PSY 2301.91W: Introduction to Psychology (Spring 2015)
COURSE SYLLABUS (Draft)

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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook(s) Required: Psychology, 10th edition (in Modules), by Meyers

Course Description: The primary objective of this course is to provide you with an overview of the major areas of study in the field of psychology. This course will introduce you to concepts and critical thinking skills that are used in psychology, and that will help you learn to think like a psychologist. You will learn about major theoretical perspectives in psychology, research methods, and concepts from different content areas such as physiological psychology, developmental psychology, social psychology and cognition.

Understanding some of the major concepts in psychology should prove to be beneficial for understanding the mental processes and behavior of people as well as providing a framework for future studies in this field. This course should help you to develop insights into understanding learning and memory, personality, stages of human development, stress and its effects, behavior in groups and psychological disorders. Thus, the course will expose you to information that is not only interesting but also useful in “the real world.”

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Your grade will be assessed in three ways: 1) online discussions, 2) quizzes, and 3) exams.

Grading

Your grade is based on the number of points you earn out of 100. At several points during the semester, you will be asked to contribute to online discussion of various topics. This will be done via eCollege discussion boards, and a portion of your grade is based on your level of contribution. There also are 10 quizzes distributed pretty evenly across the topics we’ll cover, and each contains 10 multiple-choice items. Each will be graded pass/fail based on a passing criterion of 60% (i.e., you need to get at least 6 correct out of 10 to pass each; otherwise you earn a zero). You will earn 1% of your overall grade for each passed quiz. Finally, there are four exams, each also containing strictly multiple-choice questions.

In sum, these components of the course add up to 100% in the following way:
(participation/discussions = 20%) + (10 quizzes X 2% = 20%) + (4 exams [12 + 14 + 16 + 18] = 60%) = 100%

You need 90 points or better for an ‘A’, 80 points or better for a ‘B’, 70 points or better for a ‘C’, and 60 points or better for a ‘D’. A total below 60 points will result in an ‘F’.
TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS

This course will be enhanced using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: https://leo.tamu-commerce.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.

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)
- Microsoft Word (all reading summaries you submit must end with .doc or .docx)

eCollege is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means that this course will work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer. This course also will work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser on both Windows and Mac operating systems. 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.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

You can communicate with me via email.

eCollege Student 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 etc…)

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Academic Honesty Policy: Texas A&M University-Commerce does not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material.
**Examination Policy:** All quizzes and exams are to be taken closed-book. **You are not allowed to take any quiz or exam (or do an assignment) after its respective deadline, unless you notify me of extenuating circumstances and I give permission in advance.**

**Dropping the Course:** A student may drop this course by logging into their myLEO account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled 'Drop a class' from among the choices found under the myLEO section of the Web page.

**Incompletes:** The policy for this course is not to allow incompletes. If you cannot complete the course with a grade that you find satisfactory, it is your responsibility to drop it.

**Netiquette:** Communication Courtesy Code: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. Please take a moment and read the following link concerning "netiquette".


**University Specific Procedures:**

**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).

**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@tamuc.edu

**Inclusivity Statement:** A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.
# TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

This schedule is to be used as a guide. It is possible that it will change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 20</td>
<td>Topic 1: Syllabus; Introductions</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 21-23</td>
<td>Topic 2: Introductory modules, <strong>Quiz 1, Discussion Post 1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>January 26-30</td>
<td>Topic 3: Biology of Mind modules, <strong>Quiz 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2-6</td>
<td>Topic 4: Sensation &amp; Perception modules, <strong>Quiz 3; EXAM 1 – February 6th</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>February 9-13</td>
<td>Topic 5: Consciousness modules, <strong>Quiz 4, Discussion Post 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>February 16-20</td>
<td>Topic 6: Learning modules, <strong>Quiz 5</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>February 23-27</td>
<td>Topic 7: Motivation &amp; Emotion modules (pgs. 32-33, 35-37), <strong>Quiz 6; EXAM 2 – February 27th</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2-6</td>
<td>Topic 8: Memory modules, <strong>Quiz 7</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>March 9-13</td>
<td>Topic 9: Thinking, Language, &amp; Intelligence modules, <strong>Quiz 8, Discussion Post 3</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>March 16-20</td>
<td>A &amp; M – Commerce Spring break</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 23-27</td>
<td>Topic 10: Personality modules; <strong>EXAM 3 – March 27th</strong></td>
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<td>March 30-April 3</td>
<td>Topic 11: Psychological Disorders modules, <strong>Quiz 9</strong></td>
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<td>April 6-10</td>
<td>Topic 12: Therapy modules, <strong>Quiz 10</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 13-17</td>
<td>Topic 13: Social Psychology modules, <strong>Discussion Post 4</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 20-24</td>
<td>Topic 13 (continued): Social Psychology continued</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 27-May 1</td>
<td>Course Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM – May 4th</strong></td>
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**Disclaimer:**
While I make every effort to abide by the information presented here, I reserve the right to modify this syllabus at any time.