

Psychology 11: General Psychology Syllabus and Course Outline

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Office hours: Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 3:00 – 4:00pm (and by appointment)

Course Description:

College Catalog Description:

Introduction to psychology as a science. Topics covered in this survey course include: historical background, fields and divisions, scientific methods, biological underpinnings of thought and behavior, learning and memory. 3 hours. 3 credits

About the course:

Psychology is about us—all of us—and why we think, feel and act the way we do. I believe that the best way to approach this class is with an open mind and a willingness to be intellectually playful, to take a chance on having fun with the ideas that emerge from our readings and our discussions in class. I hope that I can count on all of you to make this a dynamic, enjoyable, and rewarding class.

Psychology 11 is an introductory course that provides an academic foundation in several of the major topics in psychology. The textbook sections listed above are the main required readings; but additional topics and related readings may be assigned during the course of the term. The class lectures are based upon the textbook content, but will also occasionally contain additional material that is not presented in the textbook. The material covered in class will provide a good indication of which topics are most likely to be the source for exam questions.

Required Text

Psychology — a free text book by OpenStax College (provided in BlackBoard course site)

Course Schedule

Weeks 1 and 2: Introducing Psychology

Chapter 1 (all sections), also, Chapter/section 5.6

Test 1: *Date to be announced*

Weeks 3 and 4: Psychological Science

Chapter 2 (all sections)

Test 2: *Date to be announced*



Weeks 5 and 6: Biopsychology (Neuroscience)

Chapter 3: sections 3.2 through 3.5 (and section 3.1 recommended)

Test 3: Date to be announced

Weeks 7 and 8: Learning

Chapter 6 (all sections)

Also Chapter/section 7.2

Weeks 9 and 10: Memory

Chapter 8 (all sections)

Week 11: Personality

Chapter 11 (all sections)

Week 12: Psychological Disorders

Chapter 15 (all sections)

Final exam will be during finals week!

Exams, and written assignments:

There will be 3 in-class tests, and a final exam. Details and exact dates for these exams will be announced in class with ample notice. Writing assignments will count for 15% of the final grade.

The lowest score of the in-class tests will be dropped from the calculation for the final grade. This means that even if you mess up on a particular exam, it won't necessarily affect your final grade for the semester. **There will be no make-up exams.** If you miss one exam, you will be graded with a zero, but this will be the one exam score that will be dropped from the final grade calculation. All other exam scores will be counted towards your final grade. **All students must take the final exam,** even if you've taken and passed all 3 in-class exams. Your score on the final exam will not be dropped from the calculation of your final grade. The final grade will be based upon your test scores, essay grades (if applicable), class participation, and attendance.

Attendance and lateness policy:

Attendance in class is required!

A student may be absent for up to 3 classes without explanation. Any student absent more than 3 times must see me for consultation. Failure to do so may result in grading penalties. Students may see me during office hours, or at other mutually convenient times by appointment. A student with five or six absences will be penalized one grading level; for example, if a student who would normally receive a B for the course had six absences, his grade for the course would be dropped to a B-. Seven to 8 absences will result in an additional grade level penalty. No student will be given a passing grade in this class with more than eight absences



Please try not to be late. If you are late, come in quietly and find a seat without causing a disruption. Chronic lateness will not be tolerated. **The fourth lateness in the term will count as an absence.** After that, every second lateness will be counted as an absence. **I reserve the option to refuse admittance to any student who is late to class by 25 minutes or more.**

Cell Phone Policy

Please remember to turn off your cell phones. If you must have your cell phone operative, select the silent (or vibrating) mode. **Texting during class is not permitted.** Students who text during class may be marked absent, at my discretion.

Learning Outcomes

Upon passing PSY 11 students will:

- Understand basic concepts of scientific methodology and their relevance to psychological inquiry.
- Be aware that psychology is a discipline with many sub-fields or specialties both applied and research-based.
- Be sensitized to the ethical issues that attend the use of human and animal subjects in psychological research.
- Be acquainted with different mechanisms of learning, including conditioning processes, observational learning, and modeling.
- Understand the basic processes and functional structure of memory.
- Have an appreciation for the core issues that surround the topic of abnormal behavior and psychological disorder.
- Have developed an appreciation for the influence of social groups and contexts on mental processes and behavior.

“Pathways” Learning Outcomes

Students attaining a passing grade in PSY 11 will be able to:

- Gather, interpret, and assess information from a variety of sources and points of view.
- Evaluate evidence and arguments critically or analytically
- Produce well-reasoned written or oral arguments using evidence to support conclusions.
- Identify and apply the fundamental concepts and methods of a discipline or interdisciplinary field exploring the scientific world, including, but not limited to: computer science, history of science, life and physical sciences, linguistics, logic, mathematics, psychology, statistics, and technology-related studies.
- Articulate and evaluate the empirical evidence supporting a scientific or formal theory.
- Understand the scientific principles underlying matters of policy or public concern in which science plays a role.

Available free services for students



Free tutoring

Free academic tutoring for most academic courses (including this one) is available through the office of peer tutoring. Go to the Tutoring office on the 6th floor of the Library.

Free counseling

All students should be aware that Kingsborough offers free personal counseling. If you would like to see a counselor to discuss a personal issue or situation, you can make an appointment in Room D102.

Access-Ability Services:

Access-Ability Services (AAS) serves as a liaison and resource to the KCC community regarding disability issues, promotes equal access to all KCC programs and activities, and makes every reasonable effort to provide appropriate accommodations and assistance to students with disabilities. Your instructor will make the accommodations you need once you provide documentation from the Access-Ability office (D-205). Please contact AAS for assistance.

