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Psychology 120

Introduction to Psychology

Spring 2009

Instructor: Stacey B. Zaremba, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: Monday 9:00 – 10:00
Tuesday 9:00 – 10:00
Wednesday 9:00 – 10:00
Thursday 9:00 – 10:00
Friday by appointment only

Please stop in during my office hours if you have a question, concern, or if I can help out in anyway. If none of these times are convenient for you, other times may be arranged. Please feel free to call me to set up an appointment.

Class Time: Tuesday & Thursday (3b: 10:20 – 11:30)

Class Room: PPHAC 335

Course Description:

Overview of research drawn from biological, perceptual, cognitive, developmental, clinical, social, and personality traditions in the discipline.

Course Requirements

Examinations:

There will be several exams given during the term. The dates for each of the exams are listed on the course schedule below. The exams are non-cumulative and will be comprised of multiple-choice, definitional, short answer, and essay questions.

Note: Exams will be given only on the days scheduled. There will be no make-up exams given without a medical excuse.

Critical Thinking Papers:

There are many controversial issues in Psychology (i.e., Is the media harmful to children?, Should animals be used as subjects?, and Is Drug Addiction a choice?). Each student will be responsible for writing two (1-2-page) Critical Thinking Papers on pre-selected controversial topic (see syllabus for topics). This assignment is designed to get you to think critically about the material you are learning about in the Introduction to Psychology. The paper topics and readings will be distributed in class.

The reading material is presented in a debate format. There are two essays on each topic (point - counterpoint). You should read the essays on each side of the debate and form a position on the topic. The papers must focus on your thoughts/reactions about the issue discussed. Your paper will be graded for the quality, strength, and substance of your position. The Critical Thinking Paper due dates are listed on the schedule below. You should also be prepared to discuss your paper with your classmates.

Student Presentations:

Each student will have an opportunity to make a presentation to the class on a pre-selected topic. The presentations should be no longer than 7-minutes in length. Your presentation will be graded on the following dimensions: clarity, organization, educational value, presentation skills, and ability to answer questions on your topic. In addition to your presentation you must submit a 2 page paper on the topic you researched. Be sure to research your topic beyond the textbook coverage and include a reference

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page detailing your sources with your paper. You must also hand in a hard copy of your powerpoint presentation as well/

Attendance and Class Participation:

Attendance for all regularly scheduled class meetings is expected. Missed classes will lower the student's grade. The lectures will cover material that is not covered in the assigned readings, and you will be held responsible for this material. The lectures are intended to supplement the readings. As such, the lectures will not duplicate the reading materials but will emphasize the most central aspects of the chapter and/or discuss particularly difficult concepts. The lectures will presuppose familiarity with the reading assignment for that lecture. In addition, projects will be completed during class sessions and in order to obtain credit the student must be present.

You are strongly encouraged to ask questions at any time during the class to help clarify points. Discussion of any portion of the class materials is encouraged and welcomed.

Evaluation:

Grades for this course will be determined according to your performance on the quizzes, the critical thinking papers, student presentation, and class participation.

Exams.....	55%
Presentation & Paper.....	15%
Critical Thinking Paper.....	20%
Participation.....	10%

Policy on Plagiarism:

The Moravian College faculty has become increasingly concerned by the problem of plagiarism on campus. The Psychology Department's policy on this subject is important for students to understand. Simply put, plagiarism is the intentional misrepresentation of someone else's work as your own.

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This includes such diverse situations as quoting directly from a published work without giving the author credit, having your roommate write the paper, "borrowing" from fraternity or sorority files, buying a paper from a professional service, and so on. The policy of the department is that the student must keep all note cards and rough drafts on a paper until the grade is assigned. The instructor may request these materials, along with the source materials, at any time. Evidence of plagiarism will be dealt with in accordance with the College policy on academic honesty, copies of, which are available at the departmental secretary's desk.

Required Research Participation:

See Departmental Policy (attached).

Information Literacy:

You will be required to attend a tutorial at the Library on information literacy in Psychology. The date and time will be announced in class. This session will be used to help you gather information/references in support of your presentation topic.

Required Texts:

Myers, David, G. (2007). *Exploring Psychology*, 6th ed., Worth Publishing.

Note: Each chapter in the Myers text is broken down into modules. You are only responsible for the material in the modules listed below.

Additional Readings- will be placed on reserve in the library or handed out in class.

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COURSE SCHEDULE

(Subject to Change)

Jan. 20 (T)

Organizational Meeting, Introductions, and Syllabus Review

Jan. 22 (Th)

Introduction to the Discipline of Psychology

Module 1

Jan. 27 (T)

History and Scope of Psychology: The Timeline

Module 1

Jan. 29 (Th)

Research Methods in Psychology: Naturalistic Observation and Correlation

Module 3

Feb. 3 (T)

Research Methods in Psychology: The Experiment

Module 3

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Feb. 5 (Th)

Exam I

Feb. 10 (T)

Biology and Behavior: The Brain

Module 5

Feb. 12 (Th)

Library Session: Research Presentation Topics

Feb. 17 (T)

Nurture influences on Behavior

Module 6

Feb. 19 (Th)

Critical Thinking Questions/Discussion

Is Love a Mechanism of Evolution?

Is it Ethical and Moral to Treat Homosexuality?

Consult Module 7

Critical Thinking Papers are Due

Feb. 24 (T)

Exam II

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Feb. 26 (Th)

Student Presentations: Developing Through the Lifespan

Module 8, 9, & 10

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
Autism
Stranger Anxiety
Morality
Child Rearing Practices
Deprivation of Attachment

Mar. 3 & Mar. 5 (T & Th)

No Class Recess

Mar. 10 (T)

Student Presentations: Stress and Health

Modules 41, 42, & 43

Type A / Type B Personality
Social Support and Stress
Exercise and Mood
Biofeedback
Smoking
Obesity

Mar. 12 (Th)

States of Consciousness: Wakefulness

Module 18

Mar. 17 (T)

States of Consciousness: Sleeping

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Mar. 19 (Th)

Exam III

Mar. 24 (T)

Student Presentations: Emotion

Modules: 38, 39, & 40

Theories of Emotion
Non-Verbal Communication
Lie Detection
Anger
Happiness
Culture and Emotion

Mar. 26 (Th)

Learning: Classical Conditioning

Module 21

Mar. 31 (T)

Learning: Operant Conditioning

Module 22

Apr. 2 (Th)

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Exam IV

Apr. 7 (T)

Student Presentations: Psychological Disorders

Modules: 48, 49, 50, & 51

Phobias
Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
Anti-Social Personality Disorder
Bipolar Disorder
Schizophrenia

Apr. 9 (Th)

Memory: An Introduction

Modules 24 -27

Apr. 14 (T)

Memory: Encoding, Storage, and Retrieval

Modules 24 - 27

Apr. 16 (Th)

Exam V

Apr. 21 (T)

Student Presentations: Motivation

Modules: 34, 35, 36, & 37

Hunger
Anorexia

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Adolescent Sexuality
Need to Belong
Achievement Motivation

Apr. 23 (Th)

Student Presentations: Social Psychology

Modules: 55, 56, 57, & 58

Conformity
Obedience
Just-World Phenomenon
Aggressive Behavior
Attraction
Altruism

Apr. 28 (T)

Critical Thinking Questions/Discussion

Does Religious Commitment Improve Mental Health?
Is Pornography Harmful?

Critical Thinking Papers are Due

Apr. 30 (Th)

Closure & Course Evaluations

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Student Presentation Topics

Student Presentations: Developing Through the Lifespan

Module 8, 9, & 10

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
Autism
Stranger Anxiety
Morality
Child Rearing Practices
Deprivation of Attachment

Student Presentations: Stress and Health Topics

Module 41, 42, & 43

Type A / Type B Personality

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Social Support and Stress
Exercise and Mood
Biofeedback
Smoking
Obesity

Student Presentations: Psychological Disorders Topics

Modules: 48, 49, 50 & 51

Phobias
Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
Anti-Social Personality Disorder
Bipolar Disorder
Schizophrenia

Student Presentations: Social Psychology Topics

Modules: 56, 57, & 58

Conformity
Obedience
Just-World Phenomenon
Aggressive Behavior
Attraction
Altruism

Student Presentations: Emotion

Modules: 38, 39, & 40

Theories of Emotion
Non-Verbal Communication
Lie Detection
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Happiness
Culture and Emotion

Student Presentations: Motivation

Modules: 34, 35, 36, & 37

Hunger
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Adolescent Sexuality
Sexual Orientation
Need to Belong
Achievement Motivation