

PSYC1101 - INTRODUCTION TO GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY

SPRING 2015 COURSE SYLLABUS

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a broad survey of topics in psychology including but not limited to major theoretical perspectives, the scientific process, development, personality, learning, mental disorders and mental health, and biological, environmental, and social factors influencing behavior.

- Analyze personal and societal problems in light of psychological concepts, theories, and research findings.
- Observe and explain psychological phenomena in the real world.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Discuss basic core psychological principles involved in various theories of psychology and methods of research as they apply to learning, growth, motivation, human development, health, social relations, and work/career.
- Evaluate the influence of biological and environmental factors on behavior and mental processes.

THE SYLLABUS IS MY
CONTRACT WITH YOU, AND
YOUR CONTRACT WITH ME.
PLEASE READ IT
THOROUGHLY.

Textbook

: We will be using an open access textbook which is freely available to

you. You can access or download a PDF of the textbook in GeorgiaView or by visiting <http://noba.to/ph934x6f>

Additionally, all class materials/due dates are available in GeorgiaView.

**INSTRUCTOR:
RAECHEL SOICHER**

Office: 223 (Cypress Hall)

E-mail:

raechel.soicher@bainbridge.edu

Phone: (229) 248-2905

Student hours:

- T/H 1pm-6pm
- Online, W-10-12pm
- by appointment

Please use the email feature in GeorgiaView to contact me during office hours.

Cyber Café:

Questions you have relating to the course should be posted in the cyber café discussion forum. I will review and respond to these questions daily. I also encourage you to help one another in this forum.

TAKING ONLINE COURSES

This is an online course and participation is asynchronous—that means that you can decide when you log on and work on your exams and assignments. This is not, however, a self-paced course. **You will be required to complete assignments and exams by the specified date.** All of the due dates for assignments are clearly stated in GeorgiaView so there should never be any surprises.

Some students underestimate the demands of an online course—**you should expect to spend just as much time on your class work as you would in a face-to-face class.** This is a three-unit college transfer course and you should allocate your time appropriately. In a three-unit face-to-face course, you would

attend class meetings for over three hours per week. You would also spend additional time on assignments and readings.

Therefore, I expect that you log on to GeorgiaView at least three times per week to view slides, course materials, and create postings. I will be monitoring how often you log-in and how much time you spend on different activities. **If you are “absent” from the class for two weeks, I may drop you from the class.**

It is also important to log on to read important announcements about the class. If you do not do these things, it is no different than not attending a face-to-face class—instructors DO have access to student’s activities in GeorgiaView.

I realize that some of you have taken other online courses. Just like face-to-face courses, you will find that teachers use different teaching methodologies. If you’ve taken online classes where you simply read the text and take exams and never interact with your classmates and that is what you are looking for, my class is not for you. I provide far more than a textbook and multiple choice exams. I also believe that interaction between the instructor and students, and students with their classmates is an essential part of learning. In my face-to-face courses, it is rare that I would spend an entire class hour simply presenting material. As in the traditional classroom, my philosophy of online teaching is similarly interactive.

USING GEORGIAVIEW

This is an online course and it is delivered by our learning management system, GeorgiaView. You may access this by clicking [here](#) or at <https://bainbridge.view.usg.edu/>

All course materials will be found on our course site. **Students are required to complete all tasks in the “Introduction to the Course” module by February 4th in order to stay enrolled in the course.** Please be sure that you have access to and are frequently checking your Bainbridge e-mail account.

Technology – Expectations and Problem Solving

As a student in an online course, you are expected to have the technical skills and access to necessary technology to complete the requirements for the course. If you do not believe you have these skills, you should complete an appropriate computer course before you attempt this class. On occasion you may have problems with your computer or our server. If you have difficulty accessing the course web site or other technical problems, you should contact the Office of Information and Instructional Technology (OIIT) in the Oak Building (400) on the main campus or the Help Desk in the library for general assistance or call 248-3903.

If you experience a problem, **it is your responsibility to get it solved**. For example, if you are unable to open links in some of the materials you will miss valuable material. Most often, problems are solved by changing a simple setting or using a different browser. However, you will not know what to do unless you contact OIIT. It is unlikely that I will be able to solve your problem for you.

It is your responsibility to find a computer to use to complete your assignment and exams. For those of you who live close to campus, there are many available for you to use free of charge on campus. Every semester a student will disappear for several days, and then magically reappear, stating that his or her computer hasn't been working. **This is not acceptable**. This class is highly interactive and you must be on the site to participate.

Need More Help?

Get live help 24/7 by calling toll-free: **1-855-772-0423**. Toll-free for hearing impaired: **1-800-892-4315** or use the links on the left side of the GeorgiaView home page (called "Resources for Students").

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Grading:
Grades will be awarded as follows:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Semester Exams	20%
Discussions	25%
Homework	25%
<u>Term Project</u>	<u>30%</u>
Total:	100%

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	< 60%

Please check GeorgiaView for updated current grade in the course.

Exams (20% of your overall grade)

You will take three exams in this class – two during the semester and a final exam. Your total score for exams will be based on **your best two scores** from the three exams. **Because you get to drop one exam, MAKEUP EXAMS WILL NOT BE GIVEN.**

Exams will be multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short-answer format. Exams will require you to apply critical thinking skills learned in class to solve problems presented on the exam. Material on the exams will be from both class and assigned readings. **Lastly, other materials will also be due during exam weeks.**

Important things to know about your exams:

- Exams are timed. You have only 75 minutes to complete your exams.
- Exams will force you to submit at the end of the time limit – all unsaved or unanswered questions will receive 0 points.
- Exams must be started and finished in one sitting. You cannot close an exam and come back to it at a later time.
- Exams are open book and open note, but NOT open friend.
- Do NOT think this means you do not have to study! Questions will require you to apply critical thinking skills learned in class to solve problems presented on the exam.

Group Discussions (25% of your overall grade)

At the beginning of the semester, you will be assigned to a group for group discussions. Consider this group to be your little miniature class family. You will work closely with one another over the course of the semester to help review and understand course material. In addition, this group will provide a forum for you to improve your Term Project – a major portion of your grade in this class.

Every discussion will be accompanied by a clear set of instructions and grading criteria. In general, posts should be thoughtful contributions and demonstrate critical thinking—not things like, “Yeah I agree with you.” or “DUH!” Posts should also demonstrate respect for your fellow classmates, regardless of whether you agree or disagree with them. You may also start your own thread if you would like—in fact, I encourage this!

Homework (25% of your overall grade)

Each week you will be asked to complete one or more activities that are related to the material. For example, you may be asked to answer questions from the text, take a practice quiz, or complete a worksheet reviewing and applying the material. Instructions and due dates will be clearly posted for all activities.

If all activities for the week are completed, you will receive full credit (25 points) for your homework that week. If any activities are incomplete or not submitted by the due date, you will lose the points for that activity. **NO late work will be accepted.** *Technological issues or “not understanding the instructions” will not be acceptable reasons for submitting work late.*

*Note that these points are **NOT** automatic—you will be graded on the quality of your contributions and the way you demonstrate evidence of reading the course material. **This is ¼ of your total points in this class, so it is critical that you participate REGULARLY. In addition, failure to post for two consecutive weeks will result in you being dropped from the course for non-attendance.***

Posts should demonstrate that students have read the posts before it. Unfortunately, some students will dump their posts just hours before the boards close. This doesn't give your classmates an opportunity to interact with you. In addition, last minute posts frequently don't demonstrate that the student has read or thought about posts made previously.

If any assignment is submitted but is not complete, you will not receive credit for that assignment – it is better to try than to leave things blank. **Please leave time to contact me with questions so I can help you to earn these points.**

Example of HW grading:

In week 2, there are four homework activities. Jenny submits three of the four activities on-time, which is $\frac{3}{4}$ of the work. Therefore, she earns $\frac{3}{4}$ of the points = 18.75 points.



Term Project (30% of your overall grade)

It is important for you to find the relevance of psychology in your own life. In order to facilitate this, you will complete a term project based on your own field experiences related to some aspect of human behavior that you find personally relevant and interesting. Here is an outline of the project:

1. You will select a topic of your choosing – it should be one of personal interest to you which relates to the field of psychology.
2. You will submit a proposal to your instructor for feedback and approval detailing your plans for your Term Project including your topic, proposed field experiences, and expected areas of reading.
Failure to submit a proposal will result in a failed grade for the entire term project. (late proposals will be subject to point penalty)
3. After receiving approval of your Proposal, you begin your field experiences. A minimum of two field experiences is required.
4. You complete your independent reading on your selected topic. A minimum of five (5) academic sources must be read. At least three (3) of your sources must be peer-reviewed sources. None of these sources may be Wikipedia. The written portion of your assignment will require a ROUGH DRAFT (50 points) and also a FINAL DRAFT (100 points) to be submitted. There will be a peer-review day for the rough draft, which is required (50 points). If you miss the peer-review day, those points can NOT be made up.
5. You will prepare a poster (template provided) to present in-class. If you submit this assignment late, you will receive a zero for this part of the project. (150 points)

Additional Policies:

- **Class Expectations**

Learning is not simply the acquisition of correct information. Learning requires integrating new information with your own knowledge and experiences, and delivery of information by itself doesn't help you develop your own understanding of the material. What this means is that I cannot simply 'transmit' knowledge to you — **you will have to take an active role in the learning process.**

College students rank "self-motivation" as the most important reason they learn in any class. As your instructor, I am here to create an environment where you will be actively engaged in course content in order to fully comprehend concepts, as opposed to memorizing materials. In return, I expect that, as a student, you will approach class with an open mind, ready and willing to participate in discussion and activities, and ask questions at any time should something be unclear. I also expect you to invest time in your own learning and complete assignments to the best of your ability.

- **Classroom Behavior**

One of the most important aspects of a classroom environment is that students feel comfortable to share ideas and ask questions. To this end, you are expected to respect your fellow students, even if you disagree with their opinions. Additionally, you are encouraged to answer questions posed by your classmates and engage in meaningful, courteous discussion with them. In the event that you are disrupting this environment in any way, you will be asked to leave the class. No missed work due to inappropriate classroom behavior can be made up and continued misbehavior will result in referral to the Dean.

- **Class Attendance**

Class attendance is extremely important (and mandatory). You will be automatically dropped from the class if you fail to submit work for two weeks. **No late work is accepted – I expect you to work on your time management skills for this course.** Please contact me if something unforeseeable comes up. I want to work with and help my students.

- **Contacting me**

Please contact me! I look forward to hearing from you! Post any course-related questions to the Cyber Café discussion forum. For personal concerns, please message me using the e-mail within GeorgiaView. Please allow 1 business day for a response. I do not reply to e-mails on the weekends. For example, if you email Friday, expect a response Monday. You may also call me, stop by my office, or catch me during online office hours.

- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) student rights**

In compliance with Bainbridge College policy and equal access laws, I will honor appropriate academic accommodations that students with a disability may require. Students who have any physical, emotional, or learning condition that will require additional assistance to the student must submit a special needs form to the Department of Testing, Counseling, and Disability Services.

- **Academic Dishonesty Policies and Procedures**

All cases of academic dishonesty are handled according to the procedures outlined in your Student Handbook under "Academic Integrity - Policies and Procedures." Bainbridge State College defines academic dishonesty in the following way:

- Receiving or providing unauthorized assistance for an academic course.
- Procuring or providing unauthorized material for an academic course.
- Reusing one's own work produced for another course.
- Plagiarizing.

Any instance of academic dishonesty will result in failure of the assignment and, depending upon the importance of the assignment and the egregiousness of the instance, may result in failure of the course and the assignment of an "FX" (failure due to academic dishonesty) to the student's record. The instructor will determine the nature of the infraction; however, the student has the right to appeal any infraction affecting his/her standing in the course through the appeals process. See the Student Handbook for more details on policies and procedures.

Bainbridge College has a license agreement with Turnitin.com, a service that helps prevent plagiarism by comparing student papers with Turnitin's database and Internet sources. Students who take this course agree that all required papers may be submitted to Turnitin.com. While student privacy is protected, papers submitted to Turnitin do become source documents in Turnitin's reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin service is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Use posted on Turnitin's website.



COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Dates	Concepts/Topics/Assignments	Notes (use this space to fill in any notes you might need/take)
1	1/26-2/4	Introduction to the course Introduction to Psychology	
2	2/4-2/11	Research Methods – Scientific Writing – Library Orientation	
3	2/11-2/18	Term Project Assignment - Memory	
4	2/18-2/25	Learning	
5	2/25-3/4	Exam 1 Peer Review of Literature Review	
6	3/4-3/11	Spring Break – No Assignments Due	
7	3/11-3/18	Motivation – Stress & Wellness	
8	3/18-3/25	Development	
9	3/25-4/1	Personality - Social	
10	4/1-4/8	Exam 2 Biological Psychology	
11	4/8-4/15	Abnormal Psychology– Final Drafts due	
12	4/15-4/22	Posters due	
13	4/22-4/29	Peer Review of Posters – Final Exam	

Semester Dates: 1/26 – First day of classes 1/17 – MLK Jr. holiday
 3/2-3/6 – Spring Break 4/28 – Last day of classes 4/29-30 – Final Exams