**Course Syllabus**

**PSYC 1010 Introductory Psychology**

**SE-304 Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:00PM – 5:55PM**

**08/20/2013 – 12/12/2013**

**Macomb Community College, Social Sciences**

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

**E-mail:** rinaldir@macomb.edu

**Website:** www.rinaldipsych.synthasite.com

**Office & Office Hours:** By appointment

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Textbook:** 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.

#### COURSE OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course you will be able to:

1. Identify the historical and current perspectives, or schools of thought in Psychology.
2. Identify the basic structure of the nervous and endocrine systems as they relate to behavior.
3. Describe the overall development process from conception to death.
4. Describe the basic principles of classical conditioning, operant conditioning, and social learning/observational learning and describe the role of memory as it relates to learning.
5. Describe the forces that energize and direct behavior.
6. Describe causes of and reaction to stress, including physical and psychological adaptations.
7. Define the concept of personality and describe the major theoretical contributors.

### 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 include 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.* There will also be an optional essay examination for extra credit. The questions for the optional essays are on the course webpage. Further information will be given during the course of the class. **Please ensure that you bring a Scantron (green) to each exam and pencils/erasers.** 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, Macomb Community College 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 attached handout. (Also on the webpage)

**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 each** 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 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 COLLEGE POLICIES**

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

**Available Support Services**

Macomb Community College has a wide array of support services available to all students that include the library and tutoring. Students are encouraged to utilize the support services provided by the College, as needed.

**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.

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.

**Counseling and Academic Advising Services – Special Services**

If you have a disability or disabilities and have documentation from Special Services, this is an accommodation-friendly class. Please see me during the first week of class.**COURSE GRADE**

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Grades** |  | **Grade Points** |
| **A** |  | 93-100 |
| **A-** |  | 90-92.99 |
| **B+** |  | 88-89.99 |
| **B** |  | 83-87.99 |
| **B** |  | 80-82.99 |
| **C+** |  | 77-79.99 |
| **C** |  | 74-76.99 |
| **C-** |  | 70-73.99 |
| **D+** |  | 67-69.99 |
| **D** |  | 63-66.99 |
| **D-** |  | 60-62.99 |
| **E** |  | 59 and below |

### COURSE OUTLINE

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

DATE TOPICS AND READINGS

08/20 **Introduction**

**Overview of Course**

**Chapter 1**

08/22 **Chapter 1**

08/27  **Chapter 2**

08/29 **Chapter 2**

09/03 **Chapter 2**

09/05 **Chapter 3**

09/10 **Chapter 3**

09/12 **Chapter 4**

09/17 **Chapter 4**

**Paper 1 Due**

09/19 **Test 1 Review**

09/24  **Exam 1**

09/26 **Chapter 5**

10/01  **Chapter 5**

10/03 **Chapter 6**

**Group/Individual Paper Due**

10/08 **Chapter 6**

**Group Presentations**

10/10 **Chapter 7**

**Group Presentations**

10/15 **Chapter 7**

**Group Presentations**

10/17 **Chapter 8**

**Group Presentations**

10/22 **Chapter 8**

**Group Presentations**

10/24 **Chapter 9**

**Group Presentations**

10/29 **Chapter 9**

**Group Presentations**

10/31 **Exam 2 Review**

11/05 **Exam 2**

11/07 **Chapter 10**

**Paper 2 Due**

11/12 **Chapter 10**

11/14 **Chapter 11**

11/19 **Chapter 11**

11/21 **Chapter 12**

11/26 **Chapter 12**

**Personality Self-Portrait Due**

11/28 **No Class (Thanksgiving)**

12/03 **Chapter 13**

12/05 **Chapter 13**

12/10 **Chapter 14**

12/12  **Final Exam**