

# PSYC 2301 – INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

Fall 2009

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## REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Textbook: *Visualizing Psychology*, S. Carpenter and K. Huffman (2009)  
3 *Mini Essay Book* Scantrons

## WebCT:

WebCT is a web-based learning environment that is used to complement this course. You will be able to find most of the handouts for this course on WebCT, including the syllabus, study guides, and writing assignments. In addition, five online quizzes will be administered through WebCT (see “WebCT Quiz Guidelines” handout). The URL for WebCT is <http://webct.lee.edu> which will take you to WebCT’s login page. You will log on using the same login information as your myLC e-mail account.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Introduction to Psychology is a survey course of the major concepts, theories, terminology, issues, and research findings of the various sub-fields in psychology. A combination of lecture, group exercises, demonstrations, videos, and critical thinking activities will be used to assist students in becoming cautious and analytical consumers of information.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To become knowledgeable in the basic content areas of psychology.
2. To learn about the history of psychology and the major contributors to the discipline.
3. To be able to distinguish between the major perspectives (biological, psychoanalytical, behavioral, cognitive, and sociocultural) as applied to human thought and behavior.
4. To develop an understanding of the scientific methods used in psychological research.
5. To be able to apply psychological concepts to everyday life.
6. To recognize how the actions and thoughts of individuals are influenced by the social and cultural environment.
7. To gain understanding of self and others.
8. To develop a view of the complexity of human behavior from multiple perspectives.
9. To strengthen your ability to think critically about the course material.
10. Increased tolerance of ambiguity since cause-and-effect explanations of human behavior are often tentative.

## REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Quizzes:** Five online quizzes will be administered through WebCT. Due dates for the quizzes are listed below under the section entitled “Course Schedule.” You may take a quiz any time before the deadline but not after. There are no “make-up” quizzes and they will no longer be available to take after the deadline. However, don’t panic if you somehow miss a quiz because your lowest score on the quizzes will be dropped at the end of the semester. See “WebCT Quiz Guidelines” for more information.
2. **Exams:** Three exams will be administered during the course. Exams will be multiple choice and essay, and will cover both lecture and chapter assignments. A study guide will be provided for each test for the purpose of helping to focus your attention on important concepts, terms, and theories. In addition, your essay questions are given to you in advance. On the second page of the study guide, you will see the statement: “Be prepared to answer two of the following essays,” followed by 6 essay questions. You will be able to choose which two of the essays to respond to assuming that you take the exams as scheduled.

If an emergency arises that prevents class attendance on exam day, make-up exams can only be taken the week before finals. The essay questions for students taking make-up exams will be selected by the instructor. It is the student’s responsibility to make arrangements with the instructor if an exam is missed. Failure to take an exam will result in a “0” for that particular test.
3. **Monitor on Psychology Paper.** One paper is required in which you will read an article relating to a psychological study. You will then write a synopsis and an analysis of the article. The paper will not be returned so be sure to **make a copy** to keep for yourself. See the separate “Monitor on Psychology” handout for specific instructions and the “Course Schedule” below for the due date. Two points per day will be deducted from papers turned in past the due date. Thus, it would be wise to complete your paper early enough to protect against any “emergencies” that might arise (e.g., illness, family emergencies, printer problems, viruses, computer incompatibility, wild dogs eating it, etc., etc., etc.). **Do not e-mail your paper to me.** Bring it to class on or before the due date.
4. **Class Attendance and Participation.** Learning occurs best when you are actively engaged with the subject matter. Thus, demonstrations, critical thinking exercises, and group activities are built into the course to facilitate your learning. Points will be given for some of these activities and **CANNOT BE MADE UP** if you are absent, late to class, or leave during the middle of class.
5. **Withdrawal.** If you decide to drop the course, it is your responsibility to complete a drop form and turn it in at the Lee College records office prior to the *drop* deadline (see “Course Schedule” below). If you simply quit coming to class and do not complete the drop form, a grade of “F” will be received. At the instructor’s discretion, you may be dropped for nonattendance after three unexcused absences. If you arrive late to class, it is your responsibility to let the instructor know **at the end of class** that you are present. Otherwise, you will be counted as being absent.
6. **Academic Integrity.** Honest, mature, and ethical behaviors are expected in this class. Cheating on exams, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will, at minimum, result in a “0” for the assignment in question.

## GRADES:

The following guidelines will be used to determine your grade: 90 – 100% = A; 80 – 89% = B; 70 – 79% = C; 60 – 69% = D; 0 – 59% = F

### Point Assignment

Quizzes – 5 @ 15 points each = 75 (24%)

Exams – 3 @ 60 points each = 180 (58%)

Monitor Paper = 15 points (5%)

Classroom Activities = approximately 40 points (13%)

Approximate Total = 310 points (100%)

## GROUND RULES FOR CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR:

It is essential that the classroom environment is one in which attention and energy are focused on teaching and learning. Research has shown that certain behaviors can have a detrimental effect upon learning. Please be aware of the following behaviors so you can avoid engaging in them. Also know that if you decide to engage in these behaviors, it will be my responsibility to ask you to stop and/or to leave the classroom:

- Using cell phones during class [**Phones need to be turned OFF (not on vibrate). If you have an emergency pending that requires that you leave your cell phone on, come to my office before class starts and let me know.**]
- Text-messaging.
- Disrupting class with distracting noises or by having private chats with classmates.
- Arriving to class late or leaving early.
- Packing up to go 5 minutes before the end of class.
- Showing disrespect for others' opinions.
- Using tobacco products in class.
- Ball caps must be removed or worn backwards during exams.

**Students with a documented disability (to include any physical, emotional, or learning disability) may arrange accommodations only through the Disability Services Office in the Counseling Center at Lee College. Your instructor will work with this office to ensure that your rights are met. The Counselor for Students with Disabilities is Ms. JoAnn Szabo and may be reached in the Counseling Center or by calling 281-425-6384 or by e-mail at [jszabo@lee.edu](mailto:jszabo@lee.edu).**

## COURSE SCHEDULE

	Target Deadlines	
	Mon/Wed Class	Tues/Thurs Class
Quiz #1		
Syllabus		
WebCT Quiz Guidelines	Sun.,	Mon.,
Monitor Paper .....	Sept. 13	Sept. 14
Quiz #2		
Ch 1 – Introduction and Research Methods	Tues.,	Mon.,
Ch 2 – Neuroscience and Biological Foundations .....	Sept. 22	Sept. 21
Exam #1		
Ch 1 – Introduction and Research Methods		
Ch 2 – Neuroscience and Biological Foundations	Wed.,	Thurs.,
Ch 5 – Consciousness.....	Sept. 30	Oct. 1
Monitor Paper Due .....	Wed., Oct. 7	Thurs., Oct. 8
Quiz #3	Sun.	Mon.,
Ch 7 – Memory .....	Oct. 18	Oct. 19
Quiz #4	Tues.,	Wed.,
Chs 9 & 10 – Life Span Development.....	Nov. 3	Nov. 4
Exam #2		
Ch 6 – Learning		
Ch 8 – Thinking, Language, and Intelligence	Mon.,	Tues.,
Ch 11 – Motivation and Emotion.....	Nov. 9	Nov. 10
Quiz #5	Sun.,	Mon.,
Ch 14 – Therapy .....	Dec. 6	Dec. 7
Exam #3		
Ch 12 – Personality		
Ch 13 – Psychological Disorders		
Ch 15 – Social Psychology .....	See Final Exam Schedule	

Also, be aware that the drop deadline is Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup>.