

## ***Bellevue Community College***

### **Psychology 100J: General Psychology    Section 5709**

M, W 5:30- 7:40, Room A138, Winter Qtr, 2007, 5 credits, Prereq: Placement in Eng 101

John Postma

email: jpostma@bcc.ctc.edu

Phone: 425-564-2335

Office D110    Office hours: M & W by appointment.

#### **Overview**

Welcome to the field of psychology, defined as the “scientific study of mental processes and behavior.” Psychology as a field is very diverse. For example, some psychologists study social process like conformity, others treat people with mental disorders, and still others study the reliability of eyewitness testimony. In addition, “pop” psychology is the kind of psychology you often hear about in magazines and on TV, and it is often pretty far removed from scientific psychology. We can’t possibly study everything about psychology in this introductory course, but we’ll organize our material into six broad themes and learn some of the most important things about each one. The six themes we will address are:

1. Introduction to Psychology
2. Psychobiological Processes
3. Basic Psychological processes
4. Development of the Self
5. The person in social context
6. Psychological problems, disorders, and treatment

#### **Catalog Description and Learning Objectives**

##### **Description.**

(SS) Psychology as a science focusing on five major theoretical perspectives in contemporary psychology: biological, cognitive, humanistic, psychoanalytical and learning. Topics include the nervous system, heredity and maturation, sensory processes, perception and attention, statistical concepts, motivation, emotion, intelligence, learning and remembering, thinking, personality, adjustment, and social and abnormal behavior.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

Describe, differentiate, compare and contrast the major theoretical perspectives in psychology.

Write essays of various lengths in which they integrate psychology concepts and integrate them into student’s daily lives.

Apply principles of scientific inquiry by designing research projects that demonstrate the students understanding of scientific methodology and its application to some aspect of psychology in everyday life

**Assigned Reading**    ***Must be read Prior to class meeting***

**Required Textbook:** Hockenbury and Hockenbury. (2005). *Discovering Psychology, 4th Edition*. New York, NY: Worth Publishers.

Psychology 100 is an introductory survey course intended to introduce students to the major concepts, theories and research findings in the field of psychology. Learning objective in Psychology 100 include: a) outcomes related to psychology as a discipline and b) general education outcomes.

A. Upon completion of Psychology 100, students will be able to:

1. Describe the purpose, comprehensive scope, and areas of application in the discipline of psychology.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the scientific process by applying and/or critiquing various research methods used by psychologists in the study of behavior.
3. Recognize, compare and contrast various theoretical perspectives used to explain and guide psychological research and application.
4. Identify historical and present-day contributions of major psychologists.
5. Define important psychological terms, concepts, processes and principles.
6. Apply critical thinking to assumptions, claims, and common sense ideas about behavior.
7. Demonstrate the application of psychological principles and findings to one's own life.

B. In terms of general education outcomes, students will be able to :

1. Use cognitive and creative skills:

Analyzing (identifying and evaluating problems)

Synthesizing (interpreting situations, drawing conclusions, and making connections)

2. Improving communication skills:

Doing research (gathering and documenting information)

Delivering one or more written, oral and /or visual presentations with formal documentation)

3. Applying personal skills:

Understanding the influence of stress, nutrition, and life style on personal health and performance

## **General Assessment**

Area	Rating
1 - Critical Thinking, Creativity, and Problem Solving	2
2 - Quantitative and Logical Reasoning	1
3 - Research / Information Literacy	1
4 - Reading	1
5 - Writing	1
6 - Listening and Speaking	1
7 - Visual	0
8 - Computer Literacy	1
9 - Self Assessment/Life Goals	0
10 - Group Processes	1
11 - Ethics	1
12 - Lifelong Learning	1
13 - Historical and Intellectual Perspectives	2
14 - Aesthetic Awareness	0
15 - Cultural Diversity	2
16 - The Nature of Science	2
17 - Science & the Natural World	2
18 - Technology & Society	1

## Assessment and Grading

In my grading philosophy, I encourage students to take responsibility for their own learning and to learn how to do thoughtful and realistic self-assessment. In my feedback, I will provide a percentage score as well as written feedback in which I will focus on the strengths and weaknesses of your work and help you in setting improvement goals for yourself. I would also like you to reflect on your own work and hold yourself accountable for meeting a standard of excellence. I always think of written work as “works in progress” and you are always encouraged to redo a piece of work if you would like to improve your grade. (I must receive your redo within one week of handing back the assignment.) Your final grade in Psychology 100 will be computed by dividing the points you have earned divided by the total points possible in the class. Your grade is thus based on the following:

1. **Class participation & class assignments (30% of final grade).** Attendance and participation is required in this class. I will collect your in-class work every week to assess participation, as well as doing spot checks during class as you work in groups. In addition, I will distribute a self-evaluation form for you to use to evaluate your own participation at the end of the quarter.
2. **On line quizzes (20 % of final grade)** – We will have quizzes for each completed chapter on terms and concepts from the reading. Tentative dates will be discussed in class.
3. **Exams (30% of final grade).** We will have at least 2 exams that will be completed individually. Due dates are on the schedule, but are subject to change with at least one class day’s notice. Documentation of illness or family emergency will be required in order to turn in a late exam.
4. **Papers/Presentations (20% of final grade)** – You will write 2 papers and/or give 2 group presentations (assignments will be provided in class.) See due dates on the schedule below. Documentation of illness or family emergency will be required in order to turn in a late paper or make up a missed a presentation.

## Expectations, Agreements, and Information

- ❖ **Academic Honesty:** The College regards acts of academic dishonesty, including such activities as plagiarism, cheating and/or violations of integrity in information technology, as very serious offenses. In the event that cheating, plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty are discovered, each incident will be handled as deemed appropriate. Care will be taken that students’ rights are not violated and that disciplinary procedures are instituted only in cases where documentation or other evidence of the offense(s) exists. A description of all such incidents shall be forwarded to the Vice President for Student Services, where a file of such occurrences will be maintained. The vice president may institute action against a student according to the college’s disciplinary policies and procedures as described in the *Student Handbook*. For specific policies, students should see the class syllabus.
- ❖ **Disability Support Services:** provides services to help students with disabilities successfully adapt to college life. Students who meet specific criteria may also qualify for academic accommodations.
- ❖ **Emergency Procedures:** Emergency procedures are posted in each classroom.
- ❖ **Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):** Bellevue Community College complies with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 concerning the information that becomes a part of a student’s permanent educational record and governing the condition of its disclosure. Under FERPA, students are protected against improper disclosure of their records.
- ❖ **Inclement Weather:** In the event of inclement weather affecting morning classes, there will be notification on the local media by 5:30 a.m. You may also go online to [www.schoolreport.org](http://www.schoolreport.org) and click on Bellevue Community College to get the latest report. Should the weather deteriorate during the day, you may check online, listen to the main campus message, check email or the media to hear news about closures or class schedule changes.
- ❖ **Learning Assistance Options:** To support student success, BCC offers a variety of support services.

## Class Environment

Our intention will be to create a space for learning that affirms and develops creative, critical and courageous inquiry in a search to cultivate new questions as we participate in a process of creating knowledge together. We will intentionally cultivate within ourselves the ability to think critically and act courageously.

**This course will be a discussion based and student oriented inquiry.** We will strive to create an atmosphere where all of us feel free and motivated to share our experiences, insights and questions. Thus we need to be **willing to listen** and engage in ways that are respectful and open to our different perspectives as well as those we hold in common. At the center of all dialogue will be a respect for the dignity and integrity of all our classroom community. This does not mean we cannot challenge each other or agree to disagree. It means we will agree to do so in an environment that **affirms the dignity of all**.

We will practice, to the greatest extent possible, **collective decision making and responsibility** for the creation of our learning context and course direction. Student feedback and suggestions on all aspects of this course are encouraged and will be respectfully considered. We will develop other guidelines for the course as we move through it together.

All students should clearly understand that the classroom is a safe environment for all. **Respect for each student's integrity, diversity of thought, and learning style** is an important part of the learning environment. This is the expected right of all students. The instructor will strictly monitor protocols of civility and respect for the dignity of each person.

In addition, it is the right of each student to be able to participate without undue interruption or distraction. To this end, it is important for all students to be **punctual**. Along the same lines, do not hold side conversations when another student or an instructor is speaking. Such **side conversations** are disrespectful and distracting to everyone. Please turn off your **cell phones**.

Because this course will rely heavily on class participation, **attendance** at all class sessions is required in order to successfully complete our full agenda. If you are ill, please contact your instructor as soon as possible, or have someone do it for you. If you miss a due date for an assignment, a doctor's written excuse is required, or your grade will be severely penalized for **late work** (10% per calendar day).

Students with documented physical or learning disabilities that require **accommodations** will be supported so that adjustments may be made to provide equal access to the learning environment.

**Pass/Fail Grades will not be given in this course. If you need to take an Incomplete grade in the course, you must complete an Incomplete Contract with your instructor.**

**Schedule** (For each week listed, please read the assigned pages in that row ***prior*** to the first class meeting of that week. Critical Terminology and Concepts – note words or ideas that you find difficult and/or you'd like to discuss in class)

Date	Perspective	Reading	Important concepts	Homework / In class work Due
Week 1, Jan 3	Introducing psychology	Ch. 1	History of psych; Critical Thinking Research methods	Q1 by mon before class
Week 2, Jan 8/10	Neuroscience and Behavior	Ch. 2	Biology of Behavior	Q2 Monday prior to class

Week 3, Jan 17	Sensation and Perception  Consciousness and its variations	Ch. 3 Ch. 4	Ways of Knowing  Experiencing	Q3 Prior to Monday Q4 prior to Wednesday
Week 4, Jan 22/24	Learning	Ch 5	Conditioning	Q5 before class P 1 Due
Week 5, Jan 29/31	Memory  Thinking, Language, and Intelligence	Ch. 6 & 7	Examining Memory  Problem Solving	Q 6+7  Test 1 Due
Week 6, Feb 5/7	Motivation and Emotion	Ch. 8	Concepts and Theories	Q8
Week 7, Feb 12/14	Personality  Social Psychology	Ch. 10  Ch. 11	Personality Theory's Person in Social Context	Q10 & 11
Week 8, Feb 21	Stress, Health, and Coping	Ch. 12	Psychneuro-immunology	Q12
Week 9, Feb 26/28	Psychological Disorders	Ch. 13	Understanding Disorders	Paper 2 Q13
Week 10, March 5/7	Review/....			
Week 11, March 12/14	Therapies	Ch. 14	Types of Therapy's	Test 2
Final Exam March 19th				

**This syllabus is a plan, not a contract written in stone. It is subject to change if necessary to support our collaborative learning process. You will all be notified of any changes.**

## **Professional Article Review (P1)**

Psychology

Instructor: John Postma, M.A.

### **Directions for Professional Article Summary and Evaluation**

You must find a professional journal article on a topic of your choosing related to any class material. Paper must be written in APA format. Your review should have four parts:

#### **First: Article Reference**

The article must be from a professional, peer reviewed journal. (If your not absolutely certain the article you want to review is from a pro journal/source, check with me)

You must provide a complete APA style reference for your article. This must include the full title of the article, the authors, and the journal, book or source for your article.

#### **Second: The Summary**

The summary should be about a page long complete but condensed version of the article. It should mention each of the main points stated in the article, for instance, if there is a paragraph in the article that discusses the effectiveness of a specific medication for depression, there should be at least one sentence that summarizes that point.

The summary should be dry and factual. There should be none of your passion or voice in the summary and you should be careful not to present the passion or voice of the article author as if it were your own. This is not a report of on what you think is most relevant in the article, it is a factual summary of what the article is. There will be space for your opinion in the response section.

#### **Third: Critical Evaluation**

This section should be a page or so that evaluates the information offered in the article. The article is almost always making a claim of some sort. The author is almost always trying to convince you of something. Your job is to figure these things out and evaluate weather or not the article is convincing. Be skeptical but also be fair.

This section should include but is not limited to questions like:

- What claims are being made?
- What evidence has been provided to support the claims( research study, expert opinion...)?
- Is the evidence credible (are the tests relevant, can they be repeated, examine validity and reliability).
- Did the author provide good examples and define terms well enough to make the point clear?
- What contemporary theoretical perspective in psychology best explains the claims being made?

#### **Fourth: Response**

This is the place for you to offer your personal opinion. Do you agree or disagree with the claim (why or why not), Can you apply what the article said to something in your own life or experience.....I want to know what you think/ feel ....about what you have learned.