

# SADDLEBACK COLLEGE

## Syllabus

FALL 2007 (2<sup>nd</sup> 8-weeks)

### PSYCHOLOGY 1: INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY ONLINE COURSE

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Office location/hours: LIB 319A ...by appointment

NOTE!!! Please include your full name, and Psych 1 (2<sup>nd</sup> 8-weeks) in any message. The best way to contact me is by email as I am not on campus every day, but I do check my email frequently during each day, including weekends. However, I have MANY students and many online classes. Please do not say, "This is Mary, I'm in your online class" if you expect a timely response.

#### REQUIRED TEXTS

**Discovering Psychology, 4th ed., by Don & Sandra Hockenbury,**  
Worth Publishers, 2007. ISBN#: EAN 9780716776543

#### Study Guide to Accompany Discovering Psychology:

Worth Publishers, 2007.

NOTE: These are packaged together with special copies of **Scientific American** developed exclusively for this class, as well as an access code for the **Online Study Center**.

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Psychology, simply stated, is the science of behavior and mental processes. Virtually everything any of us does, thinks, or feels falls within the sphere of psychology. You may observe psychology in action when you watch people interacting in a classroom, or at a party, or notice that a friend is in a terrible mood. Psychology is at work when you daydream as you watch the clouds drift by, when you have trouble recalling someone's name, even when you are asleep. An important goal of this class is to help you see that Psychology is the study of people, of human behavior, and that it is going on all around you. In fact, it's going on INSIDE you! That's what makes it so interesting!

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student will:

- Identify and distinguish between major perspectives viewed in the psychological field.
- Identify, define, compare and contrast, and critique the biological, behavioral, psychoanalytical, humanistic, and cognitive perspectives found in contemporary psychology.
- Gain working knowledge of the various specialties within the field of psychology.
- Identify subject matter and major principles and discuss knowledge in the following areas:
  - the biological foundations of behavior

- sensational and perceptual processes
- states of consciousness
- learning and memory processes
- higher cognitive processes: thinking, language, and intelligence
- human development
- motivation and emotion
- psychology and health
- theories of personality
- psychology and abnormal behavior
- types of therapies
- social psychology
- human commonality and diversity
- applied psychology

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- **Reading:** Hockenbury chapter readings to be completed prior to each week's assignments.

- **Online Assignments**

There will be an assignment given each week. You will click on the Assignment button in Blackboard to open each week's assignments, usually available on Sunday evening. ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE FOLLOWING MONDAY @ MIDNIGHT.

- \* It is imperative that all reading assignments be completed prior to each scheduled workweek.
- \* Assignments will be graded based upon the utilization of the material within the text.
- \* Timely submission of all assignments is expected. Grades for late assignments will be graded based on half the total earned points for that assignment.
- \* Late assignments will be accepted for full credit only when unforeseen circumstances occur (i.e., family emergency, work related issues) with prior approval from instructor.

- **Online Discussion Board Participation**

**Your online participation will be evaluated on a quantity and quality basis. This is worth one third of your grade.** Your comments should advance the discussion, add value and be relevant. Comments such as "I agree" and "ditto" are not considered value-added participation. Therefore, when you agree or disagree with a comment or statement, please state and support your opinion with examples, short explanation and facts.

You are required to do at least one substantive posting to each Discussion Board per week. I encourage you to THINK about what you are posting on the Discussion Boards. This will be an important part of your grade, so make sure your remarks are appropriate to the question or assignment.

There are NO live class discussions scheduled for this course.

Weekly discussion evaluations will be based on the following criteria:

- \* Unsatisfactory: No postings are made in the discussion board area.
- \* Needs Work: Postings are brief (less than four sentences) and/or without thoughtful ideas concerning the subject matter.
- \* Satisfactory: At least one posting with longer messages (more than four sentences) based on the task. The message is insightful and supportive of fellow participants.
- \* Very Good: The postings answer the requirements for the discussion. They are thoughtful and informative while also being relevant to the question posed or subject matter.

- **Exams**

There will be a midterm and a final exam, both of which will be taken online. The best way to prepare for exams is to follow the Study Guide for Discovering Psychology: including the practice tests at the end of each chapter and to make use of the Online Study Center that comes with your text. This is something new, and I think will prove very valuable to you.

The exams are scheduled as follows:

**Midterm: Opens Friday November 9th**

**Final: Opens Friday December 7th**

...Both exams will remain open for 5 days.

## ONLINE COURSE

This course is being taught as an online course. That means it is a course taught entirely online, offered via Blackboard. To access the Blackboard web site go to <http://soccdd.blackboard.com> and log in using your username and password.

- Your username is the portion of your college email address that precedes the @ symbol; this is also called "email account name" and can be found under "Email" on MySite (which is part of Saddleback College's web page). For info regarding how to log on to MySite please see below.
- Password is whatever you choose. (If you have not yet chosen a password, your password is the last 4 digits of your SS# followed by 00).

Once you are into Blackboard you will click on the section of the course for which you are registered (Ticket #). This will take you to our course web site within Blackboard.

If you have problems accessing or utilizing the Blackboard site, I suggest you go to <http://www.saddleback.edu/itc/user/blackboardfaq.html> and look at "Blackboard Information For Students." There are also video clips on how to get started in Blackboard that you can view at this site.

You may also call the Distance Education Office (Tel: 582-4515) and Sheri Nelson can assist you.

Take the time to familiarize yourself with the course web site...note what type of information is located in each area by clicking on all the buttons and "looking around". This will be our online classroom and it should feel like home to you. Make sure that you have adequate computer speed, power, and software to utilize all of the resources that we will be using.

I recommend Explorer for your browser. Blackboard does not work well with Netscape.

**NOTE:** Every student is assigned a college email account and PIN (Personal Identification Number). In a course of this type, it is important that I am able to communicate with you via email.

Do not change your email address. If you prefer to receive email at another address, go to URL: <http://www.saddleback.edu>, click on "Enter MySite", then on "Email" and follow the instructions to automatically forward your messages to the address of your choice.

To log on to MySite you need to enter your Student ID and PIN.

- Student ID is your assigned student ID number.
- PIN is the last four digits of your SS# (in this case not followed by 00).

**Attention AOL Users! America Online** users may not be able access Blackboard properly using the browser supplied with AOL. To access Blackboard, AOL users must download a standard (or stand-alone) version of Microsoft Internet Explorer. (AOL sometimes refers to browsers other than their own as "external browsers.")

Follow these procedures to access Blackboard:

1. Download the latest version of Internet Explorer.
2. Install the downloaded browser software on your computer. (Installation instructions are provided Microsoft's download sites.)
3. After you've installed your new browser successfully, restart your computer.
4. Sign on to AOL as you normally do, but stay at the AOL Main (Welcome) page.
5. Keep AOL running in the background and start your new stand-alone browser. The stand-alone browser will use your AOL Internet connection.
6. **Note:** If you have problems getting your new browser to work with AOL, check out the Member Services area of AOL. Click on "Internet and World Wide Web." Double-click "Using other browsers with AOL" for further information.

### **Weekly Steps to Success**

1. Login to the course web site and read the weekly Announcement. This will be a quick way of updating yourself to any changes, quizzes, etc. I will post the week's announcement each Sunday evening. A new folder will also appear in the Assignments section as we begin a new unit, complete with readings, online exercises for you to complete, Discussion Board topics to be addressed, and weekly quizzes.

2. Read the designated chapter in the Discovering Psychology text in advance of each week's assignment.

3. Review the Study Guide for the designated chapter, and complete the online quiz.

4. Click the Assignments button and access the folder of materials pertinent to the current chapter/week. Complete whatever assignments are indicated for that week. These will be linked to our online discussions.

5. Go into the Discussion Board and read and respond to the current discussion topic. If your classmates have already started to respond, read and respond to their comments. Remember to check back to continue on the weeks' discussion topic as more of your classmates participate during the week.

- **Please note! You are to post your responses to the discussion topics by Sunday midnight of each week. Participating in weekly discussions will be an important part of your grade. I will be noting your comments and evaluating them each week.**

6. Check the course web site Announcements to find out when the quizzes associated with each chapter will be posted.

7. Make sure that you check in with the course web site on Blackboard several times per week, as I will leave messages and assignments for you each week. The first assignment is to introduce yourself to the group via the Discussion Board. Complete this during the first week of class. Simply click on the Discussion Board button on the left hand column and follow instructions.

### **Online Learning**

If you follow the weekly schedule of assignments and keep up with the readings in the text, you should have a very successful experience in taking this online course. Online courses are very different from face-to-face (traditional) classes. Students who are successful in taking online courses must be highly organized, self-motivated and able to stay on schedule.

Pick out a specific time and days that you can schedule to study. Try not to rely on a computer at work where you might not be able to consistently login during business hours. Remember, even though you are not driving to campus to take this course, you still need to dedicate at least the same amount of time required in a traditional classroom setting. Obviously, the advantage you have is that you can schedule your time to meet your particular needs.

Learning online can be a challenge for students, especially if it is their first online course.

Students must make adjustments in their learning strategies. In the classroom, you may be used to taking notes in a lecture and in the online environment collaborative learning is heavily stressed. Students must also contend with technology and differences in communication. Here are some links that will help you to assess if online learning is the right environment for you, along with strategies and resources to ensure your success.

Strategies for Learning at a Distance: <http://www.uidaho.edu/eo/dist8.html>

Illinois Online Network discusses qualities that the online student should possess: What Makes a Successful Online Student?

<http://www.ion.illinois.edu/IONresources/onlineLearning/StudentProfile.asp>

Illinois Online Network gives advice to online students: Tips for Online Success

<http://www.ion.illinois.edu/IONresources/onlineLearning/tips.asp>

Are you a Candidate for Distance Learning? It takes more than a modem A device that converts information sent over a telephone line into a form that a computer can understand:

<http://iiswinprd03.petersons.com/distancelearning/code/articles/distancelearncandidate2.asp>

The Center for Independent Learning has created a survey for potential online students: Are distance-learning courses for me? [http://www.cod.edu/dept/CIL/CIL\\_Surv.htm](http://www.cod.edu/dept/CIL/CIL_Surv.htm)

Another self-evaluation quiz for potential online students: Self Evaluation for Potential Online Students: <http://www.ion.illinois.edu/IONresources/onlineLearning/selfeval.asp>

Netiquette: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

### **INSTRUCTOR CONTACT**

The best way to contact me is via email. I check my email messages several times a day.

- **Note: Whenever you email me, include the following information: you full first and last name, Psych 1 Online, your Saddleback email account name and the date and time the message is sent.**

If you are raising a question that I think others in the class might have as well, I may post your question and my response online so that everyone can benefit. If you do not want your question posted, please state that in your email.

I of course, respect your privacy.

If you leave a phone message, please speak slowly and indicate that you are in the ONLINE Psych 1 course.

For assistance which does NOT pertain to course content, you may call the DISTANCE EDUCATION OFFICE (582-4515).

### **LIBRARY RESOURCES**

The textbooks are on reserve at the CIRCULATION DESK (582-4526) and may be used in the library. Due to budgetary constraints, we do not have copies available for checkout.

#### **Saddleback College Library Hours**

Monday thru Thursday 8 am to 9 pm

Friday 8 am to 4 pm

Saturday 11 am to 5 pm

Library hours are subject to change; therefore, please call 582-4314 to verify hours.

- **GRADING SCALE**

Midterm Examination = 100 pts

A = 90% - 100%

Final Examination = 100 pts

B = 80 - 89

Discussion Board assignments = 100pts

C = 70 - 79

D = 60 - 69

Total Possible Points = 300 points

F = 59 or below

**\* \* \* IMPORTANT GRADE INFORMATION \* \* \***

**IF YOU DECIDE TO DROP THIS COURSE . . .** You may do so online through MySite or YOU MUST GO TO THE OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS & RECORDS in the STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING.

IF YOU DROP on or BEFORE 10/31/07, no notation will appear on your records.

IF YOU DROP after 10/31/07 but on or BEFORE 11/21/07, you will receive a "W" on your academic record/transcript. **No drops are possible after 11/21/07.**

**IF YOU FAIL TO OFFICIALLY DROP and do not complete the course, YOU WILL RECEIVE AN "F" ON YOUR PERMANENT RECORD.**

**Let's make sure this doesn't happen to you! Communication is the key. Do not just "disappear" from the course. Always let me know what is going on!**