

**General Psychology****Psychology 100C 9:30 - 11:20 Mon. and Wed.****Instructor:** Virginia R. Bridwell**Office:** D110**Office hours:** 1:30 – 2:20 Monday and Wednesday  
11:30 – 12:20 Tuesday and Thursday**Phone:** (425) 564-2198**E-Mail:** vbridwel@bcc.ctc.edu**Winter Quarter 2009**

**Required Text:** Hockenbury and Hockenbury, Discovering Psychology 4<sup>th</sup> edition, Worth, Publisher

**Course Description:**

Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and mental processing. In this survey course, important basic areas of psychological research will be examined including the biological aspects of life, social, emotional and cognitive development, as well as diagnosis and treatment of individual and social problems. This course will emphasize terminology, methodology, concepts and principles of psychology in the context of the dominant historical and theoretical perspectives.

**Course Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, the successful student 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.

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. Improve 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.

### **Grading and Exams:**

In conformity with BCC's grading policy, the grades will be assigned as follows (percentages).

A	100 - 95
A-	94 - 90
B+	89 - 86
B	85 - 83
B-	82 - 80
C+	79 - 75
C	74 - 70
C-	69 - 60
D+	59 - 55
D	54 - 50
F	49 - Below

Your final grade will be based on a total of 700 points. They will be broken down as follows:

### **Exams:**

There will be five exams, each worth 100 points. Your grade will be calculated on the basis of your best four exam scores. Each exam will cover information from the text, lectures and class discussions. The test format will contain multiple choice and essay questions. You will need to bring a **Scantron sheet and a number 2 pencil** to each exam. Paper for the essay questions will be provided. If after the final exam, you wish to receive your results prior to reviewing your transcript, you may bring a self-addressed stamped envelope to the final exam day and your exam will be mailed to you.

### **Essay quizzes:**

There will be two essay quizzes (50 points each) administered randomly throughout the quarter. Each quiz will measure your factual knowledge, your reasoning skills and your written communication skills.

### **Make-up exam policy:**

No make-up exams will be given. It is customary to drop your lowest exam score. If you are unable to attend class on the day of an exam, the missed exam will be accepted as your lowest score. In the event of an exam that is scheduled at a time when you know that you will be gone, you may arrange to take it early. **Only one missed exam will be dropped.** Use this condition wisely.

### **RECIPROCAL PEER TUTORING ASSIGNMENT:** (100 points)

**Objective:** This is a challenging course that requires systematic and rigorous study to master the concepts and theories presented. Research and anecdotal experience from tutors has shown that tutors achieve relatively greater understanding of academic information than their students. (Fantuzzo and Riggio, 1990)

**Assignment description:** To ensure your successful mastery of the course material, you will be randomly assigned to a study partner with whom you will be both student and tutor for the duration of the quarter. The course is divided into five units. Each unit culminates with an exam. You will be required to meet with your study partner **each Friday at 9:30** for a minimum of one hour sessions. In preparation for these meetings, each student must create the following:

1. An **original** practice exam to be administered to the partner during the meeting.
2. An answer sheet for each test item with a brief explanation of why the answer was the correct one.

3. Two **original** essay-type questions covering unit material with an outline of the answers.
4. Students will be prepared to discuss the questions and compare answers with their partner.
5. Taped sessions of the discussions will be randomly sampled of each study partner group at least two times per quarter. Taped sessions are to be brought to class each Monday and will be called for by the instructor at the beginning of the hour.

Study group materials will be turned in on the day of the exam. **Late material will not be accepted. No exceptions. Study materials that plagiarize the study guide materials that accompany your text will not be accepted and will be treated with the consequences stipulated by the college and social sciences policies regarding plagiarism.** (See attached policies handout)

(Adapted from Reciprocal Peer Tutoring by Ron Riggio, Ph.D. (1990) Presented to the Terman Teaching Conference of Western Psychological Association Convention, 2006)

### **Writing Assignment Portfolio Project (100 points)**

Your writing assignment is designed to help you develop your research skills, writing skills, your understanding and recognition of the theoretical perspectives in psychology, and your understanding of the scientific method as it applies to the field of psychology

Once the unit on scientific method has begun, you will be required to bring to class various claims about behavior that you have found in the media. You will join other students in the class to analyze these claims and select one for your writing project. This is not a group project. Although you will work as a group initially, your final paper must be your own original work. The final paper will contain the following components:

1. It will have a detailed analysis of the claim that responds to each of the questions in the handout (see handout for instructions)
2. It will have a hard copy of the original claim
3. It will have a hard-copy of an academic journal article that examines a similar claim
4. It will have a summary of the article that includes the following:
  - a. An identification of the theoretical perspective from which the claim is being examined
  - b. A description of the research method that is used,
  - c. A discussion of the conclusions of the article as it relates to your claim.

**Refer to the Portfolio Project Handout for detailed instructions.**

### **Class Conduct:**

While it is my hope that you will come to view your time in class as yours to use as best meets your needs, it is important to keep in mind that you are sharing this time with at least 41 other students who may have needs that differ from your own. In as much as all of you have paid dearly for the information that you need from this course, it is important to make sure that the classroom environment is as conducive to scholarship as possible. Therefore, a few courtesies are required and will be enforced by me:

### **Class Policies;**

### **Attendance:**

As adult students, you are expected to be able to manage your own time and priorities. Therefore, with the exception of days when demonstrations, exams and activities are scheduled, daily attendance will not be taken. This is college. Courses of this caliber are based on the assumption that you will be attending class regularly. If you need to be absent, you **are** responsible for obtaining lecture notes from your peer tutor and obtain information regarding

announcements or changes in schedule that you may have missed. Studies have shown that the students who attend class regularly also achieve better grades and comprehension. They are also the students who enrich the class with their participation. . Consequently, I will reward attendance with extra credit points by taking attendance randomly throughout the quarter (usually on days when attendance is low). These points will be logged in my grade book and assessed when your grade appears to be on the borderline between grades and I need to justify rounding your grade up to the higher grade.

**Punctuality :**

Please **be on time** for class. Late arrivals result in loss of important information and distract from students' opportunity to hear announcements and clarify information from previous class discussions and readings. If circumstances prevent you from arriving on time, please take a seat **closer to the door** to reduce the number of students that are distracted by your late arrival. Once class has commenced, **do not leave before the end of the hour**. Students sometimes encounter circumstances in which they have to leave class before the end of the hour. Once again, this creates a distraction for others. If you should have to leave early, **please arrange to sit close to the door and do not reenter the room once you have left**.

**Class Participation:**

You are encouraged to participate in discussions of the theories and concepts that I will be presenting to the class. This has the effect of expanding your comprehension of the material and enriching the learning experience for yourself and your fellow students. Many of the theories may seem counter-intuitive and will provoke much reaction. You are encouraged to share your reactions with the class as long as they pertain to the material. However, **side comments directed to fellow students contribute to distractions, not to learning, and will not be tolerated. Students caught distracting from the lecture will be asked to remove themselves from the classroom.**

**Cell Phones:**

Cell phones are a convenience, not a right. They create a distraction for your fellow students. **Cell phones are to be turned off while in a classroom. Students who neglect to turn off their phones before class will be excused from class for the hour if their phones ring during class time.**

**Disabled Students:**

If you require accommodation based on a documented disability, emergency medical information to share, or need special arrangements in case of emergency evacuation, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible.

### Proposed\* Class Schedule

1/5	Chapter 1	Introduction and Research Methods
1/12	Chapter 2	Psychobiological Processes
<u>1/21</u>	<u>EXAM I</u>	<u>Chapters 1 and 2</u>
1/20	Chapter 3	Sensation and Perception
1/26	Chapter 4	Consciousness and Its Variations
<u>2/2</u>	<u>EXAM II</u>	<u>Chapters 3 and 4</u>
2/2	Chapter 5	Learning
2/9	Chapter 6	Memory
<u>2/18</u>	<u>EXAM III</u>	<u>Chapters 5 and 6</u>
2/18	Chapter 8	Motivation and Emotion
<u>2/18</u>	<u>Portfolio Projects Due</u>	
2/23	Chapter 9	Lifespan Development
<u>3/2</u>	<u>EXAM IV</u>	<u>Chapters 8 and 9</u>
3/2	Chapter 11	Social Psychology
3/9	Chapter 13	Psychological Disorders and Treatment
3/16	Chapter 14	Therapies

### Final Exam Schedule:

3/23 @ 9:30 - 10:20 Exam V Chapters 11, 13 and 14

\* This schedule is an estimate of the time required to cover the material. It is subject to change. It is essential that you attend class daily to obtain announcements of changes in the schedule

## **PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION** **Revised Fall 2007**

### Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing\*

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue Community College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue Community College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services.

### Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F").

### F Grade

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

### Final Examination Schedule

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BCC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

### Withdrawal From Class

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

### Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of "HW" (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

### Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Support Services (DSS) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DSS office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DSS accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Support Services, and review those needs with the instructor as well.

### Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BCC Web site.

### Return of Papers and Tests

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers

and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.

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*\*If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue Community College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (A251), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.*