Introduction Psychology
Psychology 120: 4185, 4192, 4200
Fall 2015

Instructor: Sky Chafin, Ph.D.       sky.chafin@gcccd.edu
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                   (619) 644-7719

Office Hours:       Monday 12-2:00 PM
                     Tuesday 12:30-2:00 PM
                     Thursday 12:30-2:00 PM

Course Objectives: To give you insight into your own behavior and that of others
around you. To introduce you to the various areas of psychology and to provide a
foundation for continuing on to higher-level courses in psychology.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will
have the skills to:

- Differentiate, explain, and evaluate the basic methodologies used in
  psychological research.
- Use a critical analysis of the scientific method as a basis for evaluating
  psychological information.
- Describe and explain the processes and principles of the major theoretical
  perspectives in psychology.
- Apply major concepts, theoretical ideas, and principles of psychology to
  personal and social issues.

Class Format: This class will be ALL online, using Blackboard (http://bb.gcccd.edu). There will
be NO assignments or meetings on campus.

Our communication is very important. You are asked to post ALL of your general
questions in the Discussion Board within Blackboard. Many times, answers to your
own questions can be figured out from your classmates’ experience(s). Communication
among students is a very powerful teaching and learning tool. Our online classroom will
foster the best of learning environments if you refrain yourself from sending private email
to your instructor. Save private emails only for personal reasons, not for questions
related to course material. Excluding some weekends, I check my email on a daily basis
and you can expect to hear back from me in less than 24 hours.

Course Website Support:
If you are not familiar with how an online class works and/or not familiar with Blackboard,
please consult the GCCCD Online website at http://www.gcccd.net/online. If you have
technical questions or issues, please call the Instructional Computing Services help desk
at (619) 644-7742.

As Blackboard is known to have compatibility issues with Internet Explorer, another
browser, such as Google Chrome is recommended.
Text: *Psychology in Action, 11th* Edition, Huffman. A prior edition is also acceptable (but try to find the most recent edition you can). A copy of the text is also on reserve at the Grossmont College library. There is an *optional* study guide available. The website for the text (http://www.wiley.com/college/huffman) also has a lot of resources available such as practice tests, chapter outlines, film clips, etc.

Attendance: Attendance is based upon your regular completion of assignments. Students who fail to log in and actively participate in the class for one week or more will be dropped from the class.

It is YOUR responsibility to add, drop, or withdraw on or before the deadlines stated in the class schedule.

Suggestions for Success:

*Know what is expected of you and what resources are available to you.* Download and print this syllabus and read it carefully. Become familiar with the class website and how to navigate within Blackboard.

*Take the time.* On campus classes are designed such that each unit requires a minimum of 2 to 3 hours per week in addition to class meetings. Online classes are the same, except that you need to do more work on your own. For a semester length class, plan to spend 9 to 12 hours per week on a 3-unit course.

*Don’t procrastinate.* Do NOT try to cram all of the information into one or two days. Rather, plan to spend 1 to 2 hours per day on the material. Studies demonstrate that distributed practice (studying a little bit each day) leads to better comprehension and retention of the material, and also better test scores, than massed practice (cramming it all into one day).

*Ask for help early.* Your questions, ideas, and comments on the topics under discussion are welcomed and encouraged. If you do not understand something, chances are other students in the class do not understand it either.

*Study as if you were taking the exam.* While the exams are open book, you will NOT have enough time during the exam to look up the answer to every question. Prepare for the exam as if the exam was not open book.

*Stay in touch.* Check the Announcements, Discussion Board, and your email DAILY for deadlines, assignments, updated information, etc.

Study Guides: There is a tremendous amount of material gone over in this course. It is very easy to feel overwhelmed and to fall behind. In order to guide your studying, use the study guide provided for each chapter.

Examinations: There will be one exam for each chapter (except for a combined exam on chapters 9 and 10). Each exam will consist of 25 multiple-choice questions and be worth 50 points, for a total of 750 points. In addition, there will be a *cumulative* final worth 100 points. See Course Content in Blackboard for further instructions.

Participation: For each chapter, a relevant question will be asked on the discussion board. Each topic will be worth 10 points, for a total of 150 points. There is NO partial
credit. You need to answer the question AND respond to a classmate to receive any points for a single discussion topic.

Both your initial post and your response to another student’s post must be uploaded by 5:00 PM PST on the date that the exam for the associated chapter is due. Late discussion postings will NOT be accepted. Being late in posting is like coming to class after all of the students have left the building.

The grading of the discussion board is fairly lenient; as long as you are making an effort (i.e., your response is relevant, appropriate, and at LEAST several sentences in length), you will receive the full 10 points. No partial credit is given, with the following exception: Writing proficiency is expected to be at the college level. You can lose up to 3 points for incorrect spelling, grammar, punctuation and/or syntax.

Grading: There are 1000 points possible. Plus/minus grades will not be assigned.

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Note: Due dates are on Mondays, with the exception of any holidays and the final exam. While you can work ahead, exams must be completed by 5:00 PM PST on the due date.

Exams (50 points each) | Topic | Date (by 5:00 PM PST)
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Chapter 1 | Introduction and Research Methods | August 24
Chapter 2 | Neural Communication and the Brain | August 31
Chapter 4 | Sensation and Perception | September 8
Chapter 6 | Learning | September 14
Chapter 7 | Memory | September 21
Chapter 8 | Thinking, Language and Intelligence | September 28
Chapter 9 and 10 | Life Span Development | October 5
Chapter 13 | Personality | October 12
Chapter 16 | Social Psychology | October 19
Chapter 12 | Motivation and Emotion | October 26
Chapter 11 | Gender and Human Sexuality | November 2
Chapter 3 | Stress and Health Psychology | November 9
Chapter 5 | Consciousness | November 16
Chapter 14 | Psychological Disorders | November 23
Chapter 15 | Therapy | November 30

Final (100 points) | | December 8

Discussion Postings (10 points each)
Check Course Content in Blackboard for topics and due dates.

Please do not request special favors regarding your grade. I realize that being only a few points away from a letter grade change seems arbitrary, and perhaps unnecessarily
harsh. However, I don’t make special, private deals with individual students. If I give even one point to one student to improve his or her grade, I must (logically and morally) give the same one point to all students. If I added a point, then the next student who is “one point away” would have a similar complaint.

**Academic Integrity:** Don’t cheat yourself by cheating. The same level of academic integrity and honesty is expected of you as if you were in a classroom on campus. The faculty, administration, and staff of Grossmont College, in creating a culture of academic excellence, value honesty and integrity in all aspects of learning, working, and participating in the college community. Moreover, we believe that those who value learning would never view cheating (copying or otherwise presenting work that is not one’s own) and plagiarism (presenting another writer’s ideas, materials, images, or words as one’s own without proper citation) as viable choices within an academic environment. It is incumbent on faculty, in particular, to communicate expectations to students with regard to academic honesty in each class, and it is the responsibility of each student to understand the actions and behaviors that constitute cheating or academic dishonesty within each class as well as in other venues on campus. Students are encouraged to ask questions of their instructors and are expected to read the college’s statement on Academic Fraud (located in the class schedule). Penalties for actions inconsistent with classroom, library, and college expectations for academic integrity range from a failing grade on an assignment, exam, or project (which may lead to a failing grade in the course) to, under certain conditions, suspension, or expulsion from a class, program, or the college. For more information, please consult with your instructor or contact the office of the Associate Dean of Student Affairs.

**Classroom Decorum and Student Responsibilities:** Your questions, ideas, and insights are welcomed and encouraged. However, students are expected to respect the values, beliefs, and rights of others in the classroom. You are expected to abide by the Grossmont College student code of conduct and may not interfere with other students’ opportunities to learn. Violations will be referred to the appropriate authorities.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities who may need accommodation in this class are encouraged to notify the instructor and contact Disabled Student Services and Programs (DSPS) early in the semester so that reasonable accommodations may be implemented as soon as possible. Students may contact DSPS in person in Room 110 or by phone at (619) 644-7112 (voice) or (619) 644-7119 (TTY for deaf).

**Supervised Tutoring Referral:** Students are referred to enroll in the following supervised tutoring courses if the service indicated will assist them in achieving or reinforcing the learning objectives of this course:

IDS 198, Supervised Tutoring to receive tutoring in general computer applications in the Tech Mall; English 198W, Supervised Tutoring for assistance in the English Writing Center (Room 70-119); and/or IDS 198T, Supervised Tutoring to receive one-on-one tutoring in academic subjects in the Tutoring Center (Room 70-229, 644-7387).

To add any of these courses, students may obtain add codes at the information desk in the LTRC.