

**Psychology 1-Introduction to Psychology**  
**Saddleback College**  
**Spring 2011**

**Instructor:** Michelle M. Robison, M. A.

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**Course Description:** This course is designed as a general introduction to psychology. The major goal of this course is to learn the fundamental concepts within the broad areas of psychology. The topics that will be covered in this class will include methods for behavioral research, biological psychology, sensation and perception, learning and memory, lifespan development, social psychology, sexuality, personality, emotions, health psychology, and clinical psychology.

**Course Objectives:**

- Demonstrate an understanding of all the major theoretical concepts in psychology and how they are used to describe or understand human behavior.
- Ability to use vocabulary terms that are essential in the field of psychology and be able to apply them in class assessments.
- Identify how psychological research can be bias by the way data is collected or interpreted.
- Evaluate sources of psychological research including major journals.
- Ability to apply psychological concepts to your own life.

**Required Text:**

Huffman, K. (2010). *Psychology in Action* (9<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: John Wiley & Sons.

**Exams:** There will be 3 exams throughout the semester. Each exam will have 45 multiple-choice questions worth two points each, and short answer questions that total 10 points to total 100 points. You will need to bring an 882-E scantron. The tests are not cumulative in nature and will cover BOTH the book chapters and lecture material presented.

**Written Assignment:** There will be 1 paper in this course. The paper will be in APA format (further details on APA format will be given at a later date), 3-5 pages long, 12 pt Times New Roman, double spaced, with 1" margins, and will cover a topic of your choice in psychological research. Your task is to find one empirical journal article (if you aren't sure if the journal is empirical, feel free to ask me), and summarize all aspects of the journal article (introduction, methods, results, and discussion). You will also be required to integrate the results with

personal experience and/or apply it to real life. Each section should have its own paragraph. Further expectations will be explained in lecture and/or posted on Blackboard. Email submissions will not be accepted. Please do not attempt to plagiarize your papers. If you do, you will be given an automatic zero and be referred to the Dean.

**In Class Activities:** Participating in class discussions is essential to learning the material that is presented in lecture. Students will be expected to attend class and participate by asking and answering questions and completing in-class activities. In class activities will account for 50 points of your grade.

**Missed Exams/Assignment Policy:** Late assignments/late exams will not be accepted. In cases of medical emergency, I will need documentation in order to let you retake the exam/turn in the assignment late.

**Grading Policy:** There are a total of 450 points available in this class.

Exams-	300 points
Assignment-	100 points
In-Class Activities-	<u>50 points</u>
	450 points

Final letter grades will be based on the amount of points you obtain in the class.

90%-100% = A  
80%-89% = B  
70%-79% = C  
60%-69% = D  
Below 60% = F

**Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty is considered a serious offense and will not be tolerated in this class. All of the assignments/exams must be completed by the student that is enrolled in the course. A zero will be given for the assignment/exam and will be reported to the Dean's office. Please do not jeopardize your academic record by even making me suspect that you are cheating.

**Classroom Expectations:** It is expected that students treat others with respect in the classroom. Please do not disrupt classroom learning with outbursts, talking, or cell phones. Please turn cell phones off during class.

### Tentative Course Schedule

Week/dates		Topics/Due dates	Readings
1	Th 1/13	Course Intro; Perspectives in Psychology <b>APA overview</b>	Chapter 1 (pg. 3-20)
2	Th 1/20	Research Methods	Chapter 1 (pg. 21-46)
3	Th 1/27	Social Psychology	Chapter 16
4	Th 2/3	Biopsychology	Chapter 2
5	Th 2/10	Human Sexuality <b>Review Session</b>	Chapter 11
6	Th 2/17	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	
7	Th 2/24	Lifespan Development I	Chapter 9
8	Th 3/3	Lifespan Development II	Chapter 10
9	Th 3/10	Learning and Memory	Chapter 6 and 7
10	Th 3/17	<b>Spring Break—No Class</b>	
11	Th 3/24	Personality	Chapter 13
12	Th 3/31	Sensation and Perception <b>Review Session</b>	Chapter 4
13	Th 4/7	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	
14	Th 4/14	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 14
15	Th 4/21	States of Consciousness	Chapter 5
16	Th 4/28	Stress and Health Psychology	Chapter 3
17	Th 5/5	<b>Review Session</b> <b>APA papers due 7:00 PM</b>	
18	Th 5/12	<b>No Classes—Faculty Contractual Day</b>	
F	Th 5/19	<b>Final Exam 7:45pm-10:15pm</b>	

I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus. Students will be notified of any changes via course email and an updated syllabus will be placed on the course website