PSYC 2301

INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

CLASSROOM HYBRID (HYC): RGC 5 WEEKS

María G. Cisneros-Solís, Ph.D.

Course Syllabus
Weekend Class

FALL 2009
# INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY --PSYC 2301--HYC

RGC-SYN# 41883-SECTION#107

FALL SEMESTER 2009
5 Week Session August 24 – SEPTEMBER 26

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<tr>
<th>Instructor:</th>
<th>Dr. María Guadalupe Cisneros-Solís</th>
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<td>Course Title:</td>
<td>Introduction to Psychology</td>
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<td>Course Abbreviation Number:</td>
<td>PSYC 2301</td>
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<td>RGC- Course Information</td>
<td>RGC PSYC.2301-107, syn.#41883</td>
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<td>Friday 6:00-9:00pm and Saturdays, RGC</td>
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<td>room 016…No class on 9/12, 9/18, &amp; 9/19,</td>
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| Instructor’s Office:         | RGC Attaché Building, Room 213       |
| Instructor’s Telephone       | 223-3388; mcisnero@austincc.edu       |
| Number and email             |                                      |
| Instructor’s web page        | http://austincc.edu/mcisnero          |
| Instructor’s Office Hours    | Fridays 4:50-5:50; at RGC office: Attache 213, |
|                              | Additional hours by appointment at RGC office |
| Required Text:               | Psychology: Concepts & Connections, by Spencer |
|                              | A. Rathus; Ninth or Tenth Edition: Thomson |
| BLACKBOARD LOG IN SITE       | http://acconline.austincc.edu/       |

## SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- **THIS SYLLABUS WILL GIVE YOU ALL THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURSE. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY**

- **EMAIL INSTRUCTIONS:** Please be sure to write: “Weekend PSYC.2301-HYC-RGC” on all the emails you send to me. Remember that I will have over 200 students, and teach 4 different classes, so please help me out so that we can communicate effectively as possible.
DESCRIPTION OF CLASSROOM HYBRID DELIVERY MODE FOR PSYC2301

The term “Hybrid” is used to describe courses that combine classroom face to face instruction with online computer based instruction. Thus students have the opportunity to have regularly scheduled time with the instructor yet have the freedom of time and space to engage in an autonomous learning process.

RGC-SYN# 41883-SECTION#107

STUDENTS REGISTERED FOR THIS CLASS, PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:
This HYC-RGC PSYC2301, will meet at RGC, room 016 on Friday from 6:00 to 9:00pm and on Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30am and 12:30 to 3:30p.m. There will be no class meetings the Saturday of Sept. 12 and on the following weekend, Friday 9/18 and Saturday 9/19. A detailed description of the course schedule with the classroom and on-line activities will be given on the first week of class. ...a summary can be found in the part of the syllabus entitled “COURSE CALENDER/SCHEDULE”

PSYC2301-COURSE DESCRIPTION:
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. The Honors course provides a more in-depth introduction to the science and profession of psychology with emphasis on developing oral and written communication skills as they relate to the analysis and discussion of research and controversial issues in psychology.

PURPOSE OF COURSE:
The purpose of this first course in psychology is to introduce students to the topics and issues that psychologists study, the research methods they employ, their major findings, and the ways in which psychologists apply the research findings to the solution of personal and societal problems. Also, this course provides students with the basic terminology and principles that enable them to take more advanced courses in psychology if they wish to learn more about some particular area.

INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES:
REQUIRED TEXTBOOK: The textbook required for this course is: Psychology - Concepts and Connections, Media & Research Update, by Spencer A. Rathus, Thomson Wadsworth Publishers, 9th Edition ©2008. Click here to go to the publisher’s web site, where practice quizzes and electronic flash cards are provided for students. This book is available in the ACC Bookstore.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

1. **PUBLISHERS WEB SITE FOR THE TEXTBOOK**
The publisher's web site, where practice quizzes, electronic flash cards and many other splendid learning tools are provided for students.

2. **CONNECTIONS STUDY GUIDE BOOK FOR TEXTBOOK:**
The materials in this study guide provide a chapter summary, multiple choice practice tests, critical thinking activities, etc.

3. **CONNECTIONS STUDENT NOTEBOOK FOR THE TEXTBOOK:**
This book is a collection of chapter outlines to help students follow and retain concepts by taking notes.

4. **CONNECTIONS CD-ROM FOR THE TEXTBOOK:**
The CD-ROM is free with the purchase of a new textbook and includes animations, demonstrations, quizzes, etc. If you bought a used textbook, don’t worry you can use the website.

RELEVANT WEBSITES:

- Library at http://library.austincce.edu/
- Distance Learning at http://dl.austincce.edu.
- Student’s Handbook at http://www.austincce.edu/handbook
- Academic Testing Center Website at http://www.austincce.edu/testctr
- Backboard: http://acconline.austincce.edu/

MAJOR TOPICS AND OTHER INFORMATION:
The topics covered in “Introduction to Psychology” include a survey of research methodology, theory development in child psychology, personality, learning, memory, intelligence, genetics, social psychology, developmental psychology, adjustment, stress, and physiological psychology. There will be 15 chapters covered in this course. Three hours college credit is given when material is mastered.
COURSE OBJECTIVES or LEARNING OUTCOMES
The common course objectives or goals include the following: The student will be able to discuss 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

The specific, more detailed behavioral objectives for this course are outlined in a conceptual summary for each unit of study written by the professor of this course. This study guide is also available on the Instructor’s website and on Blackboard under course documents. It contains specific objectives the student needs to master in order to obtain a 95 percent competency in this course.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY & STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

The format of this course is a combination of classroom face to face instruction with online computer based instruction. There will be a diversified set of educational activities which promote self-directed active learning in the classroom and on-line (See the course calendar for more details). This means that it is essential that you attend class, as well as have internet skills and access to a computer. It is required that you log on to Blackboard as soon the semester begins and complete the on-line orientation. You will also need to activate your ACC gmail account, which is how the professor will communicate on-line with you. In addition to reading your textbook, taking tests, completing a project, there will also be some Internet assignments. Student requirements include internet skills, word processing skills (use WORD), and email.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

As a student, you are responsible for accomplishing the following:
1. Log on to Blackboard. You can use the following link: [http://itdl.austincc.edu/blackboard/stlogin.htm](http://itdl.austincc.edu/blackboard/stlogin.htm).
2. Attend class
3. Complete your on-line Orientation on Blackboard
4. Read the required textbook chapters for each lesson,
5. complete internet activities
6. take three (3) objective-type, multiple-choice exams and one final exam (essay) during the semester by the assigned deadline dates.
GRADE DETERMINATION AND EVALUATION SYSTEM:

The final grade will be based on the student’s average of 3 TEST SCORES and one GENERAL PARTICIPATION SCORE which consists of a class participation score (50%) and an online participation score (50%). All exams must be taken!

The three tests are in a multiple choice format, and will be taken in the classroom. There are no retests offered in this course, yet extra credit projects can be used to bring up the student’s grade. In addition, each of the 3 multiple choice exams will have bonus questions at the end which will make the test score worth more than 100 points. If a student does not take the test by the deadline, the bonus questions will not be valid.

FAILURE TO MEET TEST DEADLINES:

Students who do not take an exam by the deadline will be penalized. Their highest possible score will be 95. This means the student is not eligible for test bonus points. Students can take the make-up test at the RGC testing center. Students must take this test within one week after the missed deadline; unless the instructor had given permission for a later date due to extenuating circumstances.

The class participation score will be based on student attendance, class short quizzes, student involvement in group activities, and homework assignments. A project score can substitute this score if the student has a legitimate excuse (illness, job conflict, etc.) for not being able to attend class consistently. It is up to the instructor’s discretion to evaluate a legitimate excuse and approve the score’s substitution. The student will also have the option of writing reviews on movies, videos, articles and books to make up for an absence or a missed quiz. This written report needs to be one page in length, and the student will need to apply the content of the report to Psychology. The student needs to contact the instructor immediately when absent in order to get approval for the make-up paper.

The on-line participation score will be based on the completion of their choice of an on-line activity and their assessment of the learning that was mastered by their performance on that activity. One activity per unit of study is required. Students can choose an activity from the following options which are available through Blackboard or the textbooks publishers website: a) discussion forums for each unit of study, b) on-line games, c) on-line pre and post quizzes for each chapter, d)on-line tutorials including quizzes, flash cards, visuals, short on-line video clips with related critical thinking questions, completion of chapter outline on key concepts, d)and/or the activities within the textbook’s CDROM.

Special Note on Discussion Forums: Contributions to a discussion forum will focus on topics covered in the textbook before the relevant exams. Each unit of study will have options on topics you may wish to discuss. The purpose of this assignment is to share reactions and insights to the readings with other students. You may also choose a topic or idea from your text to discuss. The page number from your text reflecting the idea or topic needs to be noted, and then the observation is shared. Contributions are encouraged which discover something in the text which
is useful, memorable, intriguing, counterintuitive, controversial, noteworthy, novel, applicable to one's own or others' lives, etc....

In any course situation that includes discussion and critical thinking, there are bound to be many differing viewpoints, especially on sensitive, controversial topics. We must respect the views of others and create an atmosphere where both the students and the instructor are encouraged to think, learn, and share information. Viewpoints that are carefully thought and expressed in an organized, orderly manner can be used to enhance learning. These viewpoints as well as any feedback or general comments must be provided in a non-offensive, respectful manner. Your course grade will not be adversely affected by the viewpoints that you may express on assignments. Instead, the grade will be based on your knowledge and understanding of concepts and principles within the specific subject area as well as their theoretical and research-based foundations and applications.

In order to access the discussion unit forum, you must log-on to Blackboard, at http://ACConline.austincc.edu. This is not possible until the semester for which you are registered has actually begun. Information on user name and password is available at the log-in site. Go to "Discussion Boards" on Blackboard to participate in the Discussion Forum. If you want to start a new topic for discussion, use the "Add Forum" button. NOTE: The discussions are not in real time. You may contribute at any hour of the day or night prior to the deadline.

A **project (extra credit or substitute for class participation score)** may be conducted by one individual student or a group of students (the group will need to meet with the professor outside of class to protect against social loafing). The student can choose from the following options:
1. Case Study on a child’s development.
2. Case Study on self or one’s cultural background (the student’s individual development).
3. Self-Improvement project (Behavior Modification or Health Psychology)
4. Class Presentation (30 minutes with visual aids).
5. Volunteer Work (20 hours, journal and report).
6. Research Paper (includes a conference with the instructor), 6 typewritten pages.
7. Student’s Creative Project that is related to psychology.
8. Evaluation of Publisher Website...

... **VISIT THE PUBLISHER'S WEB SITE FOR THE TEXTBOOK:** Click [here](http://example.com) to go to the publisher's web site Each chapter will have activities for you to explore such as tests, crossword puzzles, flashcards, tutorials, and links. On the first chapter you will need to evaluate all of the activities on the subsequent chapters you will pick 10 of your favorite to evaluate. You will need to evaluate all the chapters for each unit of study, and receive from 5 to 10 points for each unit of study, depending on the quality of your work. There are three units of study, so you can pick 2 of the 3 or evaluate all three however only 20 points of extra credit can be given for this activity.

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SUMMARY OF THE REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS THAT WILL YIELD AN EVALUATION SCORE (A total of four scores will enter into the equation, and each will have equal weight)

1. Test 1 score
2. Test 2 score
3. Test 3 score
4. A combination of the class participation score (50%) and on-line participation score (50%) = General Participation score

FINAL GRADE: Total of the 4 scores divided by 4 (total/4)

The traditional score equivalency will be used. It will be based on the following scale of the student’s total average:

- A = 90 or greater
- B = 80 to 89
- C = 70 to 79
- D = 60 to 69
- F = Below 60

EXTRA CREDIT: OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:
MAXIMUM NUMBER OF EXTRA CREDIT POINTS: 30 POINTS ADDED TO THE LOWEST TEST SCORE……..Students can do as many extra credit activities as they want, however, the maximum number of points is 30!

DISCUSSION BOARD: 15 POINTS EXTRA CREDIT
Students can post additional discussions on Blackboard in the discussion board for extra credit. Each additional posting is worth 5 points.

Special Note on Discussion Forums: Contributions to a discussion forum will focus on topics covered in the textbook before the relevant exams. Each unit of study will have options on topics you may wish to discuss. The purpose of this assignment is to share reactions and insights to the readings with other students. You may also choose a topic or idea from your text to discuss. The page number from your text reflecting the idea or topic needs to be noted, and then the observation is shared. Contributions are encouraged which discover something in the text which is useful, memorable, intriguing, counterintuitive, controversial, noteworthy, novel, applicable to one's own or others' lives, etc....In order to access the discussion unit forum, you must log-on to Blackboard, at http://ACConline.austinecc.edu. This is not possible until the semester for which
you are registered has actually begun. Information on user name and password is available at the 
log-in site. Go to "Discussion Boards" on Blackboard to participate in the Discussion Forum.. If 
you want to start a new topic for discussion, use the "Add Forum" button. **NOTE:** The 
discussions are **not** in real time. You may contribute at any hour of the day or night **prior** to the 
deadline.

**COMPLETE A PROJECT: MAXIMUM NUMBER OF POINTS=20**

**POINTS** *(Excellent completion=20 points, good=15points, average=10points)*

The student can choose from the following options:

- Case Study on a child’s development.
- Case Study on self or one’s cultural background (the student’s individual development).
- Self-Improvement project (Behavior Modification or Health Psychology)
- Class Presentation (30 minutes with visual aids).
- Volunteer Work (20 hours, journal and report).
- Research Paper (includes a conference with the instructor), 6 typewritten pages.
- Student’s Creative Project that is related to psychology.
- Evaluation of Publisher Web Site

**BONUS TEST=20 POINTS**

Students can increase their score by taking the Bonus Test on Chapter 12: Gender and Sexuality. 
This test will consist of 20 items and the student will receive ONE point for each correct 
response. However, in order to be eligible for these bonus points, the students must obtain **60%** 
of the questions correct. In order to access the information needed to complete the bonus test, 
you must log-on to **Blackboard**, at **http://ACConline.austincc.edu**. .......**AFTER THE 
SEMESTER BEGINS......Go to "COURSE DOCUMENTS" within Blackboard, and then 
"Bonus Test" to complete this activity. **DO NOT ATTEMPT IT UNTIL YOU ARE 
READY TO TAKE THE TEST. BLACKBOARD WILL NOT LET YOU TAKE IT AT A 
LATER TIME AFTER YOUR FIRST ATTEMPT EVEN IF YOU DO NOT ANSWER 
ANY OF THE QUESTIONS!!!!!**

There are no study guides or objectives for this bonus test...so be sure and read the entire chapter 
comprehensively...you may want to explore some of the activities in the publishers web site on 
this chapter which you have found the most helpful....

**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE FOR TESTS**

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REMEMBER

NO CLASS MEETINGS on 9/12, 9/18, & 9/19

A DETAILED COURSE CALENDAR WILL BE GIVEN THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASS AS AN ADDITIONAL DOCUMENT

COURSE POLICIES

RETESTING POLICY:
There are no re-tests offered in this course, although students may bring up their grade through extra-credit projects.

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:
“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, 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.” (Student Handbook 2002-2003,p.32) The instructor will be responsible for specifying the penalty that will be assessed for violation of this policy.

Students who are guilty of scholastic dishonesty will automatically fail this course. They will also be reported to Student Services so that appropriate disciplinary action can be followed.

INCOMPLETE GRADE:
Only students who have completed and passed 80% of the course requirements will be eligible for an incomplete. Illnesses, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances need to be present; and consultation with the instructor is mandatory.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Attendance is highly recommended since test content may include material from films or lectures as well as from the text. Furthermore, the student’s class participation score will be based on class attendance, group activities, homework assignments, and class quizzes.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY:
Failure to take scheduled tests or poor performance on the course requirements may lead to withdrawal. While the instructor reserves the right to withdraw a student based on lack of progress, it is the student’s **responsibility to withdraw** from this course. The professor welcomes and recommends student conferences to discuss progress in the class.

**Adding, Dropping, or Withdrawing from a Course: Additional Information**

Adding, dropping, or withdrawing from a course may affect financial aid, veterans’ benefits, international student status, or academic standing. See an advisor or counselor before making changes. **Adding or dropping a course (schedule changes):** Students may add or drop a course before open registration ends or during the session’s official schedule change (add/drops) period. See the course schedule for information on add/drops procedures, deadlines, and tuition refunds. **Withdrawing from a course:** Students may withdraw from one or more courses prior to the withdrawal deadline by submitting a request form to Admissions and Records. Withdrawal deadlines are published in the academic calendar. Withdrawal courses appear on the student’s record with a grade of W. Until a student is officially withdrawn, the student remains on the class roll and may receive a grade of F for the course. Students are responsible for understanding the impact withdrawing from a course may have on their financial aid, veterans’ benefits, international student status, and academic standing. Students are urged to consult with their advisor before making schedule changes.

**Per state law, students enrolling for the first time in fall of 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.**

**REINSTATEMENT POLICY:**

Students may be reinstated in the class if there are extenuating circumstances (i.e., hospitalization, etc.) connected with their failure to meet requirements and if they are able to catch up on all units and take exams within a two-week period.

**ACADEMIC FREEDOM POLICY:**

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 BEHAVIOR/DISCIPLINE POLICY:
The instructor expects students to treat each other with respect and manifest appropriate classroom behavior.

DISABILITY STATEMENT POLICY:

“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 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.” (Student Handbook 2002-2003, p.14)

It is very important that students who have special educational needs notify the instructor as soon as possible so that the appropriate modifications in instruction and evaluation can be made. This instructor welcomes all students and is committed to making the needed modifications to ensure the student’s success.

COURSE INTENT FOR STUDENT POPULATION:

Students who profit most from this course are psychology majors, sociology majors, and any other major which prepares individuals for occupations, whereby they will be interacting with other persons. In other words, the course should be beneficial to most individuals regardless of their major.