Psychology 1: Introduction to Psychology
INTERNET COURSE
Saddleback College, Spring 2009
Ticket #23005

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Professor Caroline Gee
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Course Description:
This course is a general introduction to the study of psychology. The major learning objective of this course is for students to gain an understanding of the basic principals of, and research approaches related to, a broad range of areas within psychology. The areas/topics that this course will focus on include; historical perspectives in psychology, methods of studying human and animal behavior, biological psychology, sensation and perception, learning, memory, consciousness, development over the lifespan, motivation, social psychology, emotions and health, and abnormal/clinical psychology.

Course Goals and Objectives:
By the end of this course, students should be able to:
1) Demonstrate an understanding of the various areas of psychology as well as a command of the basic vocabulary in the field in both discussion and writing
2) Distinguish among the major theoretical perspectives in psychology and how they are used to describe, predict, understand, or modify human behavior
3) Identify and describe how psychological data are gathered, interpreted, and may be susceptible to bias
4) Critically evaluate sources of information in the field of psychology, including research articles published in major psychological journals

Required Text:

NOTE: There are different versions of this textbook. The bookstore will have a custom bound "In Modules" edition that will likely be less expensive than the regular spiral bound version if purchased new. The non-modules version is a hardbound textbook. You can choose to purchase ANY version, as long as it is the 8th EDITION. I will post the readings for both versions in Blackboard. Also, both copies are on reserve under the instructor’s name for students to read at the campus library.

Additional Required readings:
Additional research articles and website links will be made available on the Blackboard website for students to read.
Communication:
It is crucial to the success of this course that there is constant communication between students as well as each student with the instructor. There is a student discussion board forum for weekly questions. This question forum is for students to post their specific questions regarding the course or assignments. The instructor, as well as fellow students, can respond to these questions. It is very likely that if one student has a question, other students have the same question as well. This will help to clarify instructions as well as facilitate collaborative problem solving. Also note: it is extremely important that each student contact the instructor via e-mail with concerns or questions that are not appropriate for the question forum or that the student does not feel comfortable posting on the forum. It is important that there is constant and open communication with the instructor throughout the semester.

E-mail:
When e-mailing me, please put the course title and the course ticket number in the subject area and make sure your full name is in your e-mail message. I do not reply to student e-mails promptly if the ticket number is not in the subject area. I reply to emails within 24-48 hours Monday-Friday. Emails sent late Friday afternoon or over the weekend will be responded to on Monday afternoon.

Also, please expect weekly emails from me. I will send it to your Saddleback email account, which you can access through your MySite account.

Blackboard:
The Blackboard system is our virtual classroom. The system includes such features as: class announcements, e-mail, discussion board (our class discussion forum), lectures, links to additional readings, study guides, exams, assignments, links to upload paper assignments, and grades.

Course Website Address: http://socccd.blackboard.com

Your username is your Saddleback College e-mail address given to you at registration (first initial of your first name and your last name plus a number; DO NOT included the @saddleback.edu) and your password is either your pin number plus two zero’s or the last four digits of your social security number plus two zero’s.

Assessments

Discussion Board:
It is required that each student participate in our course discussion board. Each student must answer one or two discussion board questions as well as provide feedback to other students’ postings per week. You will “start a new thread” at the beginning of the discussion. When you are adding to the discussion or responding to a specific student, you will “reply.” When responding to another student’s posting it is best that you specifically address the student by name in your post. It is required that you engage in a discussion with your fellow students on each topic, therefore, you should be probing them with additional questions and offering comments that go beyond a basic statement such as “good job” or “interesting.” Please note: grammar and spelling (the discussion board has spellcheck) as well as comprehensive coverage of the topic will be taken into consideration for grading the discussion board assignments. You should be adding to what others have posted (not repeating what has already been posted) and discussing the topic with your fellow students as well as asking your
fellow students additional questions. Please see the document titled “Rubric for Online Discussions” for additional information on the grading for this assignment. I will monitor the discussion and offer input where needed throughout. **Main posts are due by 11:55pm Monday each week; replies to other students and final responses are due by 11:55pm Thursday each week. Note:** participation on the discussion board is essential to your success in the class and the points for this assignment play an important role in your overall grade in the class.

**Activity Assignments:**
Students will be required to participate in activity assignments. These are assignments that will require application of course material by participating in some activity (e.g., observation of others, interview with others, etc.). The activities are meant to be a fun way to apply the material and participate in experiments.

**Chapter quizzes:**
You should read assigned chapter material BEFORE taking the quizzes. The quiz will draw from a large pool of questions for each chapter. Students will be allowed to retake the quiz as often as they would like, but only the last grade will count. If you choose to retake the quiz, it is likely that you will be presented with a completely different set of questions.

**Exams:**
There will be a total of three exams in the course. Each one will be worth 100 points. Each exam will cover the chapters and course lecture material described on the Course Schedule and will not be cumulative in nature. Exams will include both multiple choice and essay questions. Exams can ONLY BE TAKEN ONCE, will be administered on the internet, and will be timed. Each question will appear one at a time, and there is no backtracking to a previous question. There is no scheduled exam time during which the exam must be taken, but the due dates are firm. Be sure to prepare by reading and reviewing chapter materials before taking the exams. You will submit your answers through the Blackboard website. Do not click on the Save button or open another browser window while taking your exam, as this may kick you off of the Blackboard exam.

**Written Assignment:**
There will be a written assignment posted that requires students to read a research article or to answer questions about how a research study may be conducted. The paper is expected to be typed, 2-3 pages long, and double spaced. Be sure to type your name and section number at the top of the assignment, and to make sure that you turn it in online as directed on the Blackboard website. **(DO NOT SEND ASSIGNMENTS VIA EMAIL to the instructor).**

**Class policies:**

**Missed Assignment/Exam Policy:**
Late assignments/exams will not be accepted. Do not wait until the last minute. If you do, technical difficulties will not be an accepted excuse. If you must contact the instructor to inquire about valid medical or other excuses, you are required do so either one week before or one week after the missed assignment.

**Feedback Time:**
You can expect feedback on the discussion board throughout the week or in the days following the conclusion of each discussion forum. I may not respond to each response individually but I do read each response in its entirety. I will have specific comments asking additional questions
Academic Dishonesty:
Academic dishonesty is cheating (obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for work by the use of any dishonest, deceptive, fraudulent, or unauthorized means). It is also academic dishonesty if you help someone do any of these things. Examples of academic dishonesty are: unacceptable examination behavior (communicating with other students, copying an exam from another person, allowing another student to copy your own exam, using cheat sheets or other unauthorized material), plagiarism (using another individual’s words as your own and/or not citing another individual’s work), fraud, unauthorized collaboration (including allowing other students to read your completed papers), and document falsification. Academic dishonesty of any type will not be tolerated. The penalty of committing academic dishonesty will result in a zero on the assignment, lowering of the final grade in the course, or the student receiving a failing grade in the course. It is up to the instructor’s discretion as to what action will be taken. If you are unclear on what constitutes for academic dishonesty please see me for clarification.

Please note: The “turnitin” program will be used for all papers to check for plagiarism. See the Student Handbook for more information on academic dishonesty, http://www.saddleback.edu/media/pdf/handbook.pdf

Online Etiquette:
It is essential that each student be polite and respectful at all times. When posting on the discussion board, responding to other students’ postings, and throughout written assignments courtesy and respect must be maintained. A good thing to keep in mind is, “would I say this to the person’s face?” or “would I say this to my grandma?” Also note that offensive language will not be tolerated. If a student is found to be disrespectful and/or providing a negative learning environment for others he or she will receive a warning or immediately dropped from the course according to the instructor’s discretion.

Please go to the following websites for information on “Netiquette”:
http://www.albion.com/netiquette/

Students with disabilities: Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. DSP&S is located in Room 113 of the Student Services Center (SCC) Building. The DSP&S phone number is (949) 582-4885.