PSY201 (3 credits) – General Psychology – ONLINE

This course combines approximately 90 hours of instruction, online activities, and assignments for 3 credits.

Contact Information:
Instructor: Alyssa Raymond, M.A.
Email: raymonal@onid.oregonstate.edu
Office: virtual office available via BlackBoard
Office Hours: I will respond to all emails and virtual office postings within 24-48 hours, unless otherwise posted.

Course Information:
Required textbook:

NOTE: For textbook accuracy, please always check the textbook list at the OSU Bookstore website. Sample syllabi may not have the most up-to-date information.

Students can also click the OSU Beaver Store link associated with the PSY 201 course information in the Ecampus schedule of classes for course textbook information and ordering.

Course website: Blackboard
Catalog description: Scientific study of behavior and experience. Biological bases of behavior; sensation and perception; conditioning, learning and memory; thinking, problem solving, language, and consciousness; cognitive, personal and social development. (SS) (Bacc Core Course)
Prerequisites: none

Student Learning Outcomes:
Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:
• Define and apply basic psychological vocabulary and research methodology. (Demonstrated through LaunchPad activities and final exam).
• Apply psychological concepts to enhance self-understanding and self-awareness within one’s own life. (Demonstrated through weekly discussions.)
• Identify representative theories and concepts relevant to the biological bases of behavior; sensation and perception; conditioning, learning and memory; thinking, problem solving, language, and consciousness; cognitive, personal and social development (Demonstrated through LaunchPad activities and final exam).
• Analyze and evaluate psychological information available in the popular media. (Demonstrated through weekly discussions and LaunchPad activities).

NOTE to prospective students: This syllabus is intended to provide students who are considering taking this course an idea of what they will be learning. A more detailed syllabus will be available on the course site for enrolled students and may be more current than this sample syllabus.
**Bac Core Learning Outcomes:**

- Use theoretical frameworks to interpret the role of the individual within social process and institutions. (Demonstrated through final exam; using previously learned knowledge about individuals and social processes from weekly discussions, LaunchPad activities and the final exam questions).
- Analyze current social issues and place them in historical context(s). (Demonstrated through LaunchPad activities; analyzing applied current examples connected to historical theory. Demonstrated through discussions analyzing current scenarios applied to psychological theory).
- Critique the nature, value, and limitations of the basic methods of the social sciences. (Demonstrated through weekly discussions; critiquing the nature, value and limitations on psychological topics.)

**Online Class Format and Assessment:**

General Psychology is a completely online course. You will have weekly deadlines and will focus on the same material in a given week, but will have the flexibility to complete the requirements at your own convenience within this timeframe unless specific deadlines have been posted in the classroom.

**Reading Assignments:**
Reading assignments are indicated in the course calendar. In order to benefit from the class and keep up with the pace of instruction, it is essential that you complete each reading in a timely manner. Reading the textbook will be an essential aspect of successful completion of this course.

**Online Discussions:**
In order to reinforce course concepts and theories, applied online discussions will be integrated into the course mix. Some of these discussions will require you to complete an applied activity. Each week, you will participate in a threaded discussion based on a topic or activity. You are required to make 2 posts each week to the threaded discussions. You need to have one initial post as well as one peer response. While each discussion only counts for a minimal number of points, the total will significantly impact your final course grade if you miss them. A substantial initial post should be at least 200 word count that significantly contributes to the discussion and answers the question posed. A peer response should be at least 50 word count to be considered substantive. Missing the deadline, missing word count, or spelling/grammar mistakes can also deduct from points earned.

**LaunchPad:**
http://www.macmillanhighered.com/launchpad/schacter3e/1264479
First you need to sign up for LaunchPad which is described in the week one course documents and the link is found above. You need the access code from the textbook publisher. Each week you will complete all the Chapter activities available, and assigned. Points are given for completion of all activities weekly. If you miss some, your points will be reduced. **No late LaunchPad activities will be accepted.** This is a great way to review concepts that are applied to the exams without a lot of pressure to get the correct answer the first time around too. Launchpad activities must be completed each Sunday by 11:59pm for full points. There are a possible 40 points for these activities; 4 points weekly.

**Exams:**
Three exams are given in the course, (two midterms and a cumulative final) and **your lowest exam score will be dropped.** Or you can choose to just take two out of the three if you are happy with your two scores.

Two midterms and one final will be taken in a proctored testing environment during week four, eight and eleven. Each exam has 50 multiple choice questions. The final exam is 50 questions also in a
multiple choice format, and covers all content from each week but does weigh more heavily on the final chapters. Your lowest exam will be dropped. The exams are based on content from your weekly quizzes. You have 110 minutes for each exam with no book or notes. If the overall class score is below average a curve may be applied.

PROCTORING
For proctored examinations, your testing session must be supervised by an approved proctor; photo identification is required at the time of the test. It will be your responsibility to arrange for a proctor; for information on acceptable proctors and proctor guidelines, see http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/services/proctoring/default.htm.

The proctor request form is located at http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/forms/examrequest.aspx. If you have problems, please email Ecampus Testing or call during business hours: 800-667-1465 or 541-737-9204.

In addition, there is now the option of ProctorU, which allows you to complete your exam from the comfort of your home being proctored through your webcam. Both options are available for proctoring, and you need to set this up with ecampus testing even if you are just using your own computer.

EXAM FORMAT OPTIONS (Proctoring or Speeded Exam)
There are two formats for the exam and you chose which fits you the best. You can do ONLY one format per exam and you must make your choice in advance because once you’ve done the speeded test you cannot do the proctored test and vice versa. The first format is a speeded test and no proctor is required. You will have 30 minutes to answer the 50 questions. The other format is a proctored test in which you will have 1 hour 50 minutes to answer 50 questions, but do not have access to book or notes. The questions are different for each exam and for each individual.

Test Format Comparison
You can only take one format. The questions for each person and exam are always different. Either format has a maximum of 50 points (each question is worth 1 point). You do not need to notify me of what your choice is. Just make your arrangements if needed. Your score on either exam is simply the number of correct answers times the point per question.

Speeded Test Format:
- You have 30 minutes to answer the 50 questions (The exam will close at the 30 minute time limit regardless if you’ve answered all the questions yet or not).
- No proctor needed. No proctor fees required.
- Completely flexible as you can take it anywhere at any time within the exam window.
- No need to pre-register or set an appointment.

Proctored Test Format:
- You must set up your proctor 2 weeks in advance - and must communicate with testing services at OSU.
- You will have 1 hour 50 minutes to complete the exam within the exam window
- The proctor will insert the password (given them by OSU testing) and monitor you to be sure that you do not use books, notes or any materials.
- Little time pressure as most people complete the exams in ~30 minutes (some of course, use all the time)

In a comparison between one term that only offered proctored exams with another term that offered both; speeded test takers did about 10% better on average. (Remember that average means some did worse and some did better). Last term in comparing scores it was just about even for another course for those who chose the speeded option over the proctored option.
Speeded Tests Pros:  
- No fees  
- Complete flexibility (as to where and when)  
- No pre-arrangements needed

Speeded Tests Cons:  
- Pressure (not everyone responds well)  
- Most people do not answer all the questions  
- If you have a slow connection, it can hurt

Proctored Tests Pros:  
- No time pressure  
- More time to reflect  
- New option (ProctorU WebCam)

Proctored Tests Cons:  
- Required fees per test  
- Usually fixed appointment required  
- No access to book or notes

The choice is yours and you can change for the second exam BUT if you change to proctored, you must make your arrangements at least 2-3 weeks before the next exam. If you have already signed up for a proctor, you might not get a refund if you change your mind too. You do not need to make any arrangements if you are doing the speeded exam, but only one attempt is allowed; so once you open the exam make sure you are ready to go. So be sure which one you want to do ahead of time.

No need to inform me as to which format you are taking. You can also change at the last minute if changing to the SPEEDED format only (just be sure to cancel your proctor; and understand that a refund may not always be given). If you change your mind at the last minute and want to do proctored there may not be a time/spot available if you did not sign up 2-3 weeks in advance.

Grading:

Grades will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two Exams (50 points each)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Discussions (4 points weekly)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly LaunchPad Activities (4 points weekly)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Points Available</td>
<td>180</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Grades will be continually available via the gradebook feature of Blackboard. It is your responsibility to monitor and ensure that your grade is correctly recorded. Every point counts because percentages are not rounded up. Final course grades will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93%-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90%-92.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87%-89.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83%-86.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80%-82.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77%-79.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73%-76.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70%-72.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67%-69.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63%-66.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60%-62.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% and lower</td>
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Online Course Policies:

Submission of Work:

- Assignments scheduled for completion during a class week should be completed and successfully submitted by the posted due date. I would encourage you to start early and at least one post is due by Wednesday 11:59pm and the second one is due Sunday 11:59pm weekly. I may randomly check
that deadlines are completed, so be sure to make each deadline weekly, or you will not receive points for your posts if they are late. You cannot make up participation points or LaunchPad activities FOR ANY REASON after each week is complete.

- Create a back up file of every piece of work you submit for grading. This will ensure that a computer glitch or a glitch in cyberspace won't erase your efforts.

**Ground Rules for Online Communication & Participation:**

- **General email:** Students should use email for private messages to the instructor and other students. When sending email other than assignments, you must identify yourself fully by name and class in all email sent to me and/or other members of our class.

- **Online threaded discussions:** are public messages and all writings in this area will be viewable by the entire class or assigned group members.

- **Online Instructor Response Policy:** I will check email frequently and will respond to course-related questions within 24 - 48 hours, unless otherwise noted. Ask questions early and be aware of deadlines for this time period of response.

- **Observation of "Netiquette":** All your Online communications need to be composed with fairness, honesty and tact. Spelling and grammar are very important in an Online course. What you put into an Online course reflects on your level of professionalism. Here are a couple of Online references that discuss writing Online [http://goto.intwg.com/](http://goto.intwg.com/) and netiquette [http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html).

- Please check the Announcements area before you ask general course "housekeeping" questions (i.e. how do I submit assignment 3?). If you don't see your question there, then please contact me.

**Technical Assistance:**

- If you experience computer difficulties (need help downloading a browser or plug-in, you need help logging into the course, or if you experience any errors or problems while in your Online course), contact the help desk for assistance (call (541) 737-3474, email osuhelpdesk@oregonstate.edu or visit the OSU Computer Helpdesk online).

- If the issue is preventing you from submitting or completing any coursework, contact me immediately.

**Expectations for Student Conduct and Academic Honesty:**

Academic integrity is the foundation of the academic community. Because each student has the primary responsibility for being academically honest, students are advised to read and understand all sections of this policy relating to standards of conduct and academic life. At Oregon State University academic dishonesty is defined by the Oregon Administrative Rules 576-015-0020.1.a-c as: An intentional act of deception in which a student seeks to claim credit for the work or effort of another person or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic work. Academic dishonesty includes:

- **CHEATING** - use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information or study aids or an act of deceit by which a student attempts to misrepresent mastery of academic effort or information. This includes unauthorized copying or collaboration on a test or assignment or using prohibited materials and texts.

- **FABRICATION** - falsification or invention of any information (including falsifying research, inventing or exaggerating data and listing incorrect or fictious references.

- **ASSISTING** - helping another commit an act of academic dishonesty. This includes paying or bribing someone to acquire a test or assignment, changing someone's grades or academic records, or taking a test/doing an assignment for someone else (or allowing someone to do these things for you). It is a violation of Oregon state law to create and offer to sell part or all of an education assignment to another person (ORS 165.114).

- **TAMPERING** - altering or interfering with evaluation instruments and documents.
- **PLAGIARISM** - representing the word or ideas of another person as one's own OR presenting someone else's words, ideas, artistry or data as one's own. This includes copying another person's work (including unpublished material) without appropriate referencing, presenting someone else's opinions and theories as one's own, or working jointly on a project, then submitting it as one's own.

For a complete description of the expectations and requirements of OSU students, see [http://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/studentconduct/](http://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/studentconduct/).

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**

Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Disability and Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098.

**Student Responsibilities:**

Each student is responsible for all the information covered in the syllabus, online lectures, and readings. The penalties for missed deadlines will be strictly enforced; it is your responsibility to turn in all assignments by the posted deadline. If you don’t understand any policies or deadlines, ask for clarification prior to the deadline.

**Questions and Assistance:**

You are encouraged to ask questions. These questions may be about course material, assignments, and/or grades. I invite you to ask questions about course material and policies in the online office; please direct question about specific assignments and grades to me individually. I want you to learn the information and perform well; but most of this is up to you. Take active responsibility for your own performance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Min 1 post each day Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Psychology: The Evolution of a Science (Chapter 1)</td>
<td>2 Posts, LaunchPad Activities</td>
<td>Wednesday and Sundays 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Methods in Psychology (Chapter 2)</td>
<td>2 Posts, LaunchPad Activities</td>
<td>Wednesday and Sundays 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Neuroscience and Behavior (Chapter 3)</td>
<td>2 Posts, LaunchPad Activities</td>
<td>Wednesday and Sundays 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Sensation and Perception (Chapter 4) Proctored Midterm Only—Sign up through Ecampus</td>
<td>2 Posts, LaunchPad Activities, Midterm#1 (Chapters 1-4)</td>
<td>Wednesday and Sundays 11:59pm (Midterm available Thurs-Sunday)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Development (Chapter 11)</td>
<td>2 Posts, LaunchPad Activities</td>
<td>Wednesday and Sundays 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Consciousness (Chapter 5)</td>
<td>2 Posts, LaunchPad Activities</td>
<td>Wednesday and Sundays 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Memory (Chapter 6)</td>
<td>2 Posts, LaunchPad Activities</td>
<td>Wednesday and Sundays 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Learning (Chapter 7) Proctored Midterm Only—Sign up through Ecampus</td>
<td>2 Posts, LaunchPad Activities, Midterm #2 (Chapters 5-7, &amp; 11)</td>
<td>Wednesday and Sundays 11:59pm (Midterm available Thurs-Sunday)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Language and Communication (Chapter 9)</td>
<td>2 Posts, LaunchPad Activities</td>
<td>Wednesday and Sundays 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Intelligence (Chapter 10)</td>
<td>2 Posts, LaunchPad Activities</td>
<td>Wednesday and Sundays 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Final Exam (Chapters 1-7, 9-11)</td>
<td>Final Cumulative Exam</td>
<td>Sun-Thurs of Finals Week Proctored or Speeded Exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Student Evaluation of Teaching:**
We encourage you to engage in the course evaluation process each term – online, of course. The evaluation form will be available toward the end of each term, and you will be sent instructions through ONID. You will login to “Online Services/MyOSU” to respond to the online questionnaire. The results on the form are anonymous and are not tabulated until after grades are posted.