



PSYCH 2301-201CL
General Psychology, Fall 2021
LRC 213
Thursday 6:00 pm – 8:50 pm

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Andrea Phillip, M.S.
afillip@com.edu
409 933-8620

Office hours and location: I will be available 15-20 minutes before class begins in assigned classroom.
I will be available 10-15 minutes after class is completed.
Virtual via TEAMS by appointment

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Textbook: *Psychology in Everyday Life, 5th Edition* – David Meyers & C. Nathan DeWall

Course Description: This is an introduction to the field of psychology, dealing with topics such as the scientific method and theories, neuroscience and behavior, perception, consciousness, learning, memory, intelligence, motivation, emotion and stress, personality, psychological disorders, and therapy.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Classroom Structure

Students are responsible for reading the chapters from the textbook, taking in-class notes and participating in classroom activities and discussions. This class will not be a PowerPoint lecture class only. Although lecture may be used more on some chapters than others, critical thinking activities, in-class activities, web-based interactive activities, games, debates, video clips and other methods will be used to highlight important topics within each chapter. Your chapter exams will cover the information from the textbook as well as any activity, discussion, video, etc. that we cover in the classroom.

Students at COM are expected to participate in every session of all classes for which they are registered. Students are encouraged to respectfully ask questions, offer differing opinions, contribute to group discussions and give personal examples as it pertains to the class lectures.

The instructor reserves the right to revise the course syllabus as required by either judgment or circumstance. Changes will be announced in class and students are responsible for recording changes as announced.

Chapter Exams: 200 points

There will be a total of 4 chapter exams; each exam will count for 50 points towards your final grade. Exams will be in the form of multiple choice, true/false and/or fill in the blank and will cover textbook information, lecture guide information, videos, class activities and discussions, class demonstrations and handouts. There are no make-up exams allowed. If you miss an exam, please speak with the instructor regarding possible extra-credit work.

Chapter Reviews: 280 points

At the end of each chapter, you will find a section titled “Chapter Test”. These are designed as a review and study guide of the material discussed in the chapter. Each “Chapter Test” will be worth 20 points and will be done in the classroom after the chapter discussion has taken place. There are no make-ups for this assignment. If you are absent from the class period in which these are assigned, you will not receive your points for that specific chapter test.

Class Activities: 200 points

There will be 5 graded in-class activities worth 40 points each. Activities and grading will be discussed in detail at the beginning of each activity. Activities will focus on topics currently being discussed in class. Although these assignments will be completed and discussed in the classroom, you are expected to contribute ideas related to the topic. **If you are absent on a day that a class activity is completed, you will receive a zero for that activity.** I will walk around the classroom during these activities. If you are not focused on and completing the activity, you will not receive full credit for the activity.

Critical Thinking Assignments: 150 points

You will be assigned three critical thinking assignments worth 50 points each. These assignments will be given and will be due the next class period. To receive the full 50 points, you must address the topic/question completely. Instructions detailing the assignment and the grading system for the assignment will be given at the appointed time.

Movie Summary/Presentation: 70 points

Each student will be required to watch a movie from the approved movie list. Only one student per movie. Movie choices will be determined on the specified date in the course schedule. Students will prepare a discussion paper based on their chosen movie. The discussion paper will address such things as the psychological disorder exhibited in the movie, symptoms exhibited by the character with the disorder, treatments/medications discussed in the movie, how the movie either distorts or validates the disorder in the real world, how the disorder is viewed by our society, etc. The student will give a short oral presentation to the class focusing on their chosen movie/disorder. This assignment will help students examine some of the ethical issues as well as some of the misconceptions regarding psychological disorders/mental illness and identify how these misconceptions impact our society and our country. Further, papers/presentations will allow students to examine the importance of being knowledgeable of their own personal biases and/or stereotypes, and how they can be more informed in their future interactions.

Students will choose a movie and a due date.

Movies to choose from:

- *Split (2016) *Silver Linings Playbook (2012) *Rain Man (1988)
- *A Beautiful Mind (2001) *Still Alice (2015) *The Dark Knight (2008)
- *Psycho (1960 or 1998) *Hide and Seek (2005) *Sybil (1976 or 2007)
- *Frankie and Alice (2010) *Shutter Island (2010) *Kate’s Secret (1986)
- *The Karen Carpenter Story (1989) *The Road Within (2015)

- *To The Bone (2017) *As Good as It Gets (1997) *Matchstick Men (2003)
- *The Aviator (2004) *It's Kind of a Funny Story (2010) *Cake (2014)
- *The Skeleton Twins (2014)

A Grading Rubric and more detailed information will be provided according to the course schedule/calendar. **There is no make-up for the Presentation and no late submissions for the discussion paper.** You must have everything completed and submitted by the due date given.

If you do not “present” not only will you receive a zero for the presentation, but you will also receive an additional 20-point deduction toward your final movie summary/presentation grade.

Final Exam: 100 points

There will be a cumulative final exam, which will cover the material over the entire semester and will count for 100 points of your final grade. **There will be no make-ups for the final. Any student that does not show up for the final exam will receive a 50-point deduction from their final total point accumulation.** The final exam will be given and taken in the classroom on the last scheduled class day of the semester.

DETERMINATION OF COURSE GRADE/DETAILED GRADING FORMULA:

Chapter Exams	50 points each	200 points
Chapter Reviews	20 points each	280 points
Class Activities	40 points each	200 points
Critical Thinking Assignments	50 points each	150 points
Movie Summary/Presentation	70 points	70 points
Final Exam	100 points	100 points
TOTAL		1000 points

Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	Numeric Grade	Points Possible
A	90+	900+
B	80-89	800-899
C	70-79	700-799
D	60-69	600-699
F	59 or below	599 or below

Late Work/Make-up Work: Late submissions or make-up work on any assignment or exam will not be accepted.

Extra-Credit Policy: Extra credit assignments **may** be given throughout the semester if requested by student. To be eligible for extra-credit assignments, student must have missed no more than 3 class periods, must have submitted all assignments, and must have missed no more than one chapter exam. If these criteria are met, student has the option to speak with the instructor about completing an extra-credit assignment to supplement their final grade. No more than one extra-credit assignment can be requested.

Attendance and Participation Policy: Communication with your instructor is extremely important. If you are unable to attend class, call or e-mail your instructor prior to class. Students are expected to attend each class. I will take attendance each class period. Regular attendance, classroom professionalism and participation are all critical components to being successful in college.

Tardiness Policy: Students are expected to come to class on time and stay for the entire class period. 3 or more tardies or leaving class early 3 or more times will result in a student/teacher discussion and possible point deduction from your final grade. If you feel that there is a legitimate reason that you must be consistently late for class, please discuss the situation with me as soon as possible. If we have not had a discussion, you will be counted tardy.

Communicating with your instructor: ALL electronic communication with your instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means. You may, however, communicate with your instructor via Blackboard.

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment(s)
1. Identify various research methods and their characteristics used in the scientific study of psychology	Empirical and Quantitative	Chapter Exams, Chapter Reviews, Final Exam
2. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology		Chapter Exams, Chapter Reviews
3. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology	Critical Thinking	Chapter Exams, Group Activities, Critical Thinking Activities
4. Use terminology unique to the study of psychology		Chapter Exams, Paper, Presentation, Group Activities, In Class Discussion Topics
5. Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation	Empirical and Quantitative	Chapter Exams, Psychological Disorder Group Activity, Final Exam
6. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior	Critical Thinking	Chapter Exams, Group Activities, Chapter Reviews, Psychological Disorder Assignment, Final Exam

7. (CS1) Develop, interpret and express ideas through written communication	Communication Skills (Written)	Chapter Reviews, Group Activities, Movie Discussion Paper, Critical Thinking Assignments
8. (CS2) Develop, interpret and express ideas through oral communication	Communication Skills (Oral)	Presentation, Group Activities, Class Participation
9. (SR) Demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities	Social Responsibility	Presentations, Group Activities, Movie Discussion Paper, Class Discussions, Critical Thinking Assignments

Academic Dishonesty: Any incident of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as cheating on exams or assignments is an extremely serious offense and will result in a **grade of zero** on that exam or assignment and the student will be referred to the Dean of Students for the appropriate disciplinary action.

Plagiarism: The practice of taking someone else’s work or ideas and passing them off as one’s own. Any assignment, quiz, test, or project containing any plagiarized material will receive a **grade of zero** and the student will be referred to the Dean of Students for the appropriate disciplinary action.

Student Concerns/Questions Statement: If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact Department Chair, Shinya Wakao at 409-933-8107.

COURSE OUTLINE (Tentative Class Schedule – if change is needed, instructor will give proper and fair notice):

Week	Date	Lectures/Discussions	Assignment Due	Quizzes/Exams
Week 1	8/26/21	Introductions/Syllabus Initial Discussion		
Week 2	9/2/21	Chapter 1 Andrea Yates: Class Activity Chapter 2	Chapter 1 review Chapter 2 review	
Week 3	9/9/21	Chapter 3 Are Parents to Blame: Class Discussion	Chapter 3 review	
Week 4	9/16/21	Chapter 4 Casual Sex: Class Discussion	Chapter 4 review	
Week 5	9/23/21	Chapter 5 Stroop Effect: Class Activity Chapter Exam (1-4)	Chapter 5 review	Chapter Exam 1-4

		Critical Thinking Assignment #1		
Week 6	9/30/21	Chapter 6 Class Discussion: Physical/Corporal Punishment	Chapter 6 review Critical Thinking Assignment #1	
Week 7	10/7/21	Chapter 7 Chapter 8 Critical Thinking Assignment #2	Chapter 7 review Chapter 8 review	
Week 8	10/14/21	Chapter 9 Chapter Exam (5-8) Movie Summary/Presentation Details	Chapter 9 review Critical Thinking Assignment #2	Chapter Exam 5-8
Week 9	10/21/21	Chapter 10 Class Discussion: Pandemic Stress	Chapter 10 review	
Week 10	10/28/21	Chapter 11 Cults: Class Activity	Chapter 11 review	
Week 11	11/4/21	Chapter 12 Free Association: Class Activity Chapter Exam (9-11)	Chapter 12 review	Chapter Exam 9-11
Week 12	11/11/21	Chapter 13 Psych Disorders: Class Activity Chapter 14 Critical Thinking Assignment #3	Chapter 13 review Chapter 14 review	
Week 13	11/18/21	Chapter Exam (12-14) Presentations	Critical Thinking Assignment #3	Chapter Exam 12-14
Week 14	11/25/21	Thanksgiving Holiday No Class		
Week 15	12/2/21	Review for Final		
Week 16	12/9/21	Final		

Institutional Policies and Guidelines

Grade Appeal Process: Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook. <https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf. *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*
https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf

Academic Success & Support Services: College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

ADA Statement: Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact Holly Bankston at 409-933-8520 or hbankston@com.edu. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

Counseling Statement: Any student needing counseling services is requested to please contact Holly Bankston in the student success center at 409-933-8520 or hbankston@com.edu. Counseling services are available on campus in the student center for free and students can also email counseling@com.edu to set up their appointment. Appointments are strongly encouraged; however, some concerns may be addressed on a walk-in basis.

Textbook Purchasing Statement: A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Withdrawal Policy: Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a "W" grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1st 8-week session is October 6. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 19. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is December 2.

F_N Grading: The F_N grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The F_N grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the F_N grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an F_N grade.

Early Alert Program: The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If

you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

COVID-19 Statement: All students, faculty, and staff are expected to familiarize themselves with materials and information contained on the College of the Mainland's Coronavirus Information site at www.com.edu/coronavirus. In compliance with Governor Abbott's May 18 Executive Order, face coverings/masks will no longer be required on COM campus. Protocols and college signage are being updated. We will no longer enforce any COM protocol that requires face coverings. We continue to encourage all members of the COM community to distance, when possible, use hygiene measures, and get vaccinated to protect against COVID-19. Please visit com.edu/coronavirus for future updates.