**LEWIS AND CLARK COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**PSYC 131** - **GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY**

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**CONTACT HOURS**: I am available to meet with students before and after school.

**A. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**PSYC 131 GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY (IAI: S6 900)**

Introduces psychology as the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. Addresses the concepts and principles of psychology emphasizing the interaction of biological, sociocultural, and cognitive perspectives. Students explore the key figures, diverse theories, and research findings that have shaped the field of psychology*.* (PCS 1.1, 3 credit hours: 3 hours lecture, 0 hours lab)

**B. LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Upon successful completion of the course, a student should be able to meet the following standards:

1. Discuss the relevance of psychological principles to relationships, work, and communities in a diverse and multicultural world

2. Identify the philosophical underpinnings and historical foundations of psychology

3. Apply the scientific method, methods of research, and ethics to historical and contemporary questions in psychology

4. Examine the bidirectional relationship of physiology and brain functioning in behavior and mental processes

5. Explain the variations of consciousness

6. Apply the theories and principles of learning to behavior

7. Explain the theories and major milestones of lifespan development

8. Discuss the assessment techniques and major theories of personality

9. Describe the etiology, classification, and treatment options for major psychological disorders

10. Demonstrate effective written expression utilizing American Psychological Association (APA) style

**C. MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION**

1. Required student materials:

Text: *Presenting Psychology,* 1st Edition (Licht, Hull, & Ballantyne)

2. Optional student materials:

a. None

**E. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION**

Instructional methods in this course may include, among others, the following:

1. Discussion

2. Classroom demonstrations and workshops

3. Group activities

4. Videotape and CD ROM presentations

5. Lecture

6. Internet

**F. EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

The methods of evaluating student achievement will include, at minimum, the following:

1. Three written examinations (40 percent)

2. A written critical thinking assignment/research paper in APA style (15 percent)

3. Various assignments (25 percent)

4. A comprehensive departmental final exam (20 percent)

**Grading Scale**

A 90-100%

B 80-89%

C 70-79%

D 60-69%

F 0-59%

One or more of the six general education assessments may be included in this course: written communication, oral communication, critical thinking, teamwork skills, global awareness, and/or math reasoning.

**G. ATTENDANCE POLICY/ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY**

The attendance policies and cell phone policies of Civic Memorial High School will be followed**.**

**H. COURSE CONTENT**

The following topics are to be covered during the instructional process:

1. Introductory material

a. definitions

b. the practice and profession of psychology

c. schools of psychological thought

d. psychology and critical thinking

2. Methods of psychological research

a. experimental and correlational methods of research

b. other methods (e.g., case study, naturalistic observation, surveys, etc.)

3. Physiology and behavior

a. nervous systems

b. sensation and perception

c. stress and health

4. Developmental psychology

a. physical development

b. cognitive development

c. socio-emotional development

d. sociocultural aspects of development

5. Consciousness

a. altered states of consciousness (sleep, dreaming, drug use, etc.)

b. waking consciousness (cognition, learning, memory, intelligence)

6. Personality

a. theories and assessment of personality

b. emotion

c. motivation

7. Abnormal psychology and maladaptive behavior

a. major classifications of disorders (i.e. anxiety, mood, personality, schizophrenic, etc.)

b. specific psychological disorders and their causes

c. treatment approaches

**I. TENTATIVE LESSON PLANS**

Weeks 1 & 2: Introduction/History/Research Methods

Weeks 3 & 4: Neuroscience and Behavior

Week 5: Consciousness and Its Variations

 **Exam**

Week 6 & 7: Learning

Weeks 8: Lifespan development

Weeks 9 & 10: Personality

 **Exam**

Weeks 11 & 12: Psychological Disorders

Week 13: Therapies

Week 14: Social Psychology

**Exam**

Weeks 15: Motivation

Week 16: Memory

Weeks 17: Stress, Coping, and Health

Week 18: Reviewing for final over Introduction/History/Research Methods; Neuroscience and Behavior; Consciousness and Its Variations; Learning; Lifespan Development; Personality; Psychological Disorders; and Therapies

**(Students take a common final exam provided by LCCC)**

**J. APA STYLE RESEARCH PAPER**

Students will write an APA-format paper using sources. If this assignment is turned in late, ten points per school day will be deducted from the final grade.

**K. PLAGIARISM STATEMENT**

Assignments that have been copied from another student or another source will not be scored.  “Academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and forgery, violate the Student Conduct Code and will lead to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion”  (*LCCC Online Catalog).*

**L. WRITING HELP**

Writing assignments will adhere to the style of the American Psychological Association (APA). Visit [www.apa**style.org**](http://www.apastyle.org)or the OWL at Purdue for information on APA style.