

PSYC& 100 - General Psychology, Section LSJ, Item 5679, Fall, 2008
5 credits , Class: TThF, 3:00 – 5:10 PM, Rm. A138
Instructor: Mike Brislaw Telephone: (253) 859-9149 (Home, emergency only)
Email: mbrislaw@bcc.ctc.edu, mmbrislaw@earthlink.net
BCC Office Hours: TTh, 5:15 – 7:45 PM by Appointment – D100A
BCC Telephone: (425) 564-2335 (Messages)
TEXTBOOK: Psychology, 8th Ed., by Myers
Website: <http://www.worthpublishers.com/myers>

OUTCOMES

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 outcomes in Psychology 100 include:

A. Specific outcomes related to psychology as a discipline

1. Describe the purpose, comprehensive scope, and areas of application in the discipline of psychology
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the scientific process by applying, comparing, or critiquing various research methods used by psychologists
3. Recognize, compare, and contrast major theoretical perspectives used to explain human nature, and to guide psychological research and applications
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.
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. Critical Thinking, Creativity, and Problem Solving: In Introductory Psychology students must learn to apply critical thinking methods in assessing the validity of claims about human behavior. Students learn research design and apply scientific method in the process of identifying problems and issues. Students learn to evaluate credibility of sources based on objectivity and bias. Students demonstrate competency on a test basis.
13. Historical and Intellectual Perspectives: Students learn the contributions of the major Western thinkers in Psychological theory. They examine the cultural values of past and current decades and how the pattern of change influences behavior. Students discuss these issues in class and are tested on their understanding.
15. Cultural Diversity: Students learn about effective mental health functioning in society. Students learn about discrimination, bias and stereotyping through discussion and value clarification activities.
16. The Nature of Science: Students learn the scientific process of inquiry. They are familiar with research design, appropriate data collection and ultimately, discerning validity.
17. Science & the Natural World: Our students examine examples of adaptive characteristics leading to survival and how that can influence modern behavior. Students learn about the central nervous system and how the brain communicates through the process of neurochemistry.

COURSE OUTLINE: 10/9/08-12/9/08

Prologue: Psychology's Roots; Psychology's Big Issues; Psychology's Perspectives; Psychology's Subfields; Studying Psychology

Chapter 1: The Need for Psychological Science; Description; Correlation; Experimentation; Statistical Reasoning; Frequently Asked Questions About Psychology

Chapter 2: Neural Communication; The Nervous System; The Brain; The Endocrine System

Chapter 3: Brief Overview

Chapter 4: Prenatal Development and the Newborn; Infancy and Childhood; Adolescence; Adulthood; Reflections on the Major Developmental Issues

Chapter 7: Waking Consciousness; Sleep and Dreams; Hypnosis; Drugs and Consciousness; Near-Death Experiences

Chapter 8: Classical Conditioning, Operant Conditioning; Learning by Observation

Chapter 9: The Phenomenon of Memory; Encoding: Getting Information In; Storage: Retaining Information; Retrieval: Getting Information Out; Forgetting; Memory Construction; Improving Memory

Chapter 12: Motivational Concepts; Hunger; Sexual Motivation; The Need to Belong; Achievement Motivation

Chapter 14: Stress and Illness; Promoting Health

Chapter 16: Perspectives on Psychological Disorders; Schizophrenia; Mood Disorders; Anxiety Disorders; Dissociative Disorders; Somatoform Disorders; Personality Disorders

Chapter 18: Social Thinking; Social Influence; Social Relations

11/7 Last Day to Withdraw

11/11 Professional Development Day (No Class)

11/27-28 Holiday – Thanksgiving (No Class)

12/9 Last Unit Exam (Chapters 16 & 18), 3:30 PM

12/9 Special Presentation on William Perry's Theory of Intellectual and Ethical Development in College Age Individuals

STUDY OBJECTIVES:

A list of objectives will be distributed the first week of the quarter, identifying areas that will be covered on each of the exams. This list of objectives will be used for unit exams, and should be saved.

EXAMS:

There will be five multiple-choice unit exams, held at the end of each unit described in the Study Objectives. Please bring a scantron sheet and a #2 pencil to each exam.

MAKE-UP EXAMS:

In the event of an absence, please contact me prior to the regularly scheduled exam time to schedule a time for the makeup exam.

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION:

Anything covered in the classroom presentations should be considered as testable information, unless otherwise specified. Some information that will be presented is not covered in your textbook. It is each student's responsibility to arrange with classmate(s) to get notes for presentations from which s/he has been absent. Participation is encouraged but not mandatory during classroom discussions. Actual class attendance and participation will not be used as factors in grading.

STUDENT CONDUCT:

Student conduct expectations will be in compliance with policies described in the BCC student handbook. Of particular note: Abusive and/or harassing language will not be tolerated towards other students, guests, or the instructor in the class. Also, cell phones and pagers should always be turned off prior to entering class.

HOMEWORK:

The instructor will distribute a set of five (5) Critical Thinking Homework Exercises drawn from the chapters in the textbook. Over the course of the quarter, students must complete four (4) of these five (5) Critical Thinking Homework Exercises in order to receive a passing grade for the course. Each of these four Critical Thinking Homework Exercises will be worth 25 points, and will be due on the dates corresponding with the days of the unit exams. Students may collaborate on these Homework Exercises, in groups of up to five students. One Insurance Point may be earned per week, up to three points per Exercise, for turning in an Exercise early. Note: It is not possible to earn more than the maximum 25 points for any Exercise using Insurance Points. Conversely, one penalty point will be subtracted for each week late an Exercise is turned in. Note: There is no limit to the number of penalty points that can be subtracted from the total score on an Exercise for lateness. Homework Exercises must be typewritten. Failure to conform to the distributed Formatting Guidelines will result in the homework assignment being returned to the student(s) for revisions.

OPTIONAL EXTRA CREDIT PAPER:

Students wishing to insure a better grade may choose to do a brief paper on a pre-approved topic within the field of psychology. In order to foster creativity, a student must develop his/her own topic, and then get it approved by the instructor, prior to beginning the paper. Extra Credit Papers are due by December 2nd. Such papers should consist of a title page, a blank page for comments, 5-7 pages of single-spaced, typewritten content, and a bibliography/references page. Papers shorter than the 5-page minimum length of actual content will not be accepted. Papers longer than the 7-page maximum length of actual content will actually have points removed from their final total. The Optional Extra Credit Paper will be worth 40 points. Five Insurance Points may be earned per week, up to three weeks worth of Insurance Points, for turning in the Paper early. Note: It is not possible to earn more than the maximum 40 points for the Paper using Insurance Points. Conversely, five penalty points per week will be subtracted for turning the Paper in late. Please remember to use the spellchecker and grammar checker programs in your word processing programs. Failure to conform to the distributed Formatting Guidelines will result in the paper being returned for revisions.

GRADING:

Each of the Exams will contain 25 items and be worth 50 points. The lowest score for each person among the first four Exams will be thrown out, and not used in computing your final grade for the course. The remaining four Exams (the three of the first four, plus the last one) will account for two thirds of your course grade. The Homework Exercises are worth 25 points each and will count as the remaining one third of your course grade. A student must complete the four required Exams and the four required Homework Exercises in order to receive a passing grade for the course. Any points earned from the Optional Extra Credit Paper will be added to the final point total for that student after end of the quarter grade curves have been calculated.

Please be aware: There are NO non-passing grades at BCC, other than a Failing grade, which will result in 5 credits of 0.0 being factored into your cumulative grade point average. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of their grade for the class, and to Withdraw before the deadline of Friday, November 7th, if s/he feels his/her performance is unsatisfactory.

Exam and course grades will be assigned through curve grading scores, and then converting these scores into letter grade ranges, as follows:

				+ .9s	3.4		- .1s	2.4		-1.1s	1.4
			B+	+ .8s	3.3	C+	- .2s	2.3	D+	-1.2s	1.3
				+ .7s	3.2		- .3s	2.2		-1.3s	1.2
				+ .6s	3.1		- .4s	2.1		-1.4s	1.1
A	+1.5s	4.0	B	+ .5s	3.0	C	- .5s	2.0	D	-1.5s	1.0
	+1.4s	3.9		+ .4s	2.9		- .6s	1.9		-1.6s	0.9
	+1.3s	3.8		+ .3s	2.8		- .7s	1.8		-1.7s	0.8
	+1.2s	3.7		+ .2s	2.7		- .8s	1.7		-1.8s	0.7
A-	+1.1s	3.6	B-	+ .1s	2.6	C-	- .9s	1.6	D-	-1.9s	0.6
	+1.0s	3.5		X	2.5		-1.0s	1.5		-2.0s	0.5

Curve grading will be discussed during the first weeks of class, as part of the discussion of probability distributions and normal curves from the chapter one of our textbook.

In order for a student to request being given an Incomplete as a temporary grade for the quarter, the following conditions must first be met:

The student has completed a minimum of three (3) of the four (4) required exams for the course, with a passing grade, and

The student has completed a minimum of three (3) of the four (4) required homework exercises for the course, with a passing grade.

ADVISING:

In-house advising is available for the Social Sciences with Deanne Eschbach in D110C.

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 Resource Center (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DRC 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.

**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.*