

**LEWIS AND CLARK COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
GODFREY, ILLINOIS  
PSYC 131 - GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY  
Civic Memorial High School Dual Credit  
Fall 2021**

**Instructor:** Christiann Wiest      **Phone:** 618-377-7230  
**E-mail:** cwiest@bethalto.org      **Room:** 200

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

### **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.  
*Prerequisite: GPA of at least 3.2; senior standing.* (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

Students need to obtain the latest edition of the following textbook: *Presenting*

*Psychology*, (Licht, Hall, and Ballantyne)

Please see my Weebly page for more information on this book.

This is the link to the book on Amazon:

[https://www.amazon.com/Scientific-American-Presenting-Deborah-Licht/dp/1319094163/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=presenting+psychology&qid=1626794169&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Scientific-American-Presenting-Deborah-Licht/dp/1319094163/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=presenting+psychology&qid=1626794169&sr=8-1)

## **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 multiple-choice examinations (40 percent)
2. A written critical thinking assignment/research paper in APA style (15 percent)
3. Various assignments (20 percent)
4. Reading quizzes (25 percent)

The semester grade will be figured per CM school board policy: 40% third quarter, 40% fourth quarter; 20% final exam

The LC final exam is comprehensive and is required by the college.

### **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. **Students who are absent on the day of a scheduled exam, whether that absence is excused or unexcused, will take a different exam that will consist of short answer and essay questions, in addition to some multiple-choice items.**

## **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 PAPERS**

Students will write APA-format papers using sources.

## **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.apastyle.org](http://www.apastyle.org) or the OWL at Purdue for information on APA style.