*****SYLLABUS: PRINT AND SAVE THIS *****

You are responsible for everything contained within this syllabus. Due dates, assignment formats and expectations, and other important pieces of information are described here. READ IT! KNOW IT! LOVE IT! :-)

General Psychology

Psychology 100

General Course Information:

Instructor:	Jillene Grover Seiver, Ph.D. (please call me Jill)
E-mail:	Click on the "Mail" button on the toolbar, then click on "Create Message." Click on "Browse for Recipients," and select my name from the list and click on the "To" box and click on "submit." Make sure to fill in the "subject" box!
Text:	*Psychology*, 8th edition by David Myers

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.

In an effort to achieve these goals, you will read the Prologue and 15 of the 18 chapters included in the Myers text. We will engage in discussions within the Discussion Area, which will allow you to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the issues

covered in the text, and which will allow us to share our experiences and our insights. You will also take 10 tests, take many surveys (for fun), and you will submit five projects.

Course Requirements:

Tests:

There will be 6 weekly tests. Each will include material covered since the last test; none of the tests is cumulative.
Test format: Tests will consist of multiple choice questions selected from the text since the prior test. Each test will be worth 50 points.

Test procedure: I will submit each week's test to assessment tool on Wednesday morning. You will log on, print out the test, and use it to prepare your answers. You'll log back into the assessment tool and take the test by the next Wednesday at NOON. You must take the week's test by NOON on Wednesday of the appropriate week in order to receive any credit. (See my message entitled "Taking Tests" for specific instructions for studying for the tests and taking them.)

Making up missed tests: This quarter is rather compact: Only ten weeks. If you fall behind, it could destroy your grade. In my effort to make sure that you stay on track, you may not make up tests unless there are arrangements made in advance, or dire circumstances require that you must miss a week (e.g. funeral, illness of self or close family). Dire circumstances must be documented by a note from a doctor, funeral director, or other official. If a make-up is appropriate, your score will be docked 10%.

Discussion Questions:

Answers

You will find a list of discussion questions in the "Weekly Assignments" button. You will answer two of the questions, and submit your answers to the Discussion Board. Each week's DQs will be worth 25 points. See my message entitled "Discussion Guidelines" for the requirements for these assignments.

Participation

You need to make at least four substantive comments about your classmates' answers by Wednesday of each week. Each comment is worth 5 points of your participation score, and posting your own DQs is worth 5 points. Participation is worth 25 points each week.

See my message called "Discussion Guidelines" for explicit instructions on how to earn full credit for participation.

Projects:

You will need to complete three projects, and submit them to my email box by midnight on Tuesday of the week that they are due. Each project will be worth 25 points.

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 later. 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 are graded pass/fail. If you submit your project on time and it is completed fully, you will receive full credit for the project. If your project is late, isn't handed in at all, or is incomplete, you won't receive any credit for that project.

Incidental Other Assignments:

Occasionally, I will include a personality scale or other sort of psychological measure for you to complete and score. Consider these to be like in-class activities, meant to edify you and to illuminate what we're discussing. Generally, your responses on such scales are meant to be kept anonymous, so you will not be required to submit your responses or scores to either the Discussion Area or to me.

Academic integrity:

It is assumed that all students will maintain the highest academic integrity. Cheating of any sort, including copying on tests, falsifying records, plagiarism, etc.will not be tolerated, and suspected cheaters will be reported to the Dean of Academic Education. Last summer, I had two students who ran out of time to complete their DQs, so they copied and pasted their classmates' work into a message and tried to pass them off as their own work. Please be on the lookout for signs that another student has copied your work! Because I couldn't be sure what happened last quarter, I assumed that the people whose work was copied were as guilty of cheating as those who had done the copying. You don't want to lose points or be expelled from class because you didn't alert me when someone copied your work. And you don't want to go down the avenue of the two who copied -- I failed them in my class and reported them to their college, encouraging the school to expel them for academic dishonesty.

Similarly, it is plagiarism (cheating) to copy and paste information directly from a website into your answers. If you want to cite a website, you need to reword the information, then give the website credit for the ideas you got from it. Make sure to include the URL when you reference websites.

Finally, it is incorrect to use ideas from the Myers text and fail to mention that you got the idea from the text. I require that you cite the text in every answer, so make sure to not only mention terms and concepts that you got from the text, but to mention that the term or idea came from the text.

Having said all that, I have had pairs of students who attend the same community college

and who studied together for this class. It is perfectly alright for you to study for the tests together, but it is important that you take the test on your own. By discussing the questions and working out the answers together, you can really gain great insight into the topics. In fact, I encourage you guys to start up a conversation in the student lounge (found in the Discussion Board button), where you can pose questions to each other about specific test items, and give each other page references and such to help figure out the answers.

You may also ask me for clarifying questions about the tests. Generally I will direct you to the appropriate section of the text; I never just give you the answer! :-) But I can help you to focus your attention if you're really struggling.

Grading Criteria:

Assignment	Points	Percentage
Scavenger Hunt	1 @ 13	2%
Tests	6 @ 50	44%
Projects	3 @ 25	11%
Discussion	6 @25	22%
Participation	6 @25	22%
Total	688	100%

Grading palette:

A 94-100% 4.0

A- 90-93% 3.7

B+ 87-89% 3.3

B 84-86% 3.0

B- 80-83% 2.7

C+ 77-79% 2.3

C 74-76% 2.0

C- 70-73% 1.7

D+	67-69%	1.3
D	64-66%	1.0
D-	60-63%	0.7
F	<= 59%	0.0

Each week, I'll report your points to the online gradebook (found inside the My Grades button) that will show your points to date. You can divide your total points earned by the total points possible so far, so that you'll always know how you're doing in the class.

Weekly Schedule:

(All assignments are due by midnight on the day they are due, except for tests, which are due at NOON.)

Sundays:	Discussion Answers
Tuesdays of even weeks:	Projects
Wednesdays:	Tests

I suggest that you transfer these assignments onto a paper calendar to keep next to your computer.

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:

- You are passing the class at the time of the request.
- You must make your request in writing, explaining the circumstances and including any documentation.

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.

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.

Qualifying circumstances for Incompletes and Hardship Withdrawals *are limited to*:

- Death in the immediate family (spouse, child, parent) documented by a funeral director's note.
- Significant illness or injury (documented by a doctor's note) of self or a person for whom the student is primarily responsible.
- Relocation outside of the Bellevue Community College area.

What To Do If You Can't Log Into The WebCT Vista Webpage

I hold you responsible for submitting your assignments on time, assuming that the classroom is working correctly. Ninety-eight percent of the time, the classroom is working fine. Twice in the two years that we've been using Vista it has gone down, preventing all students from accessing the classroom. Most of the time that students can't get into the classroom, it's because they are trying to access it through BCC's homepage and that page is down, or because there is something wrong with the student's ISP.

To avoid the first problem, you should add this address to your "favorites" list: http://vista.bcc.ctc.edu/webct/entryPageIns.dowebct

To avoid the second problem, you should have a back-up computer planned and available so you can get your work submitted on time. You can use public libraries, the computers on BCC's campus, a friend's or family member's computer, or sneak a little schoolwork in while at work. But you can't use "computer problems" as an excuse for missing a class deadline.