Introduction to Psychology

PSYC 2301, Lec 001, Syn 06418

Spring Semester, 2010

MW – 9:10 am – 10:25 am – Rio Grande Campus (RGC), Room 123

Instructor: Brendan Rogers, M.A.

RGC Office Location: Rm #250.1 (Annex Bldg.)

Office Hours:

**Rio Grande Campus:**

- Monday  10:30 am - 11:30 am

**Round Rock Higher Education Center (RRHEC) (Rm #456):**

- Monday  2:25 pm - 3:25 pm

Voice Mail: 223-1790 x 26501 (NOT the best way to reach me)

Email: brogers1@austincc.edu (best way to contact me)

Email format: Please use “INTRO/RGC” as the subject of all class emails and include your full name in the body of your email.

**Required Text:**


**Course Description:**

The ACC Course Catalog offers this description of PSYC 2301:

This course is a survey of introductory topics such as learning, memory, sensation and perception, personality, life-span development, physiological basis of behavior, stress and health, psychological disorders, social psychology, and research methods. Additional topics such as language development, states of consciousness, and psychotherapy may also be included as determined by the instructor.
Course Objectives:

The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of representative theories, findings and/or principles concerning the following topics:

- Research Methods
- Personality
- Learning
- Life-Span Development
- Physiological Basis of Behavior
- Cognition (including Sensation, Perception, and Memory)
- Stress (as well as intellectual, social, physical and emotional health)
- Psychological Disorders
- Social Psychology

Course Structure:

This course will be comprised of lecture and classroom discussions (questions are strongly encouraged). My lectures will contain a fair amount of material from your text and some supplemental material (videos, hand-outs, etc.) Therefore, reading the text before you come to class is highly recommended as this will increase your retention and understanding of the lecture. You will fare better on the exams if you read your book AND attend all the lectures.

Syllabus Pop Quiz: (20 extra credit points)

Early in the semester, before our first exam, you will take an in-class pop quiz covering the material in the syllabus. The quiz will include several questions designed to test your understanding of the syllabus. This quiz is administered to encourage a thorough and thoughtful reading of the syllabus and is worth 20 extra credit points.

Exams: (400 points total)

There will be four in-class exams. Each exam will be non-cumulative and must be completed within normal class hours. Each exam will contain 30 multiple choice questions (worth 3 points each) and 2 short answer questions (worth 5 points each) for a total of 100 points per exam.
Students must provide Scan-Tron forms for purposes of taking in-class exams. Scan-Tron forms can be purchased at the ACC bookstore. Check the Course Schedule for the dates of the exams.

**Paper: (80 points total)**

At one point during the semester, you will be required to write a paper. I will give you a list of the topics after our first exam. Good grammar will help your grade. Bad grammar will be detrimental to your grade. Write several drafts of your paper and get rid of those spelling errors, misplaced commas, etc. It will help your grade substantially. Developing strong writing skills will help you in many areas of your life. Please make sure to hand deliver a hard copy of your paper by the due date. Emailed submissions will not be accepted.

Your paper should:
- be 3-4 pages long.
- be typed, double spaced, and have 1 inch margins.
- have a cover sheet that includes your name, the title of your paper, course synonym and lecture number, and the date.

**Class Participation: (20 points total)**

Your participation is a *vital* part of this class. Thoughtful questions are encouraged and appreciated. I will base your score on the quality of your questions and the quantity. Do not become a discussion hog, though, and expect to receive extra points. Be courteous to your classmates and give them time to interject. Also, I may cut you off to continue lecturing so do not be offended if we have to move on.

I realize that some people have trouble speaking up in class. If this is an issue, please email me or drop by on my office hours and I’ll be glad to work with you.

**Make-Up Policy:**

Make-up exams will be provided in the **RGC Testing Center** (Room 127). Please do not attempt to take make-ups at any other location! You will have five days (including weekend days) following the original exam (see class outline for dates) to take the make-up. The hours for the RGC testing center are:

Monday - Thursday - 8:00am - 8:00pm
Friday - 8:00am - 4:00pm
Saturday - 9:00am - 1:00pm
Closed Sunday
Students who have a documented, college approved excuse for missing an exam may take a make-up without any grade penalty. Students who do not have a documented, college approved excuse for missing an exam may take a make-up with a 20-point penalty.

If you miss an exam please let me know immediately so that I can give a copy of the exam to the testing center in a timely manner. Please be aware that if you take an exam in the testing center, I will be unable to grade your exam with the others. You should expect a reasonable delay in the return of your exam if you take it outside of class.

Please review all policies and rules for the RGC testing center before you take the make-up exam! You can find these policies on the following ACC website:

http://www.austincc.edu/testctr/

Attendance:

Regular, timely attendance can only benefit your final grade. It is the student’s responsibility to know everything that is covered in class. There is no formal penalty for non-attendance, but the student should be advised that this is not an independent study course. The easiest way to do poorly, or fail, is to miss class.

Although the instructor reserves the right to drop any student from the class if it is appropriate and indicated, your registration is your responsibility. If you stop attending this class for any reason, be sure to complete a withdrawal form in the Office of Admissions. This may prevent you from receiving a grade of F.

Scholastic Dishonesty:

This is a serious problem and is one of the most self-defeating behaviors that any student may display. Plagiarism is the submittal of someone else’s work as one’s own. It will not be tolerated. Nor will any form of cheating during exams. If convicted of scholastic dishonesty in this course, the student will receive a grade of F. A report will also be made to the Office of Student Services.

Acts prohibited by the college for which discipline may be administered include scholastic dishonesty, including but not limited to cheating on an exam or quiz, plagiarizing, and unauthorized collaboration with another in preparing outside work. Academic work submitted by students shall be the result of their thought, research, or self-expression. Academic work is defined as, but not limited to tests, quizzes, classroom presentations, and homework.

Academic Freedom:

The Department of Psychology strongly respects academic freedom. Each student is strongly encouraged to participate in class. In any classroom situation that includes discussion and critical thinking, there are bound to be many differing viewpoints. Students may not only disagree with
each other at times, but the students and instructor may also find that they have disparate views on sensitive and volatile topics. It is my hope that these differences will enhance the class and create an atmosphere where students and instructors alike will be more encouraged to think and learn. Therefore, be assured that your grade will not be adversely affected by any beliefs or ideas expressed in class or assignments. Rather, we will respect the views of others when expressed in classroom discussions.

**Student Handbook:**

According to the Student Handbook:

Students are expected to be mature and responsible citizens. Any student whose conduct or dress at any time is in violation of the law, is a public nuisance, or is deemed improper or detrimental to the College may be subject to disciplinary action. Students are expected to respect the rights and welfare of other members of the College community and its guests. Violence, the threat of violence, any disruption to the learning process, or intimidation will be subject to disciplinary action.

**General Grading Policy:**

Deadlines will be strictly enforced. Papers will be reduced by ten points each day they are late (that includes weekends and holidays). Please turn your assignments in on time to avoid needlessly losing points. If you email me your paper the time stamp will be used to confirm if your paper arrived on time.

**Incompletes and Withdrawals:**

Incompletes are rarely given and are not recommended unless they are indicated for valid reasons. To be considered for an incomplete, the student must have completed more than three exams, and have an average grade of at least C.

Adding, dropping, or withdrawing from a course may affect financial aid, veterans’ benefits, international student status, or academic standing. See an advisor, counselor, or your instructor before making changes.

Per state law, students enrolling for the first time in fall 2007 or later at any Texas college or university may not withdraw (receive a W) from more than six courses during their undergraduate college career. Some exemptions for good cause could allow a student to withdraw from a course without having it count toward this limit. Students are encouraged to carefully select courses; contact an advisor or counselor for assistance.

**Students with Disabilities:**
Each ACC campus offers support services for students with documented physical or psychological disabilities. Students with disabilities must request reasonable accommodations through the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) on the campus where they expect to take the majority of their classes. Students are encouraged to do this three weeks before the start of the semester. (Taken from the ACC Student Handbook)

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the OSD. The Rio Grande office is located in room A-150. You can also call 223.3142. The TTY is 223.3061. The fax # is 223.3429.

If you plan on taking exams in the OSD, please email me with your name and your class time. You will have until the make-up deadline listed on the syllabus to take your exam. I am always happy to place exams in the OSD for students, but I am not always able to get the exams there by the regularly scheduled class time. I will always have the exams to the OSD by 5 pm of the scheduled exam day, so you should schedule your exam time after that. If this won’t work for your schedule, please let me and your OSD advisor know, and we will try to work something out.

**Tutoring:**

The RGC Learning Lab is located in Room 212. Learning Lab hours are:

Monday-Thursday, 9:00 am - 9:00 pm

Friday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

The Learning Lab phone number is 223.3367. If you are having trouble with your paper then you are advised to contact a tutor at the Learning Lab.

**Grades:**

Your course grade will be based on the total number of points you have earned from all four exams (400 possible points), your paper (80 possible points), and class participation (20 possible points). The scale will be based on a total of 500 possible points (that final total does not include what you can earn with extra credit). I may give you more extra credit opportunities as the semester progresses.

- A = 450 to 500 points (90 – 100%).
- B = 400 to 449 points (80 - 89%).
- C = 350 to 399 points (70 – 79%).
- D = 300 to 349 points (60 – 69%).
- F = 299 points or less (below 60%).
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<tr>
<td>Jan 20</td>
<td>Class introduction/Syllabus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 25</td>
<td>The Science of Psychology</td>
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<td>Sexuality and Gender</td>
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