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Psychology 120
Section Two

Introduction to Psychology

Fall 2010

Instructor: Stacey B. Zaremba, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: Monday 10:00 – 11:30
Wednesday 10:00 – 11:30
Thursday 11:30 – 12:15
Tuesday & 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 (6b)

Class Room: TBA

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 are 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 topics (see syllabus for topics). This assignment is designed to get you to think critically about the material you are learning about in this class. The paper topics and readings will be distributed in class prior to the assignment due dates.

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 on the day that your papers are due.

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 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. 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 (will be distributed and discussed in class).

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. (2010). *Psychology*, 9th 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.

COURSE SCHEDULE

(Subject to Change)

Aug. 31

Organizational Meeting, Introductions, and Syllabus Review

Sept. 2

Introduction to the Discipline of Psychology

Module 1 & 2

Sept. 7

Labor Day – No Class – Enjoy!

Sept. 9

History and Scope of Psychology: The Timeline

Module 1

Sept. 14

Research Strategies: Naturalistic Observation and Correlation

Module 3

Sept. 16

Research Strategies in Psychology: The Experiment

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Module 3

Sept. 21

Exam I

Sept. 23

Biology and Behavior: The Brain

Module 5

Sept. 28

The Cerebral Cortex and Our Divided Brain

Module 6

Sept. 30

Presentation Topics – Research Time

Oct. 5

The Brain and Consciousness

Module 7

Oct. 7

Sleep and Dreams

Module 8

Oct. 12

Fall Recess – Enjoy !

Oct. 14

Exam II

Oct. 19

Critical Thinking Questions/Discussion

Is Love a Mechanism of Evolution?

Is it Ethical and Moral to Treat Homosexuality?

Critical Thinking Papers I are Due

Oct. 21

Student Presentations: Developing Through the Lifespan

Modules: 13, 14, 15, & 16

Autism

Attachment

Puberty

Mortality

Life Expectancy

Alzheimers

Oct.26

Student Presentations: Emotions, Stress, and Health

Modules 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44

Lie Detection

Nonverbal Behavior

Happiness/Subjective Well-Being

Type A/Type B Personality

Social Support and Stress

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Optimism and Health

Oct. 28

Learning: Classical Conditioning

Module: 23

Nov. 2

Learning: Operant Conditioning

Module: 24

Nov. 4

Exam III

Nov. 9

Student Presentations: Social Psychology

Modules: 56, 57, 58, & 59

Obedience

Group Influence

Prejudice

Aggression

Attraction

Altruism

Nov. 11

Student Presentations: Psychological Disorders

Modules: 48, 49, 50, 51, & 52

Read Module 48 for an introduction to psychological disorders.

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

Nov. 16

Memory: An Introduction

Modules: 24-27

Nov. 18

Memory: Encoding, Storage, and Retrieval

Modules: 24-27

Nov. 23

Exam IV

Nov. 25

No Class – Happy Holiday – Enjoy

Nov. 30

Student Presentations: Motivation and Work

Modules: 36, 37, 38, & 39

Hunger: Psychological and Cultural Factors
Anorexia
Adolescent Sexuality
Need to Belong
Achievement Motivation
Leadership Styles

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Dec. 2

Critical Thinking Questions/ Discussion

Does Religious Commitment Improve Mental Health?
Is Pornography Harmful?

Critical Thinking II Papers Due

Dec. 7

Course Evaluations and Closure