

PSYCHOLOGY 101 – CLASS SYLLABUS

MR. CALOGERO

INSTRUCTOR:

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Free Periods – 6th & 8th periods; available after school

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to the scientific study of human and animal behavior. Topics covered in this course include basic methodology, motivation, learning, cognitive process, and other significant areas of interest.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

1. Students will be able to identify and describe the major steps of the scientific method by writing a 3-5 page paper on an empirical research study written in accordance with professional standards (APA) while scoring a minimum of 65% on the research paper assessment rubric*.
2. Students will be able to correctly label correlational/descriptive and experimental examples of research and list two strengths and two weaknesses of each of these research methods; and correctly identify in an example of an experiment which variables are the independent and which are the dependent.

NEUROSCIENCE AND BEHAVIOR

3. Students will be able to match the following six parts of a neuron to descriptors of their functions: dendrites, cell body axon, myelin sheath, terminal branches, and synapse.
4. Students will be able to list the two major divisions of the nervous system and list each of the four lobes of the brain and at least one function of each.

LEARNING AND CONDITIONING

5. Students will be able to correctly label examples of classical, operant, and observational/social learning.
6. Student will be able to correctly identify in an example of classical conditioning which variables are the CS, UCS, CR, and UCR and correctly indicate in an example of operant conditioning whether it illustrates positive conditioning, negative conditioning, or punishment.

HUMAN MEMORY

7. Students will be able to describe, and give an original example showing the application of, each of the three key processes involved in memory; list two reasons why forgetting occurs and provide an example of how each reason can be used to explain why someone may score poorly on a test; and state three ways to improve memory and describe how each of these would be successfully used when studying for an exam.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

8. Students will be able to list three prenatal environmental influences and explain the applied benefits from ongoing research in this area of development; give an example of one behavior typical of each of the four stages of Piaget's stage theory of cognitive development; and provide an example of how biological and environmental factors influence two areas of development.

SENSATION AND PERCEPTION

9. Students will be able to describe the process involved in changing light and sound energy from the external stimuli into brain cell activity within the cortex of the brain.

10. Students will be able to give an example that illustrates the statement: people's experiences of the world are subjective, and correctly identify examples of four Gestalt principles.

COGNITION

11. Students will be able to list and explain at least two barriers to successful problem-solving and decision-making.

MOTIVATION AND EMOTION

12. Students will be able to identify at least two biological factors that regulate hunger and at least one environmental factor that regulates hunger.

13. Students will be able to correctly label descriptions of the James-Lange, Cannon-Bard, and Schacter Two Factor theories of motivation.

PERSONALITY THEORIES

14. Students will be able to identify personality as an individual's enduring response patterns across a variety of situations, correctly identify two basic constructs associated with at least three of the major personality theories, and indicate at least two methods or techniques for measuring personality

PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDERS

15. Students will be able to discuss at least one difficulty in defining/identifying psychological disorder.

16. Students will be able to correctly label examples of panic disorder, dissociative identity disorder, major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia.

17. Students will be able to identify at least one biological explanation and at least two psychological explanations for the causes of psychological disorders.

THERAPY MODELS

18. Students will be able to distinguish between clinical psychologists and psychiatrists with regard to their training and their orientation.

19. Students will be able to correctly differentiate between the therapeutic techniques of at least three of the major psychological models of therapy, and list at least three specific biologically-based therapies

REQUIRED TEXT AND MATERIALS:

Exploring Psychology by David Myers – 5th Edition

This course will also use lessons videotaped by Genesee Community College as an integral part of the class. Students will responsible for all materials covered in the videotapes. The tests, quizzes, homework, and projects will reflect these lessons, as well as other lectures and readings.

Students will also utilize the website that accompanies the text. Students will need to access the website, <http://www.worthpublishers.com/exploring5e>, to complete required Psychsim Labs. The requirements of each Psychsim assignment will be included in the Class Schedule.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students will maintain a 75 or higher average to obtain college credit.

Students will successfully take and complete FIVE major tests as well as 15 chapter quizzes.

Students will complete 5 PsychSim computer labs. Each lab is accompanied by a worksheet with questions that need to be answered.

GRADING PROCEDURES:

The Five Tests will account for 60% of your grade.

The Fifteen Chapter Quizzes will account for 20% of your grade.

The Five PsychSim Labs will account for 20% of your grade.

Your letter grade will be assigned based on the following scale:

PERCENTAGE RANGE	LETTER GRADE
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
59 and below	F

There will be an adjustment of 5% made towards each student's grade for high school credit.

COURSE POLICIES:

Attendance – The district policy for attendance will be in effect. Students will have 5 school days to make up any quizzes they have missed.

Test dates will be noted in the class schedule issued at the beginning of each semester. In the class schedule. Students are not able to make-up missed tests, unless a unique and unavoidable circumstance has occurred. The student must contact the instructor immediately to inform the instructor they will not be in attendance for the test. Decisions regarding a make-up will be made on a case by case basis and are done at the discretion of the instructor.

All assignments are due at the beginning of the class assigned unless specifically indicated.

Students have access to internet resources at several locations. Assignments involving the use of the internet will not be accepted late because of difficulties with personal internet connections. Students who are legally absent must turn in work at the beginning of the next class period, or will begin to receive penalties based upon the list below. Work not completed will receive the following penalties:

2 points off if not completed at the beginning of the period
5 points off per school day

No work will be accepted or graded after the close of each ten-week marking period.

Students who are absent for an extended period are required to contact the instructor to make arrangements for work. Students are encouraged to seek remediation for quiz grades below an 85. To do remediation, students should check with the instructor for specific instructions. There is no remediation available for tests.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Attached

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic dishonesty, or cheating, can take many forms – plagiarism, copying off another student’s examination, obtaining copies of an examination prior to the examination, obtaining copies of an examination prior to the examination date, or submitting someone else’s work under your own name. No, not everyone does it, but recent studies indicate that “cheating” among college undergraduates is on the rise. Genesee Community College does have a uniform college-wide policy regarding cheating. If you are not familiar with this policy you should realize, though, that by enrolling in this class you have informally but legally agreed to conform to the standard set forth by me in this syllabus. If reasonable evidence exists that indicates you have cheated, you will receive a failing grade for this course.

CLASS CANCELLATION POLICY:

School closings will be carried out as outlined in the KCS student handbook. Any assignments or reading due on that day will be moved to the next school day. If Mr. Calogero is absent the schedule will not change.