

General Psychology, PSY 101

Fall, 2011

Section 06: MWF, 9:00-9:50, Meier Hall, Room 240

Part of Learning Community on Gender and Identity

Instructor Information

Dr. Anne E. Noonan

Meier Hall, Room 224-A

(978) 542-7352

anoonan@salemstate.edu -- put the course title "General Psychology" in your subject line

Office Hours: Monday, 2:30 – 3:30 IN ACADEMIC BUILDING, South Campus

Wednesday, 8:00 – 9:00

Friday 11:00 – 12:00

Tuesdays by arrangement

Course Description

As described in the Salem State University Catalog, "this course introduces the student to the scientific study of the mind and behavior and to applications of psychological theory and research to everyday life. Topics covered include abnormal psychology, biological psychology, cognition, development, learning, personality, and social psychology. Three lecture hours per week. Not open to students who have received credit for PSY 103." 3 credits, DIII.

The 9:00 section of this class is part of the Learning Community *Gender and Identity: Explorations in Literature, Writing, and Psychology*. Students in that section are also enrolled in ENL 103, Composition II for English Majors, with Professor J.D. Scrimgeour and in ENL 160, Literature 1: Reading Broadly, with Professor Keja Valens. Because of this enrollment, students in the 9:00 class will not be allowed to attend the 10:00 class and vice-versa.

Course Materials

Required Text (a packet of five small books):

Wood, S.E., Wood, E.G., & Boyd, D. (2009). *Portable Psychology*. Boston: Pearson/Allyn & Bacon.

Other readings (e.g., short articles about psychology) will be assigned during the semester.

Communication: Moodle and Email

There is a Moodle site dedicated to this class. Moodle is a learning management system similar to Blackboard/WebCT. The site will give you 24-hour access to course materials and will give me a way to make important announcements. All students are expected to check the Moodle site on a regular basis. Information for an upcoming week will be posted by Thursday evening. The

address for the site is <http://moodle.salemstate.edu/>. You gain access via your Navigator user name and password. Find the class by clicking on the Fall 2011 folder and locating PSY101_06 (9:00 class).

I may also send emails once in a while to your Salem State account (e.g., in the event I need to cancel class). If you don't check your SSU email on a regular basis, you need to get your SSU emails forwarded to the account you do use.

Course Goals

The Salem State Psychology Department has adopted the American Psychological Association's (APA) 10 general learning goals for college courses in psychology. Four of those goals apply to this class. (For a full list of the goals, you can visit the APA website at: http://www.apa.org/education/grad/psymajor_guideline.pdf)

1. Knowledge about the Content of Psychology -- Students will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.
2. Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology -- Students will respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.
3. Application of Psychology -- Students will understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues.
4. Values in Psychology -- Students will be able to weigh evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of psychology as a discipline.

Specific Course Objectives

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- a. explain why psychology is a science.
- b. identify and describe several major schools of thought within psychology.
- c. compare and contrast major perspectives.
- d. use theories to explain and predict behavior and mental processes.
- e. identify and evaluate the source, context, and credibility of psychological information.
- f. describe major applied areas of psychology (e.g., clinical, school, health).
- g. apply psychological concepts, theories, and research findings as they relate to everyday life.
- h. demonstrate effective writing skills in a short paper.
- i. demonstrate skill in explaining and applying psychological material through final project integrating learning from three courses in Learning Community.

Expectations and Activities

Activities for this class will include: reading the textbook and completing assignments on that material; attending lectures; attending meetings of the Learning Community (all held during class time in one of the three classes); participating in class discussions, paired activities, and small group activities; taking three exams; taking a final exam (required); writing a short paper; and preparing and presenting a final project integrating learning from the three Learning Community classes.

Make-Up Exams and Assignments: Late Policy

Exams, assignments, and papers are due on-time. **Points will be deducted from any exam or assignment not completed on time, whatever the reason.** Because of this policy, make-up exams are not recommended even though the opportunity is available.

Grading

Component	# and Percentage of Grade	Total Percentage of Final Grade	Information	Links to Goals and Objectives
Assignments	10 x 2%	20%	Roughly every Monday	Goals 1 and 2 Objectives b, c, and g
Exams	3 x 10%	30%	@ 20 items (multiple-choice and short answer) 10/7, 11/9, 12/9.	Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 Objectives a, b, c, d, e, f, g
Final Exam	1 x 10%	10%	Mandatory, 12/19, 8 AM.	Same
Paper	1 x 20%	20%	Topic to be determined. Due 11/18 or 11/21.	Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 Objectives a, b, e, g, and h
Final Learning Community Project	1 x 10%	10%	Project will integrate learning from the three courses in the LC.	Goal 1 Objectives c, e, and i
Engagement with Course	n/a	10%	Includes attendance, participation, and investment in the class.	In-class group work will address Goals 1, 2, 3 and 4 Objectives b, c, d, e, f, and g

Student Grade Estimators

There are no hidden surprises in my grading. To enable you to know how you are doing in the course, I will either activate the grading function in Moodle or will post a Student Grade Estimator (an Excel spreadsheet) on the Moodle site. Of course, you are always welcome to talk with me about how you are doing in the class.

The following table shows how your final grade will be determined. Note that there is no A+ in the Salem State grading system.

Letter Grade	Points Needed	Letter Grade	Points Needed	Letter Grade	Points Needed
A	93-100	C+	77-79.99	D+	67-69.99
A-	90-92.99	C	73-76.99	D	63-66.99
B+	87-89.99	C-	70-72.99	D-	60-62.99
B	83-86.99			F	≤ 59.99
B-	80-82.99				

IMPORTANT: Work that is incomplete at the end of the semester will be entered as a “0” and will be included in your final grade. Do the math – there is no way to do well in this class without meeting all the requirements!

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend class regularly. Attendance will be recorded on a regular basis and is factored into your grade. Because attendance is part of your grade, signing in anyone but yourself will be considered an example of academic dishonesty. YOU are responsible for completing all course requirements and for keeping up with all that goes on in class, whether you are present or not.

Extra Credit

I design my classes so that students have multiple opportunities to do well. I do not expect there to be opportunities for extra credit during the semester.

Policy on Laptops and Other Electronics

Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off. **TEXTING IS NOT ALLOWED.** The only acceptable use of a laptop during class time is for taking notes during lectures. Doing this is optional, not required. Please let me know if there is some special reason you cannot follow this policy.

Equal Access

Salem State University is committed to providing equal access to the educational experience for all students in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and The Americans with Disabilities Act, and to providing all reasonable academic accommodations, aids and adjustments. Any student who has a documented disability requiring an accommodation, aid, or adjustment should speak with the instructor immediately. Students with disabilities who have not previously done so should provide documentation to, and schedule an appointment with, the Office for Students with Disabilities, (978) 542-6217, and obtain appropriate services.

Final Exam (Required)

The final for this class will be held on December 19, 8:00 a.m.

Withdrawing from the Course

Please remember that if, for any reason, you decide to drop this course, you **MUST** do so officially through the Registrar's office by Monday, November 28, 2011. (Note that this is different from the Add/Drop period that ends on September 13.)

University Emergencies

In the event of a university-declared critical emergency, Salem State University reserves the right to alter this course plan. Students should refer to www.salemstate.edu for further information and updates. The course attendance policy stays in effect until there is a university-declared critical emergency. In the event of such an emergency, please refer to the alternative education plans for this course on our Moodle site.

Academic Honesty, Trust, and Respect

I believe that students learn most effectively in an atmosphere of mutual respect, one that is as free from distractions as possible. You can expect that I will respect you as learners and as people, and I expect that you will respect me and the other students in the class. This includes following the electronics policy described previously, and also means you should not be "off task" during class (e.g., no newspapers, studying or doing homework for another class, heads on desks, talking to one another, etc.). Have I mentioned that I don't want you to text during class?

Cheating, copying the work of others, submitting work that is not your own, signing friends in, and other forms of academic dishonesty are against University policy and will not be tolerated. I take this issue of academic integrity very seriously.

Students are expected to be familiar with the Academic Integrity Regulations in the Academic Policies section of the Salem State University Catalog
http://catalog.salemstate.edu/content.php?catoid=13&navoid=1295#Academic_Integrity

Course Calendar

Week	Dates	Topic	Readings
1	Sept. 7, 9	Welcome to Learning Community Introduction to course	n/a
2*	Sept. 12, 14, 16	(Re)Introduction to Psychology	V. 2, Ch. 1
3*	Sept. 19, 21, 23	Human Development	V. 4, Ch. 8
4*	Sept. 26, 28, 30	Human Sexuality and Gender (LC Day 9/28, 11-1:30 Andre Dubus III Reading 9/29)	V. 4, Ch. 10
5	Oct. 3, 5, 7	Personality Theory and Assessment Exam 1, Fri. Oct. 7	V. 5, Ch. 12
6*	Oct. 12, 14	Brain and Behavior	V. 2, Ch. 2
7*	Oct. 17, 19, 21	Psychological Disorders	V. 5, Ch. 13
8*	Oct. 24, 26, 28	Therapies	V. 5, Ch. 14
9*	Oct. 31, Nov. 2, 4	Social Psychology	V. 5, Ch. 15
10	Nov. 7, 9	Social Psychology, continued Exam 2, Wed. Nov. 9	V. 2, Ch. 15
11*	Nov. 14, 16, 18	Learning, Memory Paper Due Fri. 11/18 or Mon. 11/21	V. 3, Ch. 5 & 6
12*	Nov. 21	TBA Paper Due Fri. 11/18 or Mon. 11/21	TBA
13*	Nov. 28, 30, Dec. 2	Memory, Intelligence, Cognition	V. 3, Ch. 6 & Ch. 7
14	Dec. 5, 7, 9	Sensation and Perception Draft Due Final Project Mon. 12/5 Exam 3, Fri. Dec. 9	V. 2, Ch. 3
15	Dec. 12	Last Day Class, LC Day	n/a
Finals	Final Exam Final Project	Monday, December 19, 8:00 a.m. To be presented during final exam times for ENL 103 and/or ENL 160	n/a

* Assignment Due In-Class on Monday (if Monday holiday, assignment due Wednesday)