

Kirkwood Community College Course Syllabus Introduction to Psychology PSY-111-CRF04 Spring 2019	
INSTRUCTOR	Ethan Valentine
INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION	Office hours: M/W/F from 9:30-10:30AM and T/Th. from 11:30AM-12:30PM or by appointment. Appointments can be made for in-person meetings, phone calls, or online meetings via Zoom. Office: 1017 Cedar Hall, phone 319-398-5899 ext. 5019 Email: Ethan.Valentine@kirkwood.edu
SECTION INFORMATION	Meeting times: M/W/F @ 8:00AM-8:55AM, Cedar Hall room 3008.
CREDIT HOURS	3 credit hours (3 lecture credits).
CONTACT HOURS	48 lecture hours
PREREQUISITES	None
COURSE DESCRIPTION	Introduces the scientific study of mental processes and behavior with emphasis on the nervous system, learning and memory, cognition, sensation and perception, motivation and emotion, personality, intelligence, stress, psychological disorders and therapy, and social influence. Stresses roles of both theory and empirical evidence in describing, explaining and predicting behavior. Encourages critical thinking about research methods and ethics.
ARTS & SCIENCE ELECTIVE CODE	Arts & Sciences
REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS	Books: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R. Biswas-Diener & E. Diener (Eds), Noba Textbook Series: Psychology. Champaign, IL: DEF Publishers. <i>[Provided on Talon]</i> • Hock, R. R. (2013). <i>Forty studies that changed psychology: Explorations into the history of psychological research</i> (7th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall. <i>[Highly recommended]</i> <p>The Hock book for this course can be purchased from the Kirkwood bookstore or from another source of your choosing. All other required readings/materials will be distributed in class and/or posted on the course Talon site. <i>There are no required purchases for this course.</i></p>
GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES	<p>The Kirkwood faculty has identified the following general education outcomes as a major theme of this course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will use effective communication skills. • Students will think logically and critically. • Students will understand and apply fundamental scientific principles. • Students will possess skills for further learning and the general workplace.
DISTRIBUTION GROUP STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES	<p>This course is included in the <i>Social Science</i> distribution group for the Associate of Arts degree. The Liberal Arts faculty have identified the following student learning outcomes for core courses in this distribution group:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply scientific reasoning to Social Science concept(s). 2. Explain theoretical perspectives within the discipline.

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Discuss ethical challenges faced by the discipline. 4. Describe how an individual or groups of individuals can be influenced by social, cultural, economic, or political factors.
COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES	<p>Upon completion of this course students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify key concepts, principles, concepts, and overarching themes in psychology. 2. Use scientific reasoning to interpret psychological phenomena. 3. Apply ethical standards to evaluate psychological science. 4. Apply psychological content to personal and career goals.
LATE WORK/MAKE-UP TEST POLICY	<p><u>Late Tests</u> If you will need to take an exam outside of the scheduled time, you must let me know at least one week in advance of the start date so we can set up an alternate time. Within a week of the exam’s start date, you will not be allowed to schedule a make-up exam.</p> <p>See the college’s policy on missing a final test in the <i>Kirkwood Student Handbook</i>.</p> <p><u>Late Assignment Policy</u> All assignments are due at the start of the class period unless otherwise noted. Talon dropboxes ‘time off’ at the start of class. This means you need to have your assignments turned in before class.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any assignment turned in after the specified time is counted as late. • Each day an assignment is late it receives a 10% deduction in the earned points. <i>No late assignments accepted</i> after the 5th calendar day (due date counts as day 1) without approval from me <i>in advance of the due date</i>. <p>If you will miss class when an assignment is due, notify me in advance and upload the assignment to the Talon dropbox prior to the start of class.</p>
CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY AND COLLEGE SPONSORED ACTIVITIES	<p>You are all adults and will be treated as such, so if you skip class that is your choice. Keep in mind that class lectures, discussions, and activities only happen once and will not be repeated if you miss class, and material discussed in class has a funny way of being on exams. In general, it is expected that you will attend class, be prepared by completing readings in advance, and participate in class discussions and activities. In-class activities also contribute to final grades, and these points will not be available after the associated session.</p> <p>As stated in the Student handbook: In compliance with Public Law 105-244, Kirkwood Community College makes a wide variety of general institutional information available to students. For additional information, go to: http://www.kirkwood.edu/site/index.php?p=32303</p>
PRODUCTIVE CLASSROOM LEARNING ENVIRONMENT	<p>We believe that the best learning takes place in an environment where faculty and students exhibit trust and mutual respect.</p> <p>In a productive learning environment, faculty and students work cooperatively, recognize and respect differences, model the values of character and citizenship, and</p>

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become lifelong learners. In order to establish and maintain a productive learning environment, students need to come to class prepared to engage in the learning activities and behave respectfully toward everyone.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me via email or set up a time to talk with me in person (during office hours or by appointment).

PLAGIARISM POLICY

It is your responsibility to be aware of what constitutes academic dishonesty. A detailed description of this policy and sanctions can be found here: <http://www.kirkwood.edu/site/index.php?p=32303>

CAMPUS CLOSINGS

See Student Policies: General Policies and Student Rights
<http://www.kirkwood.edu/site/index.php?p=32309>

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with specific academic and/or classroom needs may request individualized accommodations. Students wishing to request accommodations should complete an 'Accommodation Request Form' which is available at the Learning Services office, 2063 Cedar Hall, or online at www.kirkwood.edu/accommodations. Students will be asked to provide documentation supporting their request. An accommodation plan must be completed each semester and given to instructors before academic accommodations will be provided.

MIDTERM GRADES

A midterm grade will be calculated and posted on EagleNet. The midterm grade is a grade-in-progress, and will not affect your official GPA, nor will it impact financial aid. The midterm grade has three purposes: first, to communicate your academic performance; second, to provide opportunities for you to discuss your progress with your instructor; and third, to allow Kirkwood to design college-wide intervention programs that will improve student success.

STUDENT EVALUATION

Grades are earned by the completion of assignments and exams. The following is an estimate of the points possible on exams and the different types of assignments.

Assignment	# Possible	% of final grade
Exams: 3 @ 50 points	150	30%
Papers: 1 @ 50 points, 1 @ 75 points	125	25%
Psych in the News: 1 @ 75 points	75	15%
In-Class Participation & Assignments	100	20%
Quizzes	50	10%
Total points possible: 500		100%

GRADING SCALE

A	93% and above	C	73-76%
A-	90-92%	C-	70-72%
B+	87-89%	D+	67-69%
B	83-86%	D	63-66%
B-	80-82%	D-	60-62%
C+	77-79%	F	59% and below

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DROP DATE	<p>To find the last day to get a refund, go to EagleNet for Students, then Search for Sections, then click the link for this term's Last Day to Drop and Refund Dates list.</p> <p>http://www.kirkwood.edu/lastdaytodrop</p> <p>The last date to drop this class for this term is 4/29/19.</p> <p>Details of the refund schedule can be found under Academic & Enrollment Policies at: http://www.kirkwood.edu/site/index.php?p=35066</p>
FINAL EXAM INFORMATION	<p>Final exams are scheduled during the last week of the term from May 6 to May 10. The finals week session for this class is scheduled on Monday, May 6 at 8:00AM. The final exam will be taken online, like the previous exams, but we will meet during finals week.</p>
EMERGENCY INFORMATION	<p>See Facilities: Emergency/Crisis Information</p> <p>http://www.kirkwood.edu/site/index.php?p=7987</p>
OTHER INFORMATION	<p>See Appendix A for an overview of course topics, schedule, and due dates for this course. See Appendix B for an overview of major assignments and exams for this course.</p> <p>Check Refund Policy at: http://www.kirkwood.edu/site/index.php?p=35066</p>

APPENDIX A

Intro to Psychology Topics (schedule is tentative and subject to change)

PERSPECTIVE 1: Humans as behaving, biological organisms

Topic (dates):	Assignments:
Intro to Psychological Science (1/14-1/18) 1. What is <i>psychology</i> ? Why does it matter? 2. History of psychology 3. Contemporary psychology 4. The science of psychology 5. Research designs 6. Research ethics	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Noba</i> chapters 1-2 (<i>skim chapter 1</i>)
Biological Psychology (1/21-2/1 – two weeks) 1. Nature vs. Nurture 2. Neurons and glial cells 3. The biology of the brain 4. The nervous system	<input type="checkbox"/> No class 1/21 MLK Day <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Noba</i> chapters 5 & 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Paper 1 Option 1 Due 2/1 (revisions due 2/2)
Motivation & Emotion (2/4-2/8) 1. What is motivation? 2. Theories of motivation 3. Applications of motivation 4. Emotion	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Noba</i> chapters 8 (<i>read</i>) & 9 (<i>skim</i>)
Behaviorism & Learning (2/11-2/15) 1. Behaviorism basics 2. Classical conditioning 3. Operant conditioning 4. Observational learning	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Noba</i> chapter 10 <input type="checkbox"/> No class 2/13 (Social Sciences Department Event) ○ <i>Online activity due 2/13 @ 11:59PM</i>
EXAM 1 (2/15-2/18) over Intro to Psychological Science; Biological Psychology; Motivation & Emotion; and Behaviorism.	

PERSPECTIVE 2: Humans as thinking, cognitive organisms

Sensation & Perception (2/18-2/22) 1. What is sensation? What is perception? 2. Auditory perception 3. Visual perception and sense-making 4. The other senses	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Noba</i> chapter 11
Consciousness (2/25-3/1) 1. What is consciousness? 2. States of consciousness 3. Sleeping and dreaming	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Noba</i> chapter 14

Intelligence (3/4-3/8) 1. What is intelligence? 2. Types of intelligence? 3. Individual differences 4. Measuring intelligence	<input type="checkbox"/> Due by class time Wednesday (3/6): Intelligence test assignment <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Noba</i> chapter 15 (OPTIONAL: chapter 16)
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Memory (3/11-3/15) 1. The memory process 2. Types of memory 3. Retrieval 4. Forgetting & errors	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Noba</i> chapters 17 & 19 <input type="checkbox"/> Paper 1 Option 2 due 3/15 (revisions due 3/16)
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No class 3/18-3/22 (Spring Break)

Thought, Decision-Making, & Tools (3/25-3/29) 1. Decision-making and problem-solving 2. Common biases in thought 3. Language & Tools – do they make us unique? [<i>If we have time</i>]	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Noba</i> chapter 20
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EXAM 2 (3/29-4/1) over Sensation & Perception; Consciousness; Intelligence; Memory; and Thought, Decision Making, & Tools

PERSPECTIVE 3: Humans as changing, social organisms

Human Development (4/1-4/5) 1. Biological development (<i>briefly</i>) 2. Cognitive development 3. Social-emotional development	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Noba</i> chapter 22
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Social Psychology (4/8-4/12) 1. Social learning (Bandura) 2. Culture and cultural groups 3. Obedience and other social influences	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Noba</i> chapters 24 & 25 <input type="checkbox"/> Paper 1 Option 3 due 4/12 (revisions due 4/13)
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Personality (4/15-4/19) 1. What is personality? 2. Historical theories of personality 3. Modern theories of personality	<input type="checkbox"/> Due by class time Wednesday (4/17): Personality test results <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Noba</i> chapter 28
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Abnormal and Health Psychology (4/22-5/1) 1. What is <i>abnormal</i> ? 2. The history of mental illness 3. Types of psychological disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Noba</i> chapters 29 & 34 <input type="checkbox"/> 4/24 LAST DAY TO SUBMIT PSYCH IN THE NEWS ARTICLES
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4. Therapies 5. Psychology and health 6. Happiness and well-being	<input type="checkbox"/> 5/1 LAST DAY TO PRESENT PSYCH IN THE NEWS
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Wrap-up & Review (5/3) 1. Final exam prep 2. Final paper workshopping	
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EXAM 3 (5/3-5/9) over Human Development; Social Psychology; Personality; Abnormal Psychology; and Health Psychology.

Final Paper due 5/6 @ 8AM; revisions due 5/7 @ 11:59PM

Appendix B

Introduction to Psychology Assessments

ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING

In this course, non-exam assessments include two papers, the Psychology in the News project, in-class participation, and small assignments.

Rubrics (assignment evaluation forms) are available with assignments so that you will know the grading criteria in advance, and to provide feedback to you at the completion of the learning activity.

Papers

Over the course of the semester, you will complete two papers focused on psychological research. The first paper will require you to analyze and discuss psychology research literature. The paper will then be discussed in-class prior to grading.

The final paper is completed near the end of semester. For this paper, you will be asked to apply what you have learned about psychology to design a research study. You do **NOT** need to conduct the experiment. You will be expected to cite multiple scholarly sources (including research literature) in order to support your design.

These papers are designed to be difficult and to push you to critically analyze the content. Feel free to ask questions throughout your writing process. The specific format of each paper will be specified in a separate document.

These are the general instructions for *all* of the papers.

- Assignments need to be turned in **both** via the Talon dropbox brought to class (on paper or digitally) for discussion and revisions. Otherwise, they are late. See the late assignment policy in the syllabus.
- Assignments should be turned in as Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) or PDF (.pdf) files. Other file types will not be accepted without approval from the instructor in advance.
- *Do not send assignments to the instructor to print.*

Assignments are required to have your last name and rolling page number in the header.

Psychology in the News

Because one of the primary goals of this course is to facilitate discussion about the ever-changing field of psychology, you will complete a small paper and presentation project focused on **one** newspaper/magazine article covering psychological research, as well as the research journal article that the mass media article is based on. Students will be able to choose their topic/article based on their own interests, though the article will need to be approved by the instructor.

You will be required to read both the mass media and research journal article and examine the similarities and differences between them (including any ethical challenges that come up with reporting scientific results). You will then present your findings to the class (5-10 minutes)

Class Participation

Your participation in class discussions and activities will be assessed. You are expected to actively engage with the content and your peers throughout the semester. This requires you to complete all readings before the class period they are assigned for – keep in mind that the class presentations are designed to summarize main points to aid discussion, and not to completely cover the readings.

Minor Assignments

In addition to the above, there will be a handful of minor assignments completed either before class or in class as part of discussion activities. These assignments may include taking intelligence and personality tests, creating a small presentation with group members, or other activities. These assignments are only accepted/completed during their associated session and cannot be made up.

Quizzes

Approximately once per week, you will take a short (~5 questions) quiz assessing a recent course topic. These quizzes are intended to help prepare you for course exams by giving you practice with the types of questions that will be asked on those exams. Quizzes are graded based on completion, rather than accuracy, as the goal is learning and preparation (formative assessment) rather than assessing final mastery (summative assessment). 10 of these quizzes will be included in the final grade, with any additional low scores (including missed quizzes) being dropped.

EXAM-BASED ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING

There will be three exams in this course, each covering a single general topic area (as laid out in Appendix A). These exams will be taken online during a set period of days and have a 90-minute time limit. Exams are open-book/open-note, but they must be completed alone. I recommend limiting yourself to a single double-sided 8.5x11 sheet of notes, as the time limit does not allow for extensive searching for answers. Exams are a combination of multiple-choice and short-answer questions that are designed to measure your understanding of psychological principles and your ability to apply them.

DUE DATES

Due dates will be posted on the Talon Calendar and may be changed due to weather closings, other unforeseen events, or because we spent more or less time than planned on a topic. The Talon Calendar is updated about every two weeks. The following are tentative due dates:

- **Exam 1:** 2/15-2/18
- **Exam 2:** 3/29-4/1
- **Exam 3:** 5/3-5/9

- **Paper 1:** 2/1 (revisions 2/2); 3/15 (revisions 3/16); 4/12 (revisions 4/13)
 - Varies based on topic chosen
- **Final Paper:** 5/6 (revisions 5/7)

- **Psych in the News:** varies
 - Final day to turn in articles for approval: 4/24
 - Final day to present: 5/1