COURSE SYLLABUS

General Psychology

PSYC2301

Fall 2015

3 — 0 — 3

Prerequisite(s): None

This syllabus has been reviewed and is current on the date indicated below.

Prepared By:  Submitted On:
Aaron Cherry, Instructor  August 14, 2015
Instructor/Course Designer

Reviewed By:  Approved On:
Troy Williamson  August 14, 2015
Director of General Education
I. Instructor Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name: Aaron Cherry, Ph.D.</th>
<th>Cell Phone (text): (325) 261-3773</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Campus Office: Abilene</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:amcherry@tstc.edu">amcherry@tstc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Hours: By Appointment</td>
<td>Advisement Hours: By Appointment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Chair/Director: Troy Williamson</td>
<td>Program Chair/Director email: <a href="mailto:troy.williamson@tstc.edu">troy.williamson@tstc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The best way to contact the instructor is through TSTC email. For more urgent needs, the quickest way to reach the instructor is via text message at the Cell Phone number above:

II. Class Times, Location

All students will have a Moodle account, as maintained by TSTC, for this course. Because this is an online course, Moodle will be the primary access point for engaging in course work (although there may be proctored exams on campus). Moodle is designed to be used with Firefox, Chrome, or Safari Internet browsers—NOT Internet Explorer. All online communications will be sent through the TSTC email system or Moodle system.

You can access the college’s Moodle learning management system through the college portal or website, or directly by going to https://mycourses.tstc.edu. If you are having difficulty with this site, technical support is available by phone at 800-592-8784, by email at tstchelpdesk@tstc.edu, or via Yahoo Instant Messenger at tstchelpdesk.

III. Core Curriculum Objectives

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) has established six Core Curriculum Objectives which apply to general academic courses. These objectives are:

1) Critical Thinking Skills (including creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and the analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information);
2) Communication Skills (including effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication);
3) Empirical and Quantitative Skills (including the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts, resulting in informed conclusions);
4) Teamwork (including the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal);
5) Social Responsibility (including intercultural competency, a knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities); and
6) Personal Responsibility (including the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making).

In keeping with the guidelines established by the THECB, this course (PSYC2301) will address the following Core Curriculum Objectives: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, and Empirical and Quantitative Skills, and Social Responsibility.
IV. Course Description & Introduction

An introduction to the field of psychology. Course emphasis on the scientific method of psychology, a survey of the different fields in psychology, heredity and environment, intelligence, emotions, motivation, the nervous system, and the learning process. This course is reading and writing intensive, and will employ multiple resources for supplemental learning, including articles, online readings, and multimedia.

V. Learning Outcomes

The following learning outcomes are found in the Lower Divisions Academic Course Guide Manual, published by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board:

A. Identify various research methods and their characteristics used in the scientific study of psychology.
B. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology.
C. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology.
D. Use terminology unique to the field of psychology.
E. Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation.
F. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior.

VI. Assessment Methods & Grading Policy

A = 90-100% of total points
B = 80-89% of total points
C = 70-79% of total points
D = 65-69% of total points
F = Below 65% of total points

Grade point averages (GPA) will adhere to the College Catalog standards found at http://www.tstc.edu/westtexasstudents/catalog on page 37-39.
Examinations: The midterm exam will count as 15% of the student’s grade for the course, while the final will count as 25% of the student’s grade. The midterm will be composed of multiple choice, true-false, matching, and short answer questions, and will be open-book and open-notes. The final exam will be in the same format, but will feature an additional essay component, and may be proctored on the student’s local campus.

Reading Quizzes: Weekly quizzes will be used to evaluate students understanding of reading assignments from the textbook. Students are expected to read each chapter and think critically about how the concepts interrelate. These weekly quizzes will count as 20% of student’s final grade for the course.

Class Participation: Class participation will count as 15% of your total grade and will be evidenced by regular, weekly contact with instructor and/or students. To ensure full credit for the participation portion of your grade, follow the guidelines below:

At least once per week complete an online participation assignment addressing the following questions about the weekly reading:

1. What made the most since or resonated with you in the chapter and why?
2. What was the most difficult or confusing material in the chapter?
3. Summarize one thing you learned in 3-5 sentences.

Additional information on class participation can be found in section VII: Class Participation Policy and Student Conduct below.

Semester Project: A term paper will be required for the semester and will count as 25% of grade in the class. Topics will be selected during Mid-term week and the final draft of the paper will be due December 6, 2015 at 11:55pm.

VII. Textbook/Reference Materials

*Psychology: A Journey, 5th edition*
Authors: Dennis Coon, John O. Mitterer
Publisher: Wadsworth, © 2014

Required materials can be reserved and purchased through the TSTC West Texas Bookstore; go to http://bookstores.tstc.edu/tstcabilene/ for more information.

VIII. Additional Resources & Supplies

A personal computer will be required the complete online readings, assignments, and discussions.

IX. Class Participation Policy & Student Conduct
Students are expected to demonstrate online class attendance by **making contact with the instructor at least once a week.** This contact will most often consist of **questions, comments, or discussion ideas** about the material covered in class. Students will have the opportunity every week to participate in an online format, and this is an ideal way to stay involved in class.

In an online course offering, *it is imperative that students read all materials assigned*, because opportunities to absorb information in other ways are more limited in this format. Students are expected to communicate in a way that maintains the standards of an academic environment. To facilitate the learning process for all students, individuals should be respectful to their colleagues and provide feedback, encouragement, or constructive criticism where appropriate.

**Late assignments are not accepted.** Students must complete all assignments. Please communicate any problems regarding assignment due dates as early as possible.

While collaborative studying/researching is appropriate and encouraged, this is not meant to replace individual effort. A student who attempts to take credit for someone else's work commits a serious offense of academic dishonesty. A **first offense** will result in the loss of credit for the assignment; a **second offense** will result in the loss of credit for the course.

Additional information can be found in the 2014-2015 College Catalog at:
http://www.tstc.edu/westtexasstudents/catalog
http://www.tstc.edu/westtexasstudents/studenthandbook

In the *2014-15 TSTC West Texas College Catalog*:
   “Student Participation” (page 66)
   “Scholastic Integrity” (pages 68-69)
   “Student Conduct” (pages 80-81)

In the *TSTC West Texas 2013-14 Student Handbook*:
   “Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities” (page 8)
   “Student Behavior Policies” (pages 14-16)
   “Scholastic Honesty” statement (page 16)
   Rules regarding “Appearance and Decorum” (page 28)
   “Class Participation” statement (page 30)

**X. Safety**

There are no course-specific safety requirements for this class. Students are expected to comply with all of the safety requirements and guidelines published in the *TSTC West Texas Student Handbook* (which can be found online through the college website, or accessed directly at http://www.tstc.edu/westtexasstudents/studenthandbook).
XI. Special Needs

If you have a documented disability that will impact your work in this class, please contact the ADA Coordinator so that appropriate arrangements for your accommodations can be made. The counselor on your campus can assist you in this process. In accordance with the federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide documentation of his/her disability to the ADA Coordinator. For more information call (325) 236-8292 or email amy.freeman@tstc.edu.

XII. Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | Aug 31 – Sep 6 | Introduction and Syllabus  
Chapter 1: Psychology, Research Methods, and Critical Thinking | Syllabus quiz  
Chapter 1 quiz  
Participation assignment |
| 2    | Sep 8 - 13     | Chapter 2: Brain and Behavior  
Labor day Holiday | Chapter 2 quiz  
Participation assignment |
| 3    | Sep 14 - 20    | Chapter 3: Human Development | Chapter 3 quiz  
Participation assignment |
| 4    | Sep 21 - 27    | Chapter 5: States of Consciousness | Chapter 5 quiz  
Participation assignment |
| 5    | Sep 28 – Oct 4 | Chapter 6: Conditioning and Learning | Chapter 6 quiz  
Participation assignment |
| 6    | Oct 5 - 11     | Midterm and paper topic selection | Midterm and paper topic selection |
| 7    | Oct 12 -18     | Chapter 7: Memory | Chapter 8 quiz  
Participation assignment |
| 8    | Oct 19 - 25    | Chapter 8: Cognition, Language, Creativity, and Intelligence  
Holiday (July 3) | Chapter 8 Quiz  
Participation assignment |
| 9    | Oct 26 – Nov 1 | Chapter 9: Motivation and Emotion | Chapter 9 quiz  
Participation assignment |
| 10   | Nov 2 – 8      | Chapter 10: Personality | Chapter 10 quiz  
Participation assignment |
| 11   | Nov 9 - 15     | Chapter 12: Psychological Disorders  
Last day to drop is July 24th | Chapter 12 quiz  
Participation assignment |
| 12   | Nov 16 - 22    | Chapter 13: Therapies | Chapter 13 quiz  
Participation assignment |
| 13   | Nov 23 – 29    | Chapter 14: Social Psychology  
Thanksgiving this week!! | Happy Holiday! Work on your papers |
| 14   | Nov 30 – Dec 6 | Term paper Due | Term paper due  
December 6 |
| 15   | Dec 7 - 11     | Final Exam Closes on December 11th | Final exam |
XIII. Instructor Credentials (CV) – Aaron Cherry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Institution</th>
<th>Degree Earned</th>
<th>Date Earned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Texas Christian University</td>
<td>Doctor of Philosophy</td>
<td>May 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Christian University</td>
<td>Master of Science—Experimental Psychology</td>
<td>August 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abilene Christian University</td>
<td>Bachelor of Applied Studies—Psychology Emphasis</td>
<td>May 2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Industry, Teaching or Training, and Other (examples: publications and memberships)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of Experience Related to the Course</th>
<th>Date Ended Date Began</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Texas State Technical College West Texas</td>
<td>August 2014 through present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructor for Psychology courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serenity Foundation of Texas</td>
<td>June 2014 through Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer Recovery Program Director</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Christian University (Institute of Behavioral Research)</td>
<td>July 2010 through May 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Assistance (Substance Abuse Treatment research)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>