# General Psychology

**Psychology 100**
**Spring, 2014**

## General Course Information

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|---|---|
| Instructor: | Jillene Grover Seiver, Ph.D. |
| Mailbox: | Drop off items with the Secretary in D110. |
| Voicemail: | (425)564-5106 |
| e-mail: | jseiver@bellevuecollege.edu |
| Canvas webpage: | https://bc.instructure.com/ |
| Office Hours: | M-W, 3-5 in Eastern WA University House 1 |
| Class Meets: | M-Th, 7:30-8:20 am in A138 |
| Text: | *Exploring Psychology, 9th edition* by David Myers; |
| PsychPortal: | http://courses.bfwpub.com/exploring9e.php |

## Course Description

General Psychology broadly surveys the knowledge and methods of the discipline of Psychology. This course will emphasize the development of critical thinking skills, and familiarity with scientific research and reasoning.

## Course Overview

This is an introductory-level course, which will survey most of the major issues in the field of psychology. The major goals for this course are:

1. Examine how human behavior is studied and analyzed by psychologists.
2. Gain greater insight into the behavior of ourselves and others.
3. Develop familiarity with the theories describing human behavior.
4. Familiarize ourselves with the symptoms of psychological disorders and the various treatment options.
5. Develop critical thinking skills and prepare ourselves to be cautious and analytical consumers of information that proclaims to be scientific or based on some form of research.

## Course Outcomes

*Upon completion of Psychology 100, students will be able to:*
1. Describe the purpose, comprehensive scope, and areas of application in the field 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.

*In terms of general education outcomes, students will be able to:*
8. Use cognitive and creative skills:
    a. Analyzing (identifying and evaluating problems)
    b. Synthesizing (interpreting situations, drawing conclusions, and making connections)
9. Improving communications skills:
    a. Doing research (gathering and documenting information)
    b. Delivering one or more written, oral and/or visual presentations with formal documentation
10. Applying personal skills: Understanding the influence of stress, nutrition, and life style on personal health and performance

# Course Requirements

## Learning Curve games:

Each week, you will complete the set of Learning Curve games that I have assigned.

- Each set will include material covered during the week that the games are due.
- You will complete between 2 and 7 games each week.
- If you've done your reading before beginning the games, it should take you 45-60 minutes to complete the set of games.

The weekly games can be found in the Assignment Center in the PsychPortal. See "How to Join the PsychPortal" document in the Canvas classroom.

*Game procedure:*

- Each week's games must be completed by 7:30 am on the day they are due. Check the Canvas system calendar for due dates.
  - You may complete a game at any time that it is available.
  - You may complete part of a game, and then come back later to complete it – as long as the deadline hasn't passed.
- You will earn full credit once you achieve the target score. This is an adaptive, pass/fail task.
- You will complete the assignment entirely in the PsychPortal, and the system will record your points to the PsychPortal gradebook. I will transfer your points to the Canvas gradebook on Thursdays.

*Making up missed game:*

- You may not make up games unless *Dire Circumstances* (see definition in Exams section) require that you must miss **the entire week** that the game is relevant.
- You must have documentation that excuses you from class for the.

## Exams:

There will be four midterms, on the dates indicated on the calendar. They will occur in class, at the start of our class session. Each exam will be allotted 50 minutes.

Exams will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions. Each Exam will be worth 50 pts.

- **Materials:** You will need a scantron form and a #2 pencil for all Exams. Neither of these materials will be provided, so be sure to bring them with you. You may use the backs of used scantrons to save on scantrons.

- **Make-up Exams:**
  - I will allow a make-up of a missed Exam if it was missed for one of the following, documented, reasons:
    - Personal illness or injury, documented by a doctor's note, and with notification to me before the test is missed (via phone or email)
    - Death in the immediate family, documented by a note from the funeral director.
  - Exams must be made up within one week of the test's date.
  - If you know you're going to miss an Exam for an unavoidable reason, we can administer the test before the scheduled date so that you won't miss it.
    - No make-ups after the Exam when the absence is planned.
    - No early Exam 5 to accommodate summer travel plans.

# Projects:

You will need to complete five projects, and submit them to the proper Project Dropbox in Canvas by 11:59 pm on Tuesday of the week that they are due. Each project will be worth 25 points.

## Preparing Projects:

- You will select one project from the list of several.
- It is NOT permitted to do more than one project from one list, as a substitute for doing another project on a different list. I have designed the projects to supplement the topics that we will be discussing as you concurrently work on the project. Therefore, you must complete them in order.
- The projects will be graded based on three criteria.
    - Accuracy. Each project topic requires some factual content. You will lose points for inaccuracies.
    - Completeness.
        - You must answer all parts of the assignment that you choose. For example, if a project asks you to solve a problem and then describe your problem-solving strategy, you must do both of those things.
        - Each project has its own unique set of expectations. You'll know that you've completed the project fully when you've answered all of the issues that I raised in the topic's question.
        - A complete project will require no fewer than 150 words.
    - Timeliness. Projects are not accepted late, under any circumstances.
        - The dropbox will literally **lock you out** when the deadline passes, so be prepared to push the "submit" button no later than 11:58 pm on the due date.
            - As a deadline passes, the Dropbox will disappear.
            - Do NOT submit a late project to the next project's dropbox, as that will prevent you from being able to submit the next project to that box, and it won't earn any credit anyway.
        - Do NOT send your project to me via email if you miss the deadline. I will return it unread.
    - I will deduct 20% (5 pts) for spelling errors that should have been picked up by spell check, or grammar errors that are egregious enough that grammar check should have picked them up.
- Psychological Scales: In some Projects, I will include a personality scale or other sort of psychological measure for you to complete and score. Your responses on such scales are meant to be kept anonymous, so DO NOT submit your responses or scores to me. All I need is your responses to the questions that I ask about the scale.

## Submitting Projects:

You will submit your projects to the Project X Drop box, where X represents the number of the project you're submitting.

- Create your project in your own software, and save it to your computer.
- To submit your project as an attached file:
    - Save your work as a .doc **or** .docx **or** .rtf **or** .txt file.
    - Click on Project X in the Assignments button.
        1. Click on the "Submit Assignment" button on the right side of the screen.
        2. Under the "File Upload" tab, click on the "Browse" button, find your file, and click "Submit Assignment."

- If you can't save in .doc or .docx format:
  - Click on Project X in the Assignments button.
    1. Click on the "Submit Assignment" button on the right side of the screen.
    2. Click on the "Text Entry" tab.
    3. Copy and paste your work into the message box.
    4. Click "Submit Assignment."

The Drop Boxes will limit your access automatically.
- You can only submit one posting to each Drop Box, so make sure that you're submitting your work to the correct drop box.
- The Drop Box will automatically lock when the deadline passes, so you can't submit your work late.

When will I read the projects?
- On the morning after the due date, I will begin reading the projects.
- I will NOT reply to queries about whether I received your project or not.  I will send you an email with feedback about your project once I've read it. If you have a question about a project topic, please make sure to put the words "question about" in the subject line of your email to me.

I will return your graded project in the dropbox, and will send an email with your points and my feedback.  The points and feedback will also appear in the Grades button.

# Attendance:

I expect that you will attend lectures.  There is a great deal of information presented in the text, and the lectures will serve to narrow that information down.  Also, there will be a large number of demonstrations, film clips, and participatory activities that will enhance your experience.

# Academic integrity

It is assumed that all students will maintain the highest academic integrity.  Cheating of any sort, including copying on exams, falsifying records, plagiarism (e.g. copying and pasting from a website, collaborating on tests), etc. will not be tolerated, and suspected cheaters will be reported to the Dean of Academic Education.

No electronic devices (cell phones, mp3/iPods, dictionaries, laptops, etc) will be allowed during lectures or exams.

# Grade Distribution

| A:  | 95-100% | C+: | 77-79% |
|-----|---------|-----|--------|
| A-: | 90-94%  | C:  | 74-76% |
| B+: | 87-89%  | C-: | 70-73% |
| B:  | 84-86%  | D+: | 67-69% |
| B-: | 80-83%  | D:  | 60-66% |
|     |         | F:  | <=59%  |

# Grade Breakdown

| Learning Curve: | 12 @ 5 pts  | = | 60  |
|-----------------|-------------|---|-----|
| Exams:          | 4 @ 50 pts  | = | 200 |
| Projects:       | 5 @ 25 pts  | = | 125 |
| Total:          |             |   | 385 |

# Incompletes and Hardship Withdrawals

These options are reserved for students who, through unforeseeable circumstances, cannot complete a course that they were passing.  If you wish to request one of these grading options, the following criteria must be met:

1. You are passing the class at the time of the request.
2. You must make your request in writing, explaining the circumstances and including any documentation.
3. In the case of an Incomplete, the circumstances must be acute.  That is, they must be something that prevents completion of the course within the current quarter, but that would be resolved in time for the student to complete the course work within the next quarter.
4. In the case of a Hardship Withdrawal, the circumstances must be ongoing, such that the student would not be able to complete the course work within the following quarter.  In other words, a student could not request a hardship withdrawal and then retake the course the following quarter.
5. Qualifying circumstances for Incompletes and Hardship Withdrawals *are limited to*:
    a. Death in the immediate family (spouse, child, parent) documented by a funeral director's note.
    b. Significant illness or injury (documented by a doctor's note) of self or a person for whom the student is primarily responsible.
    c. Relocation outside of the Bellevue Community College area.

# Reading Assignments, Video Assignments, and online lectures:

| Week | Date | Chapter |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 4/7-10 | **1:** Thinking Critically with Psychological Science |
| 2 | 4/14-17 | **2:** The Biology of Mind |
| 2 | 4/17 | **Project 1** due in Canvas by 7:30 am |
| 3 | 4/21-23 | **3:** Consciousness and Two-Track Mind |
| 3 | 4/24 | **NO CLASS:  Instructor at conference** |
| 4 | 4/28 | **Exam 1** (Chapters 1, 2, & 3) |
| 4 | 4/29-5/1 | **4:** The Developing Person |
| 4 | 5/1 | **Project 2** due in Canvas by 7:30 am |
| 5 | 5/5-7 | **6:** Sensation and Perception |
| 5 | 5/8 | **Exam 2** (Chapters 4 & 6) |
| 6 | 5/12-15 | **7:**  Learning |
| 6 | 5/12-15 | **8:** Memory |
| 6 | 5/15 | **Project 3** due in Canvas by 7:30 am |
| 7 | 5/19-21 | **9:** Thinking/Language/Intelligence |
| 7 | 5/22 | **Exam 3** (Chapters 7, 8, & 9) |
| 8 | 5/26 | **NO CLASS:  Memorial Day** |
| 8 | 5/27-29 | **12:** Personality |
| 8 | 5/29 | **Project 4** due in Canvas by 7:30 am |
| 9 | 6/2-5 | **13:** Social Psychology |
| 10 | 6/9-12 | **14:** Psychological Disorders |
| 10 | 6/9-12 | **15:** Therapy |
| 10 | 6/12 | **Project 5** due in Canvas by 7:30 am |
| 11 | 6/17 | **Exam 4** (Chapters 12, 13, 14, & 15) |