**PYC 1000-01 Introduction To Psychology**

**Fall 2013**

**Department of Psychology**

**Instructor:** Roberto L. Rinaldi, Ph.D.

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**Office & Office Hours:** 30 minutes before class or contact me through email to make an appointment.

**Course Days, Time & Room:** Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 1:00pm to 1:50pm, CF Room 234

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**REQUIRED TEXT:** PSYCH (with CourseMate Printed Access Card), 3rd Edition, Spencer A. Rathus  
 ISBN-10: 1-133-96080-4  
 ISBN-13: 978-1-133-96080-5

**What is CourseMate?** CourseMate brings course concepts to life with interactive learning, study, and exam preparation tools that support the printed textbook. Learning tools include quizzes, flashcards, videos, and more. You can take notes, highlight, search and interact with embedded media specific to their book.

Please see the attached document to learn about CourseMate and how to access it.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides an introduction to the methods and principles of psychology as science, including overview of historical foundations, psychobiology, social interaction, development, learning, motivation, perception, sensation, and personality. (Prerequisite for all other psychology courses).

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

As you leave this course, you are expected to accomplish the following goals by making a diligent and genuine effort to:

1. Scientifically approach the basic principles of human behavior and mental processes.
2. Have a better understanding of human behavior and mental processes through the various perspectives in Psychology.
3. Have a better understanding of Psychology as a career and a scientific field of study.
4. Understand the importance and increasing relevance of diversity in Psychology.
5. Identify key terminology associated with the field and how it may be applied in real world situations.
6. Explain key concepts in the area of Psychology.

**TEACHING METHODS**

This course is organized so that the lecture and readings of this course function together. I am expecting everyone to engage in lively discussions and activities. Class time will be formatted to expound on the readings by emphasizing points, addressing questions, initiating discussion, and applying principles highlighted in the text. It is your responsibility to read and understand all of the assigned readings and not just those we discuss in class.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**CLASS PARTICIPATION/ATTENDANCE**

Participation and attendance are welcomed and encouraged. Participation includes contributing knowledgeably to discussions.

A few group rules are helpful, especially if the class is large.

1. Everyone has a chance to participate. Feel free to ask questions or join in.
2. No “side talk,” it is very distracting to people trying to listen or talk.
3. No “put-downs,” everyone is entitled to their opinion and deserves respect.

Students are expected to attend every class session. Punctuality in attending classes is expected, as is the timely submission of class assignments and prompt attendance at meetings scheduled outside of class. In accordance with these guidelines, students are expected to recognize that the use of wireless internet during class for the purposes of sending personal e-mails, surfing the internet, or using web-access for non-class related reasons will have a negative impact on class participation grade.

**EXAMS**

There will be three exams, which includes the final exam. All exams will consist of multiple-choice format and will cover material presented in lectures and text readings. *The final exam will not be cumulative.* The two exams will account for 20% (each) of your final grade. Students are expected to be on time for every exam. Students that arrive more than 15 minutes late to the exam **WILL NOT** be allowed to take the exam and **WILL NOT** receive a make up or any adjustments under **ANY** circumstances.

If you miss an exam for reasons related to a documented, University of Detroit Mercy sanctioned activities (i.e., military obligations, jury duty, religious days, illness, serious family emergencies, or participation in official college activities of athletic events, performances, etc.), an alternative arrangement will be made in which the final exam will be doubled. This arrangement will only be offered depending on the nature of the emergency (i.e., personal sickness, death, athletic events) and the provision of appropriate documentation within one day of the posted exam date. If you miss an exam for another reason, you will not have the opportunity to retake it.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

**Personality Self-Portrait.** Please see website for details.

**Group/Individual Paper and Presentation.** You will be required to complete a group project (five students maximum per group) examining a current issue in Psychology. The project involves each member of the group summarizing **one empirical article** and together giving a Power Point presentation in which the group provides recommendations for **public policy** based on the research findings. You are required to complete an individual written summary of your chosen article. You will use articles from acceptable empirical journals. **Since these are empirical articles, this endeavor will require a library trip.** Be sure to list your resources (you should have as many sources as there are members in your group). This assignment is worth 25% of your final grade. This report is to be five to six pages in length (double spaced, 12 font, and in **APA format**). **No emailed or late assignments will be accepted.**

Suggested Topics

Abortion Gender Issues

Substance abuse

Peer pressure

Cliques

Alcohol abuse

Latchkey Youth

Test anxiety

Aggression

Juvenile delinquency

Shoplifting

Bullying

Suicide

Grief

Drunk driving

Underage drinking

Self-mutilation

Gangs

ADHD

Learning disabilities

Learning styles

STIs

Obesity

Anorexia nervosa

Bulimia

Body image

Smoking

Athletics

Parenting styles

Emotional intelligence

Physical development

Emotional development

Social development

Moral development

Social isolates

School failure

Parent relationships

Sexual abuse

Friendships

Ethnicity

Self-esteem

Personality traits

Leisure activities

Gender differences

Working

Homosexuality

Poverty

Popularity

Dating

Shyness

Depression

Television viewing

Violence in schools

Violence in dating

Violence in media

**Written Paper Assignments.** You are required to write two short papers (6-8 pages total). For each paper, you will express anopinion in writing about a topic (2 pages), and then read the connected readings (from the text andempirical journal articles), and then write a paper summarizing and analyzing the issue (4-6 double-spacedpages). Due dates are listed on the schedule below. If anypaper is turned in late, the 10% per day late penalty applies. The assignment sheet for this assignment is available on the courseweb page.

**IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**Compliance with UDM Student-Related Policies**

Students of the University of Detroit Mercy are expected to comply with all policies and practices established by the College and/or University. Listed below are a few specific UDM policies, however the list is not intended to be exhaustive. A complete listing of all UDM policies can be found in the UDM Student Handbook, and students are expected to be familiar with all UDM student-related policies.

**Student Course Evaluations**

Student course evaluations are an important source of information for curricular and teaching

improvement in the College of Liberal Arts and Education. As such, all students enrolled in CLAE courses are strongly encouraged to complete an online course evaluation. Course evaluations are completed during the week preceding final exams each semester. Information is provided to students through email explaining how to complete the evaluation online.

**Available Support Services**

The University of Detroit Mercy has a wide array of support services available to all students that include the library, media center, tutoring (UAS, 3rd Floor of Library) and Writing Center (Briggs 135). The UDM Student Handbook contains complete information regarding location and hours of operation of the University’s support services. Students are encouraged to utilize the support services provided by the University, as needed.

**UDM Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity**

As members of an academic community engaged in the pursuit of truth and with a special concern for values, students are expected to conform to a high standard of honesty and integrity in their academic work. The fundamental assumption under which the University operates is that work submitted by a student is a product of his/her own efforts.

Among the most serious academic offensives is plagiarism, submitting the style of another author or source without acknowledgment or formal documentation. Plagiarism occurs when specific phrases or entire passages, whether a sentence, paragraph or longer excerpt, are incorporated into one’s own writing without quotation marks or documentation. One also plagiarizes by paraphrasing the work of another, that is, retaining another writer’s ideas and structure without documentation.

Students are advised always to set off another writer’s exact words by quotation marks, with appropriate references. Students avoid plagiarism by concentrating on their own words and ideas and by fully crediting others’ words and ideas when they find their way into the writing. Whenever in doubt, cite the source.

Students that purchase essays from other students or agencies or who copy from one another or from prohibited sources, commit the most serious type of academic dishonesty. The consequences of plagiarism, or any act of academic dishonesty, may range from failure on an assignment or in a course to dismissal from the University.

**Disability Support Services and Accommodations**

If you need course accommodations because of a disability (including a physical, mental, or emotional disability), if you have emergency medical information to share, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please contact Emilie Gallegos, Director of University Academic Services/Disability Support Services at gallegem@udmercy.edu or (313) 578-0310 to schedule an appointment. University Academic Services is located on the 3rd Floor of the Library on the McNichols Campus. Students with special needs are urged to identify themselves to the faculty to discuss their concerns. However, faculty cannot provide disability accommodations without official notification from the Disability Support Services office.

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| Requirement | Points | Total |
| Exams (3) | 100 | 300 |
| Assignments (4) | 100 | 400 |
| Participation | 25 | 25 |
| Total Points |  | 725 |

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| **Grades** | **Definition** | **Grade Points** |
| **A** | Excellent | 94-100 |
| **A** |  | 90-93 |
| **B** |  | 87-89 |
| **B** | Good | 84-86 |
| **B** |  | 80-83 |
| **C** |  | 77-79 |
| **C** | Average | 74-76 |
| **C** |  | 70-73 |
| **D** |  | 67-69 |
| **D** | Poor | 64-66 |
| **D** |  | 60-63 |
| **F** | Failure | 59-0 |
| **Final grades will ultimately be at the discretion of the instructor. Points can be adjusted for weaknesses and strengths that are demonstrated in the area of professional behavior.** | | |

**COURSE OUTLINE**

Disclaimer: This is a tentative course outline/schedule that is subject to change. Your understanding and flexibility are greatly appreciated.

**Important Dates To Note:**

Last Day to Delete a Class without a W -- Sept 2

Mid‐term Grades are due -- Oct 22

Last Day to Withdraw (full semester course) -- Nov 18

Thanksgiving Recess (UNIV CLOSED) -- Nov 28—Dec 1

Final Exam Week -- Dec 10--16

Official End of Term I/Fall -- Dec 16

Grades due by Noon for Term I/Fall -- Dec 18

DATE TOPICS AND READINGS

Week 1 **Introduction**

**Overview of Course**

**Chapter 1**

Week 2 **Chapters 2 and 3**

Week 3  **Chapters 3 and 4**

Week 4 **Chapters 4 and 5**

Week 5 **Chapter 5**

**Exam 1 Review**

**September 30th Exam 1**

**Paper 1 Due**

Week 6 **Chapters 8 and 9**

Week 7 **Chapters 9 and 10**

Week 8 **Chapters 10 and 11**

Week 9 **Chapter 11**

**Exam 2 Review**

**October 28th Exam 2**

**Paper 2 Due**

Week 10 **Chapters 12 and 13**

**November 14th Group Assignment and Personality Profile Due**

Week 11 **Chapters 13 and 14**

**Group Presentations**

Week 12 **Chapter 14**

**Group Presentations**

**NO CLASS Thanksgiving**

Week 13 **Group Presentations**

**Personality Profile**

Week 14 **Group Presentations**

**Personality Profile**

**Final Exam Review**

**December 16th Final Exam 2:00pm – 3:50pm (same room)**