General Psychology

PSYC-2301

Meeting Times

This is a fully ONLINE course

Contact Information

Instructor: Anna M. Evans, M.S.

Contact: Office (NVC LOH 306P) Phone: 486-4789; Email: aevans84@alamo.edu

Office hours: MW 11am-3pm TR 2pm-3pm

Materials

Textbook: FIRST, signup for a NOBA account at http://nobaproject.com/(Links to an external site.). Signing up for a NOBA account is a fast, easy, and FREE process. You must have a NOBA account and be LOGGED INTO your account to access the textbook and additional chapters of material that we will be covering in this class.

SECOND, you now have access to Northwest Vista College’s NOBA psychology textbook through the following link: http://noba.to/kuzd9862 (Links to an external site.)

Remember, account set-up and LOG IN is necessary for access to the textbook and additional chapters.

You can access chapters beyond the NVC NOBA psychology textbook by going to nobaproject.com, clicking on “Browse”, and scrolling through the literally hundreds of chapters and topics. Your instructor MAY BE using chapters beyond the chapters provided in the Northwest Vista College’s NOBA psychology textbook.

And yes, we really do use this textbook extensively in this class.

Description

Survey of major topics in psychology. Introduces the study of behavior and the factors that determine and affect behavior and mental processes. This course fulfills the Social and Behavioral Sciences foundational component area of the core and addresses the following required objectives: Critical Thinking, Communication, Empirical Quantitative Skills, and Social Responsibility.

Prerequisite(s)

INRW 0420

Objectives

Our college’s commitment to you goes beyond individual course content. To this end, you will have the opportunity to develop and expand your attitudes, skills, and knowledge. At course completion, you will have been exposed to and be able to discuss an overview of the science of psychology. Additionally, you will experience a growth in your desire for lifelong learning, and an increase in your ability to communicate & work with others effectively. Lastly, you will gain a better understanding about what truth is and what truth is not.
Outcomes

1. Identify various research methods and their characteristics used in the scientific study of psychology.
2. Identify the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology.
3. Identify some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology.
4. Identify terminology unique to the study of psychology.
5. Identify accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation.
6. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior.

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Students who complete this course should develop the following skills:

*Psychological Knowledge*

1) Students will be able to define psychology in their own words.
2) Students will be able to describe the theories that attempt to explain behaviors and mental processes and the theorists who came up with them.
3) Students will be able to apply the processes of acquiring psychological data (including how studies are done, how to differentiate between good and bad research, how to think critically about research, and the ethics of research).
4) Students will be able to apply their psychological learning to their current and previous experiences.
5) Students will apply their knowledge of upcoming research within psychology, most notably in positive psychology.

The overarching goal of this course is to help students apply psychology to most (if not all) aspects of daily life since psychological knowledge can be useful for everyone.

*Learning Skills*

6) Students should increase their ability to search for and identify sound psychological evidence from Internet and print resources.
7) Students should increase their abilities to think critically about important issues addressed in this and other classes.
8) Students should increase their abilities to follow directions and meet deadlines.
9) Students should hone their oral and written communication skills.
10) Students will be able to utilize reading and note-taking skills gained from the course to practice and utilize their study and learning skills.

Evaluation

OVERALL GRADING based on:
Participation (15% of overall grade)
Discussions (15% of overall grade)
Celebrations (25% of overall grade)
Introspections (20% of overall grade)

Final Exam (25% of overall grade)

Grades

A = 100% - 90%
B = 89% - 80%
C = 79% - 70%
D = 69% - 60%
F < 60%

Class Participation: First things first!! Everyone likes easy grades and I will tell you how you can earn an easy grade! Simply participate in the class. You have the opportunity to earn 100 percent credit for being present at the beginning of class and 100 percent credit for fully participating. Yay!! Isn’t this Awesome!! Well you are probably asking, how do I earn these grades? I am glad you asked. You simply have to log on three times a week and actively participate. "What do I have to do to earn my participation grade?” Glad you asked! Read the assigned material, answer the Discussion Board question(s) for the week, and respond to at least one other student unless otherwise specified. You are required to participate in weekly discussions. Most discussions will be posted on a Sunday (11:59pm) and removed by Sunday, 11:59pm; therefore, you will have roughly 7 days to submit your post. *See course Discussion requirements for details on original posting and reply posting due dates. Given the nature of this particular course, it is extremely important that students be respectful and cognizant of their communication with their peers and the online community as a whole. We will be covering and discussing sensitive topics, so it is crucial that we are all mindful of how our words and feedback may affect others.

Course Policies

Time Commitment: Students are expected to acclimate to the somewhat self-paced online environment by taking on the responsibility of keeping track of upcoming assignments, discussions, etc. In order to be successful in this course, please plan to log in at least 3 times per week. Plan to spend approximately 10-15 hours per week completing readings, assignments, and activities. It is recommended that you print out the course schedule and view it frequently over the course of the semester. It is also recommended that students are familiar with Canvas and are able to demonstrate writing, communication, and research skills. It is required that you have access to a computer with a reliable internet connection, speakers/headphones, and word processing software. For useful videos and guides geared to increase your familiarity with Canvas, please refer to the Resources Tab located on the top navigation pane.

• Please note that if you are first time online student, you should be enrolled in an Orientation to Online Learning via Canvas.
• Student participation includes taking part in all activities, not simply logging in. Academic dishonesty (i.e. having another individual take an exam for you or attempting to pass someone else’s work off as your own, etc..) and/ or plagiarism may lead to removal from the course and a subsequent "F." Further institutional penalties may apply, as well. Please note that copying and pasting from a source is considered plagiarism, unless you use direct quotations and cite your source properly. Within this course, you will be expected to paraphrase (summarize using your own words), use quotations sparingly, and ALWAYS provide citations and references in APA format. • All assignments and discussion posts must be received by the designated due date.

Late Work Policy: No work in this course may be submitted late. A zero will be posted for missed work.

Drop Date: Students may drop this class by the census date, Wednesday, September 7; without academic penalty. A “W” will appear on your record if you drop after this date and before the last day to withdraw, Friday, November 11. Review the academic calendar http://mynvccatalog.alamo.edu/content.php?catoid=121&navoid=6365#Fa16
**Date, Topics, and Readings for this semester (Readings are from the nobaproject website):** (*assignment details and due dates are posted in Canvas*)

**Week of:**

**Aug 22:** Introductions & Course Orientation Module

**Aug 29:** History of Psychology
http://nobaproject.com/textbooks/nvc-psychology-department-new-textbook/chapters/history-of-psychology

**Sep 5:** Why Science?
http://nobaproject.com/chapters/why-science

**Prepare and Submit, Introspection Part 1: *Who Am I?* due Sep 11**

**Sep 12:** Research Designs
http://nobaproject.com/textbooks/nvc-psychology-department-new-textbook/chapters/research-designs

**Sep 19:** The Brain and the Nervous System
http://nobaproject.com/textbooks/nvc-psychology-department-new-textbook/chapters/neurons

**Sep 26:** Vision, Hearing, Multi-Modal Perception
http://nobaproject.com/textbooks/nvc-psychology-department-new-textbook/chapters/vision
http://nobaproject.com/textbooks/nvc-psychology-department-new-textbook/chapters/hearing
http://nobaproject.com/textbooks/nvc-psychology-department-new-textbook/chapters/multi-modal-perception

**Oct 3:** Consciousness
http://nobaproject.com/textbooks/nvc-psychology-department-new-textbook/chapters/consciousness

**Prepare and Submit, Introspection Part 2: *Me is Me, but This Changed Me* – due Oct 9**

**Oct 10:** The Unconscious
http://nobaproject.com/modules/the-unconscious

**Oct 17:** Conditioning and Learning

**Oct 24:** Memory
http://nobaproject.com/textbooks/nvc-psychology-department-new-textbook/chapters/memory-encoding-storage-retrieval

**Oct 31:** Psychological Disorders and Treatments
http://nobaproject.com/textbooks/nvc-psychology-department-new-textbook/chapters/history-of-mental-illness

**Nov 1:** Psychology Day on campus @ Lago Vista

**Nov 7:** Psychological Disorders and Treatments

**Nov 14:** Psychological Disorders and Treatments
Nov 21: THANKSGIVING WEEK

**Prepare & Submit, Introspection Part 3: I Like Me, but I'd Like to Change this about Me due Nov 27

Nov 28: Psychological Disorders and Treatments

Dec 5: Final Exam

**Schedule is subject to change

### Additional Items

The Northwest Vista College Psychology department has a variety of opportunities for students interested in psychology in general and its psychology majors in particular.

Please ask your instructor for the details about any one or more of these opportunities:

- Northwest Vista College’s Annual Psychology Day
- Northwest Vista College’s Annual Psychology Department Scholarship
- Psi Beta, an honor society for psychology majors at two-year colleges
- Northwest Vista College’s Psychology Club
- Northwest Vista College’s Psychology Department Lecture Series
- Scientific research opportunities at the annual meetings of the Southwestern Psychological Association

### Institutional Policies

#### STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

**A. Attendance:**

Effective Spring Term 2010, student absences will be recorded from the first day the class meets. Regular and punctual attendance in all classes and laboratories, day and evening, is required. Students who are absent for any reason should always consult with their instructors. Course syllabi must provide specific information regarding attendance, including, for courses involving the internet, online activity that constitutes “attendance.” Also, both tardiness and early departure from class may be considered forms of absenteeism. In all cases, students will be held responsible for completion of course requirements covered in their absence.

Additionally, it is the student’s responsibility to drop a course for nonattendance. Course instructors establish policy with regard to attendance in their respective syllabi and may drop a student for excessive absences. Absences are considered excessive when more than 12.5 percent of the total contact hours of instruction in a semester, including lecture and lab, are missed. For example, in a three-credit-hour lecture class, students may be dropped after more than six contact hours of absences. In a four-credit-hour lecture/lab class, students may be dropped after more than eight contact hours of absences. Absences are counted regardless of whether they occur consecutively.

In special programs with additional accreditation or certification standards, additional attendance requirements may be enforced but faculty must clearly explain these policies in their syllabi. Students who stop attending class for any reason should contact the instructor and the college registrar to officially withdraw from the class. Students may be required to consult with an advisor or designee before dropping.
Failure to officially withdraw may result in a failing grade for the course. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw officially from a class by submitting a completed Withdrawal Form to the Admissions and Records Office.

B. Early Alert and Intervention

Alamo College instructors care about students' success in every course. During the semester, students may receive alert emails through the ACES account regarding their progress and ultimate success in a course. Upon receipt of the email, students are to contact the course instructor to discuss specific tasks or actions to improve success in this course. In addition, students will also need to meet with their Certified Advisor. Discussions with faculty and Certified Advisors allows the student to identify actions that will help to successfully complete course requirements at Alamo Colleges.

C. Student Responsibility for Success (Alamo Colleges Policy F.6.2):

As members of the Alamo Colleges learning community, students, faculty, staff and administrators all share the responsibility to create an atmosphere where knowledge, integrity, truth, and academic honesty are valued and expected. A clear acknowledgment of the mutual obligations of all members of the academic community emphasizes this implicit partnership in fostering the conditions necessary for student success.

In this relationship, the Alamo Colleges provides institutional policies, procedures, and opportunities to facilitate student learning that encourage interaction, involvement and responsible participation. Inherent in the academic climate is the expectation that students will assume responsibility for contributing to their own development and learning. Academic success is directly tied to the effort students put into their studies, the degree to which they interact with faculty and peers, and the extent to which students integrate into the campus life.

1. Engagement

1. Create connections and build relationships with faculty, staff and students (visit during office hours, join clubs and organizations, participate in student activities, etc.);
2. Stay informed of policies, procedures, deadlines and events for academic and co-curricular activities;
3. Complete all requirements for admission, registration, and payment by deadlines;
4. Apply for financial assistance, if needed, complying with all federal, state and local regulations and procedures;
5. Meet all federal, state and local health care regulations.

2. Communication

1. Seek guidance from faculty, advisors or counselors for questions and concerns in regards to degree plans, major selection, academic status, grades, and issues impacting college success;
2. Develop a peer support system to identify student contacts for questions, group assignments, etc. regarding academic and co-curricular activities;
3. Communicate with College personnel promptly regarding academic or co-curricular concerns and assistance requests;
4. Carefully consider the information provided by College personnel and make decisions using that information;
5. Check the Alamo Colleges' Web Services regularly for emails, holds, student records, financial aid status and announcements;
6. Submit disability documentation if seeking services and request academic accommodations in advance of each semester.

3. Academic Success

1. Complete courses with passing grades and maintain good academic standing (2.0 GPA) status;
2. Read and follow all syllabi;
3. Purchase textbooks and required supplies in a timely manner;
4. Attend classes regularly and on time, with as few absences, late arrivals, and early exits as possible;
5. Arrive to class with all needed materials and completed assignments for that class period;
6. Be attentive in class and actively participate as appropriate;
7. Devote sufficient time for studying;
8. Ensure integrity in all aspects of academic and career development;
9. Accurately represent one's own work and that of others used in creating academic assignments. Use information ethically and exercise appropriate caution to avoid plagiarism on all assignments;
10. Notify faculty in advance or as soon as possible about absences and provide documentation as appropriate;
11. Consult faculty members in advance when unable to complete projects, assignments, or take examinations as scheduled.
4. Self-Responsibility and Responsibility to Others

1. Maintain accurate and complete degree/certificate major selection and contact information including name, address, phone number and emergency contact;
2. Balance personal obligations and educational pursuits. Work with a counselor / advisor to design a realistic schedule that dedicates adequate effort to be successful in college studies;
3. Know and follow the regulations and guidelines outlined in the Student Code of Conduct and Student Handbook;
4. Maintain respectful and appropriate behavior within and outside the classroom;
5. Ask for help when needed. Use all available resources and facilities provided by the College to enhance the learning experience;
6. Attend scheduled advising sessions, tutorials, and other appointments. Cancel or reschedule only with good reasons as early as possible;
7. Arrive prepared for tutorial sessions, bringing all needed materials (books, syllabi, rough drafts, calculators, assignment sheets, etc.).

D. Textbook Availability

A student of this institution is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from a university-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS:

While other exams are given at the discretion of the instructor, a final assessment is given at the end of each semester for each course. The Final Exam Schedule changes with each term and differs from normal class meeting dates and times. See the Final Exam Schedule in the Catalog/Schedule of Classes in the left hand navigation bar.

A student who must be absent from a final evaluation should petition that instructor for permission to postpone the evaluation. A student absent without permission from a final evaluation is graded “0” on the exam.

Incomplete Grades. The conditional grade of “I” may be issued to a student having a passing average on all completed coursework but for a justified reason, such as illness or death in the family or by providential hindrance, has been prevented from taking the final examination or completing other required coursework. The “I” becomes an “F” in one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the end of the term unless the student completes the balance of the coursework with a performance grade of “D” or higher. Re-enrollment in the course will not resolve the “I.” The student and faculty must fill out an Incomplete Contract, clearly defining the work remaining to be finished.

College Policies

COLLEGE POLICIES:

A. All of the Alamo Colleges are tobacco free.

B. Alamo Colleges DPS Emergency Phone Numbers:
   
   Emergency Phone (210) 485-0911
   
   General Phone (210) 485-0099
   
   Weather Phone (210) 485-0189 (For information on college closures)

C. Students are required to silence all electronic devices (e.g., pagers, cellular phones, etc.) when in classrooms, laboratories and the library.

D. Disability Access Statement – In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, it is the responsibility of the student to self-identify with the campus Disability Services office. Only those students with appropriate documentation will receive a letter of accommodation from the Disability Services office. Instructors are required to follow only those accommodation and/or services outlined in the letter of accommodation. For further information, please contact the Disability Services office at (210) 486-4466 or visit the office located in the Cypress Campus Center, Rm. 204. If you have specific needs, please discuss them privately with your instructor.
E. Plagiarism Policy: Plagiarism occurs when you use someone else's work and submit it as your own without giving the author credit. Always paraphrase, completely re-write, quote, and cite other authors' work. In addition, it is academic dishonesty to resubmit your own work from a previous course to another course. This is not permitted in this course. To prevent plagiarism and academic dishonesty from happening in this course, your written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin upon submission in Canvas. In addition, any work posted in this course (i.e., on the discussion board) is subject to instructor submission on turnitin.com. Turnitin checks your work against Internet, journal, and other work that has been submitted. To learn more about plagiarism, and other forms of academic integrity violations, review the Northwest Vista College's Academic Integrity website (see below). You are responsible for understanding and will be held accountable for the information in this policy. Plagiarized work will receive a zero. More than one occurrence may result in a failing grade in this course.

F. The Value of Integrity: Northwest Vista College seeks to produce graduates who not only have an academic mastery of their subject, but also exhibit academic integrity and scholastic honesty. Academic integrity violations include the sale of academic product, academic enticement or influence, academic misconduct, cheating, fabrication, collusion, and plagiarism. Penalties for academic dishonesty are serious and range from failing to expulsion. Please read the complete set of policies and procedures regarding academic integrity at http://mynvccatalog.alamo.edu/content.php?catoid=108&navoid=5148

G. Policy information regarding Non-Academic Misconduct can be found in Board Policy F.4.2.

H. Information and policy regarding Title IX, Civil Rights Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation can be found in Board Policy H.1.2.