

Cedar Crest College
Course Syllabus
PSYCH100 General Psychology

CLASS TIME: M 6:30-9:00 p.m.

ROOM: Curtis Hall 135

INSTRUCTOR: Wendy Bartkus, MS

E-MAIL: Wendy.Bartkus@cedarcrest.edu
professorwendyb@aim.com

AIM: professorwendyb

OFFICE HOURS:

- Before & After Class
 - By Appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the historical, theoretical and empirical foundations of the discipline of psychology. Additionally, the course introduces students to a scientific approach to understanding behavior, and explores the psychobiological and psychosocial bases of human behavior.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the completion of the course, students will:

- be familiar with the various facets of the field of psychology.
- gain an appreciation of the application of psychology to everyday life.
- become knowledgeable consumers of scientific research in the field of psychology.
- recognize the breadth and depth of the field of psychology.
- demonstrate their identification, reasoning, and understanding of psychological concepts and terms.
- recognize the interaction between psychology and other disciplines..
- be knowledgeable consumers of scientific research in the field of psychology.

TEXT BOOK

Huffman, K. (2007). **Psychology in Action 8th Ed.** New York: John Wiley and Sons.

RESOURCES

1. *eCollege* will be used as the LMS for this course. Important announcements will be posted here, so students should check in the site at least once a week. There will also be assignments available on eCollege.
2. *CCC e-mail:* If need be, students will be contacted through their CCC e-mail address. In addition, important class announcements will be sent through student CCC addresses.
3. *Student Services:* The following campus offices are valuable resources for students: Learning Center, Computer Services, Library Services, and Health Services. For more information, refer to

http://www.cedarcrest.edu/Redesign/Current%20Page/current_frameset.asp

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance

Each student will be expected to attend class on a regular basis. If it is necessary for you to miss class for an extended period of time, please notify instructor as soon as possible to discuss your situation.

Excessive absences may seriously affect your grade. Students are responsible for finding out about any missed material.

Psychology Department Attendance Policy: The Psychology Department is committed to the principle that regular and punctual class attendance is essential to the students' optimum learning and successful academic achievement. Regular class attendance is a student obligation, and students are responsible for all work, tests and written assignments. Therefore, students are expected to be present for all class sessions. The Psychology Department's attendance policy recognizes that there will be times when attendance at class is not possible. You may think of the policy as being similar to the type used in the corporate world where each employee is given a certain number of "personal/sick days." Based on the number of regularly scheduled class meetings, you will be allowed a certain number of absences (see below) with no consequences, no questions asked. In other words, there is no distinction between excused and unexcused absences. You are of course responsible for anything covered during those missed classes, and for submitting assignments on time, regardless of whether or not you attend. Beyond the allowable number of absences, there are consequences that will adversely impact your grade, much as missing too many days of work can adversely impact your employment status. Above all else, you should carefully consider each decision to not attend class, as once your allotted absences have been used, they are gone. *It is important that students arrive for class on time. Late arrivals are very distracting, not only to the instructor, but also to fellow students. Repeated late arrivals are not acceptable and will be addressed on an individual basis.* It is each student's responsibility to understand this policy and to keep track of absences throughout the semester.

Application to this Class: Formal attendance will be taken during all class sessions. This class meets once per week (14 class meetings). As such, you may miss **2 classes** without penalty. If you miss **3 classes**, your final grade (cumulative percentage of points) will be lowered by 5%. That means that if you have earned 84% of the available points in the class, which is a B grade, you would be lowered to 79%, which is a C+. Likewise, if you have earned 77% of the points available, the penalty would take you down to 72%, which is a C-. As a reminder, a C grade (73%) is required in all Psychology courses. If you miss **4 classes**, you will receive a failing grade for the course. If you miss four classes, you have missed approximately 25% of the class meetings.

2. Class Participation

The course will be valuable to all if you actively participate throughout the semester. Students are expected to read the assignments before class meets and be prepared to discuss and/or answer questions about the reading. The assignments are listed at the end of the syllabus.

3. Academic Integrity

Plagiarism and Cheating: All Cedar Crest College students are expected to be familiar with and fully supportive of the college's policy regarding the honor code and academic integrity (e.g., cheating on tests, copying other students' work, plagiarism). These rules apply to the completion of any type of homework, feedback on homework progress, and completion of exams. Any violation will be officially reported to the Provost's Office for inclusion in the student's record and will have the appropriate penalties applied.

Classroom Environment: Appropriate classroom behavior is expected and should be free from distraction (e.g., late arrivals, early departures, inappropriate conversation, cell phone use). Care must be taken to protect the rights of all students and faculty to enjoy a courteous, respectful classroom environment. See CCC's Student Guide for more information regarding the enforcement of these policies.

4. Accommodations

Students with documented disabilities who may need academic accommodations should discuss these needs with the instructor during the first two weeks of class. Students with disabilities who wish to request accommodations should contact the Advising Center.

5. Classroom Expectations

A. Instructor

- To direct course of study to introduce students to the area of Psychology
- To promote critical thinking skills
- To be available to answer questions
- To be a resource in helping the student meet course requirements

B. Student

- To follow course of study as indicated on syllabus
- To arrive ON TIME
- To attend and participate in class
- To respect all students and their opinions
- To NOT talk when others are talking OR during video presentations
- To read assignments prior to each class
- To complete and hand in assignments on time
- To notify instructor ahead of time of absence
- To ask questions about material that is not understood
- To communicate problems/concerns about class to instructor
- To turn off cell phones/beepers during class (if emergency situation, see instructor)

6. Grading

The final grade for the course will be determined as follows:

• Tests (2)	30%
• Online Discussion Posts (4)	10%
• Psychology in the News	15%
• Class Participation/Attendance	5%
• Midterm Exam	20%
• Final Exam	20%
• TOTAL	100%

GRADING SYSTEM:

A	93.0-100%	C	73.0-76.6%
A-	90.0-92.9%	C-	70.0-72.9%
B+	86.7-89.9%	D+	67.0-69.9%
B	83.4-86.6%	D	66.9-60%
B-	80.0-83.3%	F	below 60%
C+	76.7-79.9%		

- a. Tests and Exams: will consist of multiple choice questions, true-false, fill-in the blanks, and short answers. The topics to be covered on each test will be discussed in class. Students are responsible for knowing the material presented in the textbook and on the course website, even if the topic is not discussed in lecture. This information may be included on the test.

MISSED TESTS: Students are expected to be present for all tests and exams. Should a student become ill or have an emergency that prevents them from attending class on the day of the test, students must provide a written excuse in order to take a make-up exam.

- b. Discussion Boards Online: There will be four (4) Discussion Board topics on the course website. Students are required to participate in the discussions throughout the semester. The posts will be graded as follows:
- i. **Responses must be original thoughts.** If the student refers to a source (including the textbook and websites), the student must use APA style in-text citations and a works-cited section at the bottom of the post. **Each response will be checked for originality.**

- ii. Posts must be a minimum of 2 paragraphs or about 150-200 words each.
 - iii. Posts must demonstrate that students used critical thinking in answering the question or commenting on the topic.
 - iv. To receive full credit for the post, students must respond to at least one other student's post with comments and thoughts about that student's ideas.
 - v. The student's first post must be made prior to the deadline set forth in the instructor's description of the post. Assignment grades will be **deducted 5 points for each DAY (not class period) an assignment is handed in late.**
 - vi. Student responses to other posts may be made after the deadline for the original post.
- c. *Class Participation:* Attendance will be taken during each class. Students are expected to participate in class discussions by asking and answering questions. In-class activities will count toward this grade. *Class participation will make up 5% of the student's final grade for the course.*
- d. *Psychology in the News Journal:* Each student is to hand in a journal that contains five articles that demonstrate psychology in current event articles. A copy of the article along with the reference source must be included in the journal. Students are to TYPE a one page, 12-point font, double spaced reaction to the article. Some items to include in the journal entry include: How does this article show the use of a psychological principle? Is there a topic covered in the text book that may explain the phenomena discussed in the article?

7. Contacting the Instructor

In the event of an absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to find out what material was missed. You may contact the instructor by phone or e-mail. The instructor's contact information can be found at the beginning of the syllabus.

8. Cancelled Class

If the weather is inclement, students may check the college website for delay and cancellation information. The information may also be announced on the local television and radio stations (refer to website for more information).

9. How to Succeed in This Class

Students are responsible for following the course outline, for attending class, and for contacting the instructor with any questions and concerns. In addition, the following tips will help students learn about the world of Psychology and assist students with succeeding in the course:

1. Read the chapters in the text prior to class. This will help the student to follow the lecture more closely by being familiar with the topics prior to class.
2. Check the student CCC e-mail and course website several times a week for important announcements.
3. Review any additional material posted on the website (which may include notes, articles, and current events in addition to the discussion boards) prior to class.
4. Use the CD and/or website that came with the textbook. There are many interesting ways to study.
5. Visit the textbook website and take the practice tests and quizzes online weekly.
6. Do not wait until the last minute to study for tests and exams. There is a lot of information covered in this course. Students will retain the most information if studying is done in regular intervals over the course of the semester.
7. Do not hesitate to contact the instructor if you have any questions!!!!
8. If student would like to receive tutoring, do not wait until the last minute. The earlier in the semester these services are utilized, the better the chances for success!

COURSE OUTLINE FOR *General Psychology*

Subject to change at the discretion of the instructor

DATE	TOPIC
WEEK 1 August 25	Chapter 1 Introduction to Psychology
WEEK 2 September 1	No Class Happy Labor Day!!!!
WEEK 3 September 8	Chapter 2 Neuroscience
WEEK 4 September 15	Chapter 3 Health and Stress ***ONLINE Discussion #1 Due
WEEK 5 September 22	TEST 1 Chapters 1,2,3
WEEK 6 September 29	Chapter 4 Sensation and Perception Chapter 5 States of Consciousness
WEEK 7 October 6	Chapter 6 Learning
WEEK 8 October 13	NO CLASS~ Fall Break
WEEK 9 October 20	Chapter 7 Memory Chapter 8 Thinking and Intelligence ***ONLINE Discussion #2 Due
WEEK 10 October 27	MIDTERM EXAM CHAPTERS 4,5,6,7,8
WEEK 11 November 3	Chapter 9 Lifespan Development I Chapter 10 Lifespan Development II ***ONLINE Discussion #3 Due
WEEK 12 November 10	Chapter 11 Gender and Sexuality
WEEK 13 November 17	TEST 2 Chapters 9,10,11
WEEK 14 November 24	Chapter 13 Personality Chapter 14 Psychological Disorders PSYCHOLOGY IN THE NEWS ASSIGNMENT DUE!!!!
WEEK 15 December 1	Chapter 15 Therapy **ONLINE Discussion #4 Due
WEEK 16 December 8	Chapter 16 Social Psychology
FINAL EXAM TBA	FINAL EXAM

INTRO TO PSYCHOLOGY ASSIGNMENT

WJ Bartkus, Adjunct Psychology Professor

Psychology in the News Journal:

Each student is to hand in a journal that contains **FIVE** articles that demonstrate psychology in current event articles. A copy of the article along with the reference source must be included in the journal. Students are to TYPE a one page, 12-point font, double spaced reaction to the article. Some items to include in the journal entry include: How does this article show the use of a psychological principle? Is there a topic covered in the text book that may explain the phenomena discussed in the article?

- MINIMUM 1 PAGE, TYPED. You may use *either* MLA or APA style.
- IN TEXT CITATIONS MUST BE USED!
- REFERENCE LIST MUST BE INCLUDED! (There should be 6 references listed – 5 articles and your text)
- ARTICLES MUST BE HANDED IN!

Suggested Outline:

1. Paragraph 1 – Describe article *in your own words!* Do not forget to use in-text citation for ideas that are not your own!
2. Paragraph 2 – Discuss how the topic relates to psychology. You should reference the textbook in this paragraph.
3. Paragraph 3 – Discuss your thoughts on the topic.

GRADING CRITERIA

ARTICLE NUMBER	CONTENT	RELATED TO PSYCHOLOGY	GRAMMAR	REFERENCE	LENGTH
<u>POINTS</u>	5	5	4	3	3
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

***Each Article is worth a total of 20 points!**