

Saddleback College

Dr. Robert Matthews



COURSE SYLLABUS - printer friendly version

Psychology Introduction to Psychology (3 units)

I:

Contact

Delivery: In-class meetings/lectures

Instructor: Dr. Bob Matthews

Email: dmatthews1@saddleback.edu
rmatthew@dor.ca.gov

Office adjunct faculty (none); email please

Hours:

College 949-582-4205 (ask to leave note in my mailbox, village-07-SBS Division)

Phone:

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

An introduction to historical and contemporary psychological research and thought. An examination of behaviorism, cognition, language, personality abnormality, therapy and social issues.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: top

Psychology is the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and psychological practices and principles. The emphasis of this course will be on the psychological dynamics of human behavior and their inter-relationships as they apply to others. It is a critical introduction to the concepts of psychology and the examination of major theoretical perspectives. This includes scientific methods in psychology, biological psychology, sensation and perception, nature vs. nurture and human development, learning, memory, cognition, language, intelligence, consciousness, motivation and behavior, emotional behaviors, stress and health, social psychology, personality, abnormality, therapy, social issues, and specific disorders and their treatments.

OBJECTIVES: top

1. Compare and contrast major theories in psychology and issues related to the discipline of psychology.
2. Analyze specific psychological topics, utilizing major theoretical models appropriate for each specific topic.

3. Understand the role that psychology plays in society.
4. Describe the origins and consequences of psychological and cultural change.
5. Analyze and evaluate psychological concepts and theories as they apply to real life situations.
6. Discuss and write about specific psychological topics by utilizing web sources.

REQUIRED READING: [top](#)

Kalat, James K. (2008) *Introduction to Psychology (Eighth Edition)*,

USA: Thomson Wadsworth, 2008.

ISBN-13: 978-0-495-10288-5

OPTIONS FOR PURCHASING TEXTBOOK: [top](#)

You can purchase text books at Saddleback College Book Store

949 582 4716

You can purchase a used textbook over the internet such as www.campusi.com or half.com

ACCOMODATIONS FOR A STUDENT WITH A DISABILITY: [top](#)

This course meets the requirements set forth in the accessibility checklist and universal design grid provided by special services. Those who have disabilities and require special accommodations for this course should make this known to the instructor during the first week of class.

CLASS CONDUCT AND PARTICIPATION: [top](#)

Class conduct, participation, and attendance are extremely important to success in this course.

Students must arrive on time and be prepared for class. All students are expected to show high ethical standards of conduct, attitude, and behavior in the classroom. Disrespectful behavior that disrupts the lesson and the education of your classmates is not tolerated. If you cause this disruption, you will be asked to leave and return to the next class period prepared to respect the learning environment required by your fellow classmates.

Your instructor appreciates student's contributions as long as they are:

- (1) Related to the psychology coursework and relevant to the topic
Addressed at the time.
- (2) A mature and critical analysis of topics in the field as they are
Occurring today.

In summary, the student is expected to be well informed and present credible academic information when discussing controversial issues. Behaviors that are disruptive or insulting to the instructor or to other students such as unsolicited talking, arriving late to class, leaving early, slamming doors or fumbling with personal possessions, or failing to comply with instructions will not be tolerated. ****Note**** All audible cell phone ringers, GSM devices, i.e. Black berries/Palm Pilots etc., pagers, and/other electronic devices are to be turned off during class.

ATTENDANCE: [top](#)

Formal Attendance in class is required. It is your responsibility to come to class or to otherwise obtain information presented in class from another class member. Please note that to do well on the two exams you will need to attend class lectures as some of the material presented in lecture will not be

found in the book.

DROPS: [top](#)

Class attendance and good academic performance are very important components for students and their academic success. There will be no hesitation to drop a student for following the college's drop policy. Each student is responsible to drop from the class due to poor academic performance or lack of attendance.

DEADLINES: [top](#)

Each student is responsible for keeping up with the due dates of each class assignment. Your instructor will not be responsible for reminding you of the due dates of all assignment unless there is a change in the date of the assignment.

MISSED OR LATE ASSIGNMENTS: [top](#)

Unless due to an emergent medical problem, a death in the family or other unforeseeable crises there will be "NO" make ups on exams or assignments and you will receive a 0% for that exam or assignment. Also note that simply not showing for an exam and then contacting the instructor afterwards with an excuse however justified is not "good form". You should make every effort to attend all the exams and/ or otherwise contact the instructor ahead of time if an emergency arises.

EXTRA CREDIT: [top](#)

You may earn up to 5% of extra credit that can be applied toward your final cumulative grade point total by writing a position paper. The content of the paper has to address an aspect of psychology approved in writing in advance by your instructor and should be five pages in length. The position paper is due one week prior to the final exam.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: [top](#)

Cheating constitutes academic dishonesty. Any student caught cheating on an exam /and /or altering/plagiarizing assignments will receive a grade of "F" for the course. Please refer to your student handbook for a description of what constitutes academic dishonesty.

GRADING: [top](#)

The mid term exam is worth 50 % and the final is worth 50 % of the grade. Each of the two exams will consist of 35 multiple choice questions each with a value of 2 pts. each totaling 70 %. There are three essay questions required with a total value of 10 % each for a total of 30 % for the mid term exam and for the final exam .

* TOTAL possible points for the mid term exam and the final exam is 200%

**Note there will be short films presented during each of the class sessions addressing the content areas of what is being lectured upon. The students will be responsible to take notes on the films and then to select only (3) films in which to write about during the mid term exam and for the final exam.

Grading

100%- 90%= A

89%- 80%= B

79%- 70%= C

69%- 60%= D

Below 60% =F