COURSE SYLLABUS

Introduction to Psychology
PSY 2301.03E
Fall 2012

Instructor: Nancy Lamphere
Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays, 1–2 p.m. and by appointment
Office Location: TBA
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COURSE INFORMATION

Class meetings: This is a web-enhanced class that meets from 8-8:50 a.m. every Monday and Wednesday, with about half of the Fridays in class and half online (detailed course schedule specifies which Fridays are online). There will always be online assignments for the Fridays we don’t meet in person.

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Required:
Bundled package at our bookstore: Psychology, 2nd edition, by Schacter, Gilbert, & Wegner
PsychPortal Access Code (see instructions below)
Scientific American Reader

Supplementary readings are provided in class or via Doc Sharing in eCollege

PsychPortal Access: You are required to purchase access to PsychPortal for this course.

You will have purchased the PsychPortal Access Card with the bundled package that includes the textbook and the Scientific American Reader. PsychPortal for Schacter, Gilbert and Wegner’s Psychology, 2e, is a learning environment that integrates an interactive eBook, animations, and an assignment center.

Please follow the instructions below to register your code at the PsychPortal:

1.) Point your browser to www.yourPsychPortal.com
2.) Click on the "STUDENTS REGISTER YOUR CODE" button.
3.) Click the “Register Your Code” link next to your textbook’s title.
4.) You will be prompted to follow the on-screen instructions to find your course. You will start by selecting the school’s state/province (TX), the school name (Texas A&M University-Commerce), then your instructor (Lamphere), course (PSY 2301), and/or section (03E).

5.) You will enter the access code that came with your textbook or that you purchased separately. You will also be asked to enter your email address, choose a password and you will be ready to go!

If you have any trouble during the registration process, please call the textbook publisher at 1-800-936-6899, or email them at techsupport@bfwpub.com. This is separate from the tech support for eCollege, which won’t be able to help you with PsychPortal.

Another great resource is the book companion site: http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/schacter2e/

**Course Description:** The official description in the catalog states, “the aim of this course is to give a general understanding of the basic principles of psychology.” Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behavior. This course introduces several of the main concepts, theories, and research methods used by psychologists, as well as a number of subdisciplines, such as cognitive, developmental, clinical, social, and many more. There will be emphasis on how the science of psychology applies to the real world.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Students who successfully complete this course will:
- Understand that psychology is the scientific study of the human mind.
- Learn how to think critically about psychological concepts, theories, and issues.
- Become familiar with several subspecialties, each of which brings a different perspective to the study of human behavior and how the mind works.

**Instructional Methods/Activities Assessments:** This is a web-enhanced course, which means that students must be able to access the Internet. There are two online components to this course: eCollege and the PsychPortal. There are several Fridays when we will not meet, however there are online assignments due usually at midnight prior to the next class meeting (but check each assignment for exact due dates and times).

eCollege is where students will find handouts (Doc Sharing) and links to useful web sites (Webliography), and be able to email the instructor and/or classmates.

The PsychPortal is the location of online assignments that constitute 30% of your grade, as well as many resources specific to your textbook that will aid in test preparation.

**Grading:** Course grades are based on the following:

**In-class discussions/participation (10%):** Students will pair up and be assigned a discussion reading during the first week of class. Each pair will prepare a very short summary (2-3 sentences) and a discussion prompt for when we cover the corresponding textbook chapter. The discussion readings list is in eCollege, and contains articles in the Scientific American Reader (included in the bundled materials), articles uploaded into Doc Sharing, and readings from the textbook. The in-class discussion portion of your grade is based on your summary and discussion prompt, as well as your thoughtful contributions to other discussions.
The participation portion of the discussion/participation grade is based on the instructor’s perception of the students’ participation in their education. Students should give some thought as to how they could influence the instructor’s perception of their participation, which would include your presence (on time and for the entire class time), your preparation for class, and your attention during class.

**PsychPortal assignments (30%)**: There are several assignments done in the PsychPortal. Each assignment must be completed in full as per instructions in order to receive any credit for that assignment. You might notice that these assignments constitute 30% of your grade, which indicates how important I think they are to your successful completion of this course.

**Research participation (10%)**: You will participate in research studies (a total of 5 experimental credits) through the Psychology Department Subject Pool. Follow the instructions posted in eCollege for registering in the Experiment Management System (EMS). In order to earn the total 10% of your overall grade, you must not have any ‘no-shows’ for studies that you sign up to participate in. Your participation in research is instrumental in accomplishing the research goals of the department, and ultimately contributes to the knowledge base of the science of psychology. Additionally, you will experience how data is collected, and learn about some of the lines of research being pursued at our university. You have the right to not participate in research studies, and will be given other educational opportunities for this portion of your grade.

**Exams (40%)**: There are five (5) exams, 3 of which will require a green Scantron (the other 2 are online in eCollege). This may seem like an awful lot of exams, but this is actually to the student’s advantage. In most cases, each exam covers 2-3 chapters, which makes the amount of material to learn much more reasonable. Additionally, one or two lower scores out of five will not have the same impact on the overall course grade as it would if there were only three exams. As I believe that learning the material is the ultimate goal here, students who are dissatisfied with up to two exam grades may increase those grades by doing additional work in the corresponding area (see me for details). Exam dates on the schedule are tentative. **There are no make-up exams!**

**Final exam (10%)**: The final exam is cumulative and occurs during finals week according to the final exam schedule.

**Grading scale:**

- A  \( \geq 90\% \)
- B  80%-89%
- C  70%-79%
- D  60%-69%
- F  <60%

**TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course.

- Internet access/connection – high speed recommended (not dial-up)
- MS Word (available on all campus computers; the full MS Office 2010 Suite is available for purchase for $99.99 for college students through MS [http://www.microsoftstore.com/store/msstore/en_US/pd/Office-University-2010/productID.229301900?icid=Student_Main_OfficeUniv_FeatImage] and a student version (I believe) is available through our bookstore [unsure of price])
Additionally, the following hardware and software are necessary to use eCollege:

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0).

Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari (2.0 or better).

Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems. However, some students report problems with certain functions in eCollege when using Safari and Firefox that do not seem to be an issue when using Internet Explorer.

It is strongly recommended that you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login in to eCollege, click on the ‘myCourses’ tab, and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Although we meet 2-3 days each week in the classroom, this course will also utilize certain aspects of eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce (e.g., Gradebook, Doc Sharing, email). To access eCollege, go to https://leo.tamuc.edu/login.aspx.

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

eCollege Technical Support

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week:

- Chat Support: Click on 'Live Support' on the tool bar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.
- Phone: 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with eCollege Technical Support Representative.
- Email: helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with eCollege Technical Support Representative
- Help: Click on the 'Help' button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege (i.e., how to submit to Dropbox, how to post to Discussions)

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Communication with the instructor: Email is the best way to reach me. If you don’t use eCollege to email me, then include the course number (PSY2301) in the subject. I will make every effort to respond within 24 hours on Mondays -Thursdays, and on Mondays for emails received on Fridays and over the weekend. If I haven't responded within those timeframes, please send a gentle reminder.
Email do’s and don’ts:
- Don’t treat an email exchange with an instructor like a conversation with your friends.
- Do remember that emails to instructors reflect your ability to express yourself in a professional manner.
- Do begin with some type of greeting, and not just ‘hi’ or ‘hey’
- Do use complete sentences with correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
- Don’t use texting acronyms!
- Do include your first and last name in the email
- Do reread your email before you send to be sure it makes sense, it doesn’t have any major typos, and it says what you mean.
- Do remember that emails can be saved, reread, and forwarded

University Academic Support: Texas A&M-Commerce has several programs in place to help students succeed academically (this list is not all-inclusive).

- Academic Success Center (ASC; http://web.tamu-commerce.edu/studentLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/default.aspx)
- Writing Center (http://web.tamu-commerce.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/literatureLanguages/writingCenter/default.aspx)
- TRiO (for those who qualify) (http://web.tamu-commerce.edu/studentLife/campusServices/trioPrograms/default.aspx)
- JAMP Room (Science building)
- Math Lab (http://web.tamu-commerce.edu/academics/colleges/scienceEngineeringAgriculture/departments/mathematics/mathLab.aspx)

### COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

**Course Specific Procedures:**

- If you must come in late and class has started, quietly take a seat that does not disturb other students (near the door).
- My PowerPoint slides are not provided to students, but lecture outlines will be available in Doc Sharing that can be downloaded, printed, and brought to class for taking notes.
- Turn cell phones off during class, and no laptop or tablet use during class.
- No recording or photos during class without prior permission!
- Late assignments are not accepted – PLAN AHEAD! Internet problems are not an excuse!
- No make-up exams unless due to a university-approved absence. I understand that things do come up, so exceptions are possible if prior arrangements are made with me.

**Students with Disabilities:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:
Office of Student Disability Resources and Services  
Texas A&M University-Commerce  
Gee Library- Room 132  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148  
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

**Student Conduct:** All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).

### COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

**NOTE:** Despite our best efforts to stick to the following schedule, stuff happens that may necessitate adjustments. So keep in mind that everything is subject to change!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8/27-8/31</td>
<td>Evolution of a Science</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>9/3-9/7</td>
<td>Methods</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>9/10-9/14</td>
<td>Neuroscience &amp; Behavior</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>9/17</td>
<td>Exam #1</td>
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<td>9/19-9/21</td>
<td>Sensation and Perception</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>9/24-9/28</td>
<td>Consciousness</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>10/1</td>
<td>Exam #2</td>
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<td>10/3-10/5</td>
<td>Memory</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>10/8-10/12</td>
<td>Learning</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>10/15</td>
<td>Exam #3</td>
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<td>10/17-10/19</td>
<td>Development</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>10/22-10/26</td>
<td>Emotion &amp; Motivation/Language &amp; Thought</td>
<td>8 &amp; 9</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>10/29-10/31</td>
<td>Stress and Health</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>11/2</td>
<td>Exam #4</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>11/5-11/9</td>
<td>Intelligence/Personality</td>
<td>10 &amp; 12</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>11/12-11/16</td>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
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<td>11/21</td>
<td>Exam #5</td>
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<td>11/26-11/30</td>
<td>Psychological Disorders</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>12/3-12/7</td>
<td>Treatment of Psychological Disorders</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>12/10-14</td>
<td>Finals Week</td>
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Tentative online dates (will be set by first class day): 9/7, 9/14, 9/28, 10/12, 10/26, 11/2, 11/21