-522-8744 Monday – Friday from 9-5. You can leave a message and they will return your call as soon as possible.

If you were in a face-to-face 4 credit course you would be spending 8 hours per week in the classroom. Traditional learning theories suggest students should spend 2 hours outside of the classroom for every 1 hour you spend in class PER WEEK. NOW do the math!!! I STRESS TO YOU TO PLAN ACCORDINGLY!!

ON-LINE COURSES ARE NOT EASIER, THEY ARE JUST MORE FLEXIBLE. I ENCOURAGE AND CAUTION YOU TO REMEMBER THIS AS YOU MOVE INTO THIS CLASS.

Student Responsibilities

Requirements beyond scheduled classes or laboratories, e.g., clinicals, extra credit assignments, TBA sessions, field placement, special project instructions, contract learning conditions, study hours required outside class, unscheduled class meetings, attendance at concerts or other required events.

Attendance Policy

In compliance with Federal Title IV funding requirements, as well as college initiatives, reporting of student participation in classes will occur at three designated times each semester. Instructors will assign one of three non-transcribed letter symbols to each student during each reporting period (see below). Students identified as no longer participating will be dropped or administratively withdrawn from the class, and students identified as needing academic assistance will be contacted.

Participation/Progress Symbols

- H – The student is not doing acceptable work and needs **H**elp to be successful.
- Q – The student has not participated and the instructor believes they have unofficially withdrawn (**Q**uit). These students will be dropped/withdrawn from the class.
- V – The instructor **V**erifies that the student is participating and doing acceptable work.

If a student is given a Q for not participating, they will have to develop a written plan of how they will catch up on the missing work before they will be allowed to re-enroll in the course.

9-3-19 to 9-8-19	Introduction Forum Review the course			
9-9-19 to 9-15-18	Chapters 1 and 2		Forum 1	Lab and Homework
9-16-19 to 9-22-19	Finish chapters 1 and 2	Quiz 1	Forum 2	
9-23-19 to 9-29-19	Chapter 3	Quiz 2		Lab
9-30-19 to 10-6-19	Chapter 4	Quiz 3	Forum 3	Lab
10-7-19 to 10-13-19	Chapter 5			Lab
10-14-19 to 10-20-19	Chapter 6	Quiz 4		Lab
10-21-19 to 10-27-19	Chapters 8 and 10	Quiz 5	Forum 4	Lab
10-28-19 to 11-3-19	Chapters 7 and 9	Quiz 6	Forum 5	Lab
11-4-19 to 11-10-19	Chapter 11	Quiz 7	Forum 6	Lab
11-11-19 to 11-17-19	Chapter 12	Quiz 8	Forum 7	Lab
11-18-19 to 11-24-19	Chapter 13	Quiz 9	Forum 8	Homework
11-25-19 to 12-1-19	Thanksgiving Break			
12-2-19 to 12-8-19	Chapter 14	Quiz 10	Forum 9	Lab
12-9-19 to 12-15-19			Forum 10	Final review paper