

ONLINE PSYC 2301 ~ COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Name	Online Introduction to Psychology	Semester & Year	Fall 2009
Catalog Description	An introduction to the scientific study of human and animal behavior, with the emphasis on the basic process of learning, perception, motivation, emotion, personality, and adjustment		
Class Warnings	<p>PLAIGARISM WARNING: This is now the first warning of the class – as this has become a huge problem. On discussion boards, students think it is okay to copy and paste information from a website instead of giving their own work. Because this is becoming such a HUGE problem, I am cracking down on it starting this semester. Anything that you write that is NOT your words *MUST* be in quotes and have a parenthetical citation (meaning the site you got it from in parenthesis) – for instance: “Disorders include bipolar, schizophrenic and manic” (www.webmd.com). Your final paper will be submitted through turnitin.com – and any instance of intentional plagiarism will be referred to the dean.</p> <p>Plagiarism will IMMEDIATELY be referred to my dean and could get you kicked out of college. If you cheat, you will be caught. I caught 8 students last spring. That is why I am taking proactive measures. You cheat in online classes – you get to deal with the higher ups at the college. No questions asked. I will catch you if you do it. ANGEL has tools integrated with Turnitin.com which scans all message board posts, labs and papers for exact word matches with Google. Imagine me Google searching every sentence of your paper looking to see if it is a match – ANGEL does this for me.</p> <p>EMAIL WARNING – Make sure your email address is CORRECT in ANGEL. When I send out emails to you in ANGEL – it will send a copy of the email to your personal email address. If your personal email address is wrong – you won’t get the email. I always send out reminder emails on Sunday and Tuesday so be expecting them.</p> <p>MINIMUM GRADE WARNING – Most of the guidelines you see listed in here are minimums. Minimum effort, defined by me, is the bare minimum effort you have to put forward to pass the particular assignment. Do not consider the minimums to be guidelines for an A. The listed standards are AVERAGE standards – and average as defined in the college code of conduct is a “C”.</p> <p>WARNING ABOUT WARNINGS – Overall, this class is fun and enjoyable for most people. The warnings are meant for a certain type of student who is looking for an easy experience. You know who you are. The rest of you will enjoy this class, and the “scary” part of the warning does not apply to you. It consistently gets top tier ratings from students in student evaluations.</p>		

	<p>ONCE EVERY SO OFTEN LOG-IN WARNING – I will be designing this class to not be able to have you log in once a deadline and succeed. I will track log-ins, and if you do not log in for an extended time, it will be as if you were absent that long, and it could affect your financial aid as I will happily turn you in as a non-attending student. You should log in and participate and do something active at least once a week if not more. This is a very important aspect of the class. If you log in just at deadlines – I will report you to financial aid as a non-attending student.</p> <p>MYSFACE/FACEBOOK WARNING – Feel free to add me to your MySpace or Facebook. Although you won't get extra credit for making me your top friend, it sure makes me feel better! ☺ Some students like to stalk their teachers. Go for it, I say! However, if you are mean to the lovely Mrs. Diggs for any reason – then that might put me in a bad mood!</p>		
<i>Instructor's Name & Office #</i>	Matt Diggs Virtual Office Space	<i>Office Phone # & Fax #</i>	214-999-0215 (Cell)
<i>Instructor's Office Hours</i>	As needed online	<i>E-Mail Address</i>	mdiggs@nctc.edu
<i>Required Texts & Material</i>	<p><i>Exploring Psychology</i>, 7th ed. Myers. Worth Publishing. ISBN: 1-4292-0767-1</p> <p>You do not need any CD's, study guides or other ancillaries associated with the book. Buying them may give you an advantage in studying and achieving a good grade; however, it is certainly not needed and required. All that is required is the noted textbook.</p> <p>The 15 quizzes are from test banks associated with that book with that edition. Any deviation from the noted book will not be applicable for quiz challenges. Also – quizzes may have different or updated answers with information from the newer book vs. an older book.</p> <p>As college students, I expect you to be adults, but I highly suggest getting the required textbook. Not buying the noted book and edition could result in bad quiz grades – which is 60% of the overall grade for the course. Ultimately, you are adults and you have to weigh the pros and cons of getting a cheaper textbook. This book has been around for two years so it should be pretty cheap.</p>		

<p>Learning Outcomes</p>	<p>Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Identify historical and current theories in the field of psychology. 2) Describe and list the strengths and weaknesses of scientific method of research. 3) Identify and define the basic structures and functions of the nervous system, and explain its effects on behavior and mental processes. 4) Explain the basic differences between sensation and perception. 5) Identify and describe the various states of consciousness. 6) Compare and contrast the basic principles and procedures of learning theories. 7) Define and describe types of memory and forgetting processes. 8) Identify the theories of intelligence. 9) Describe and explain process of language acquisition. 10) Define motivation & emotion. Explain their role in decision making. 11) Describe the major stages of development from conception through adulthood. 12) Differentiate between the major theories of personality development (e.g., Psychoanalysis, Humanistic, Trait, etc.). 13) Explain connections between stress and health. Appraise various coping strategies. 14) Identify psychological disorders. Describe key factors involved in their assessment and treatment. 15) Research and compose an essay assignment/argument using proper grammar/English and basic computer skills.
<p>Grading Policy & Procedures</p>	<p>This class is graded in a 1000 point scale. The following letter grades correspond to the letters.</p> <p>A = 895 to 1000 B = 795 to 894 C = 695 to 794 D = 595 to 694 F = 594 and Under</p> <p>I adhere strictly to these grades. There are significant built in extra credit opportunities, so I feel that I do not need to give additional extra credit or additional points. I will give an 894 a B – no exceptions! Do the extra credit and work hard to make sure you do not need any extra points.</p> <p>The class has four major components to it – they are diverse in order to help you succeed. If I have a class with 100% A’s because students are willing to work, then I will take the wrath of management – but I will give 100% A’s. This class is built to where if you want an A – and you’re willing to work for it – you can get it. If you’re not willing to work, you will likely drop or fail.</p> <p>Quizzes – 60% of the grade (600 points total)</p> <p>The textbook has 15 chapters – you will have 15 chapter quizzes. Each chapter quiz is open book and you have 20 minutes to do 20 questions. You can take each quiz as many times as you wish, but YOU MAY NOT go to the next chapter until you’ve achieved at least one grade of a 60. There is a locking system in place to not even open up the next quiz until you get a 60 at least once!</p>

Your grade will be the **average of attempts**. Your average is when you take all of your grades and add them up, and then divide them by the number of times you took the quiz. For instance, if your quiz grades were 30, 40, 50, 60, and 70 – Your average is a 50.

Each chapter has a 150-250 question bank in which it pulls 20 random questions. 20 minutes is PLENTY of time if you are prepared for the quiz. The purpose of allowing it to be open book is NOT to allow you to NOT study before you take the quiz, but if the test bank gives you an obscure question, for you to be able to look it up. In any given 20 question test, there may be 3-4 obscure questions. Therefore, you could finish 15 questions in 6-8 minutes and use the remaining 12-14 minutes to look up the other 5 questions.

Also, this is guaranteed to get you to succeed. You guarantee your own grade and your own success. The process of looking up what you don't know in the book will actually make you learn something because you are forced to use the book.

This should be a great grade for everyone – because you can take it as many times as you want until you get whatever grade YOU choose to get. It will average all your grades. So if you get a 30, 100, 50, 80, 100, 80, 90, 100, 100 – you will get to average all those grades and get your grade of an 80. (Which is much better than your initial 30)

Check out the calendar to see when the quiz deadlines are. If you miss a deadline – you will get a 0 on the quiz AND you STILL HAVE TO TAKE THE QUIZ – to get a quiz grade of 60 once just to unlock the quizzes and get caught up. There is no benefit in not doing the quizzes before the stated deadlines.

The quizzes will unlock immediately – and you can tell if the next quiz is unlocked by the missing “lock” icon next to the picture.

Term Paper – 30% of the grade (300 total points)

The term paper is a major part of your class. This paper answers the question, “What have I truly learned from this class?” Because of the personal nature of this assignment, there is a research paper you can do in place of the term paper.

Personal Psychoanalysis or Emerging Adulthood Paper

Although I highly recommend the personal psychoanalysis – 2 or 3 people throughout my offering of the class (and the paper) have found it invasive and did not feel comfortable writing the paper – so I am offering an alternative research paper that is a little longer and a little tougher graded, but at least offers an alternative for those that do not wish to go into great detail about themselves. The Personal Psychoanalysis is one of the last things that should be done. Go through the table of contents – did a concept ring true to you? Did it make you say “That’s me!” or “I’m completely different from that!”

That is what this paper is about. You should write the paper using the book as a guide. This paper should not be ALL NEGATIVE! There can be great things about you that the book talks about – for instance, if you don't smoke – that's a great thing! The book talks about all the dangers of smoking – you can talk about how you making a decision not to smoke has saved you what those

dangers are. You can discuss parenting styles and it doesn't have to be negative. Of course, if there are bad things, you can mention them as well – but a lot of people have felt you have to talk about being abused or being hurt for this paper – and it's not true at all. This is a MINIMUM of 2000 word paper using the book at least 8-10 times. More guidelines can be found in the paper folder. Most good papers are closer to 3000 words.

Emerging Adulthood is something that the textbook does not talk about – but more than ever, we really see it is upon us. The theory of Emerging Adulthood is that when we turn 18 – we do not become adults. We maybe don't even deserve adult privileges at 18. There is a time of growth between ages 18 and 25 (or 27, depending on what you read) – that is unique and new. You will write a 2500 word MINIMUM paper with 7-10 outside resources (since it is not discussed at all in the book) – summarizing and describing what the theory of emerging adulthood is all about from a developmental, emotional, cognitive and social perspective. You should take the book and write about as many different topics as it relates to the book to the concept of emerging adulthood. It should talk about biological changes, sensation, perception, learning, memory, drugs, intelligence, motivation, emotions, development, personality, disorders, therapies and much more. Most “A” papers are closer to 3500-4000 words.

It is sad that I have had to do this, but since students try to argue so much about what a “page” is while manipulating font/margins to try to make their paper longer, I have changed the requirement to words.

For every word under 2000 words, you lose that percentage of the grade. (You write 1800 words, you immediately lose 10% of the grade) For the Emerging Adulthood paper, any paper turned in short of 2500 words will also have the same deductions. After the mandatory deduction, then the grade on the content will be given, and you will lose points on top of that. For instance, let's say you write a 1200 word “C” paper on the personal psychoanalysis. You would get a 175 out of 250 – then lose 100 points for only having 1200 words (40% of the required work). Your final grade would be a 75.

Paper Preparation – 5% of the grade (50 total points)

At two points in the semester – there will be “checkpoints” which you will be compelled to turn in part of your paper. Most students have traditionally worked on the paper the last week of the semester. This bucket of points does not allow you to do that anymore.

There will be two 25 point assignments.

The first assignment is simply a list of ten things. You are to go through the table of contents and find ten concepts or theories that relate to your life or that you would like to talk about in your paper. You are not locked into using these concepts or theories in your final paper – but it at least gets you thinking about how you are going to integrate the textbook into the paper. (If you are doing the emerging adulthood paper – you are to come up with a list of 5 journal articles with APA citations to be submitted – that all deal with emerging adulthood)

The second assignment is simply a rough draft of your paper. It can be a thorough outline. It can be the first page of your paper – whatever you want it to be – as long as it is 500 words. This will be due at the second paper deadline as

noted in the calendar. The assignment is the same regardless of the paper that you are writing.

These two assignments are completion based grades. You do them on time – you get the points. You don't do them on time – you don't get the points. It will also get you a little practice in how to turn in assignments. Assignments should be submitted in a word document and uploaded in one file.

APA Format Project – 5% of the grade (50 total points)

APA format is an important part of all psychology classes – today and in the future. I have provided some information about APA format. This assignment will be due at the same time as the first part of the paper preparation – so that week will have a little more work involved – so plan accordingly.

The final paper does not have to be in APA format unless you choose the research option. If you choose to do the personal psychoanalysis – you can earn additional ten points for 100% accurately doing the paper in APA format. This includes a running head, margins, font, citations, abstract page, title page and references page all included and in the specified format. When doing research – you may note that there is a 6th edition of the APA out recently. You may do your work in the 5th edition or the 6th edition.

You can only take the quiz one time – and is worth 50 total points. Make sure you read all of the information before attempting the quiz.

Extra Credit Discussion Questions – Up to 7.5% bonus (75 total points)

This is basically my playground to do what I want to do in the class. I will randomly assign questions and projects in here. If you want to do them and get points, you can – if you don't, you don't have to – it is as simple as that. There will also be two guaranteed extra credit questions. The first one will be an introduction and the second one will be a course wrap-up. The rest of them will be variable. It could be a one day extra credit, an 8 hour extra credit, a 5 day extra credit. You just don't know. You should check in often as you never know when one will pop up!

MANDATORY CLASS ORIENTATION

Every student to start the graded work in the class has to complete an orientation quiz. I am assuming all students have passed the ANGEL quiz – but if this is your first online class – you may have to take a NCTC class called “Intro to Online Education.” The ANGEL quiz will take about an hour of time. My orientation will also take about an hour of time.

The way the locking mechanisms work in the course is that the first quiz will not open until you've earned a 100 on the orientation. In essence – no orientation quiz, no class.

Class starts the first day – not doing the orientation is the equivalent of not showing up to your first three or four classes. If you have not done the orientation quiz by census date – you will be marked as a non-attending student.

Learning Outcomes Matrix (For the Department)

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Learning Outcomes Assessed</u>
Chapter 1 Quiz	1, 2
Chapter 2 Quiz	3
Chapter 3 Quiz	10
Chapter 4 Quiz	10
Chapter 5 Quiz	4
Chapter 6 Quiz	5
Chapter 7 Quiz	6
Chapter 8 Quiz	7
Chapter 9 Quiz	8-9
Chapter 10 Quiz	10
Chapter 11 Quiz	10, 13
Chapter 12 Quiz	12
Chapter 13 Quiz	14
Chapter 14 Quiz	14
Chapter 15 Quiz	None
APA Mechanics Quiz	15
Term Paper – Personal Psycho-Analysis	1-15
Term Paper – Emerging Adulthood	1-15

The typical way to do a chapter is to:

- A) Read the chapter
- B) Watch the video (optional)
- C) Read the lecture notes
- D) Do the quiz for the first time
- E) Note how the chapter can be related to your life (for final paper)
- F) Get the Quiz Grade up to your standards

This is a modified self-paced class, so you will find that everything is open from day #1 – I encourage you if/when you have the opportunity to get ahead! This is NOT a class where you can get behind.

This is also not a class where you can do everything the day of the deadline. You will find yourself failing miserably if you try to do that. You have been warned over and over about this.

*Tentative Calendar
(Subject to Change
w/o Notice)*

Week 1: Monday, August 24th through Monday, August 31st

Orientation Quiz, Chapter 1 Quiz, Extra Credit Discussion Board (ECDB) #1

Deadline #1: Monday night, August 31st at 11:59pm – Orientation Quiz Due

Week 2: Tuesday, September 1st through Monday, September 7th

Chapter 2 Quiz, ECDB #2 (Optional)

Week 3: Tuesday, September 8th through Monday, September 14th

Chapter 3 Quiz, ECDB #3 (Optional)

Deadline #2: Monday night, September 14th at 11:59pm

You must have completed Chapter 1, Chapter 2 and Chapter 3 quizzes by this date or you will receive a 0 for the quizzes – but you'll still have to take them to qualify to do other quizzes – so it is in your best interest to do them on time.

Week 4: Tuesday, September 15th through Monday, September 21st

Chapter 4 Quiz, ECDB #4 (Optional)

Week 5: Tuesday, September 22nd through Monday, September 28th

Chapter 5 Quiz, ECDB #5 (Optional)

Week 6: Tuesday, September 29th through Monday, October 5th

Chapter 6 Quiz, ECDB #6 (Optional)

Deadline #3: Monday night, October 5th at 11:59pm

You must have completed Chapter 4, Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 quizzes by this date or you will receive a 0 for the quizzes – but you'll still have to take them to qualify to do other quizzes – so it is in your best interest to do them on time.

Week 7: Tuesday, October 6th through Monday, October 12th

Chapter 7 Quiz, ECDB #7 (Optional)

Week 8: Tuesday, October 13th through Monday, October 19th

Chapter 8 Quiz, ECDB #8 (Optional)

Week 9: Tuesday, October 20th through Monday, October 26th

Chapter 9 Quiz, ECDB #9 (Optional), APA Formatting Quiz, Paper Prep #1

Deadline #4: Monday night, October 26th at 11:59pm

You must have completed Chapter 7, Chapter 8 and Chapter 9 quizzes by this date or you will receive a 0 for the quizzes – but you'll still have to take them to qualify to do other quizzes – so it is in your best interest to do them on time. Also, the APA formatting quiz (can only be attempted once) is due by this deadline (can be done at anytime in the class – it is an independent unit) and the Paper Prep #1 must be uploaded to the proper assignment dropbox – it is NOT emailed to me.

Week 10: Tuesday, October 27th through Monday, November 2nd

Chapter 10 Quiz, ECDB #10 (Optional)

Week 11: Tuesday, November 3rd through Monday, November 9th

Chapter 11 Quiz, ECDB #11 (Optional)

Week 12: Tuesday, November 10th through Monday, November 16th

Chapter 12 Quiz, ECDB #12 (Optional)

Deadline #5: Monday night, November 16th at 11:59pm

You must have completed Chapter 10, Chapter 11 and Chapter 12 quizzes by this date or you will receive a 0 for the quizzes – but you'll still have to take them to qualify to do other quizzes – so it is in your best interest to do them on time. The Paper Prep #2 must be uploaded to the proper assignment dropbox by this deadline. It is NOT emailed to me.

Week 13: Tuesday, November 17th through Monday, November 23rd

Chapter 13 Quiz, ECDB #13 (Optional)

Week 14: Tuesday, November 24th through Monday, November 30th

Chapter 14 Quiz, ECDB #14 (Optional)

Week 15: Tuesday, December 1st through Monday, December 7th

Chapter 15 Quiz, ECDB #15 (Optional)

Deadline #6: Monday night, December 7th at 11:59pm

You must have completed Chapter 13, Chapter 14 and Chapter 15 quizzes by this date or you will receive a 0 for the quizzes – but you'll still have to take them to qualify to do other quizzes – so it is in your best interest to do them on time. The Final Paper must be uploaded to the proper assignment dropbox by this deadline. It is NOT emailed to me.

Week 16: Tuesday, December 8th through Thursday, December 10th

Retake quizzes – earn the letter grade you wish to earn, ECDB #16 (Optional)

Final deadline: Thursday, December 10th at 11:59pm

I am hoping to have your final papers graded by Tuesday or Wednesday night. You can then ensure you have earned the grade that you wish to have. The course ends on Thursday night at 11:59pm.

**** Note **** - I will try to have all papers graded within 24 hours of submission – so turning it in early is to your benefit, but I feel no guilt about giving B's to people who get an 89 or C's to people who get a 79 and choose not to use the final days to improve their quiz grades.

Attendance Policy	This is a complete online course, therefore attendance is not kept. Last year in fall courses, the students that received A's were most likely to log on daily.
ADA Statement	<p>ADA Statement:</p> <p>North Central Texas College does not discriminate on the basis of disability for admission or access to its programs. The College is committed to providing equal access to its students with disabilities by providing appropriate accommodations.</p> <p>The ACCESS Program provides accommodations for students who have a documented disability. A disability is anything that can interfere with learning, such as a learning disability, psychological challenge or physical illness or injury. On the Corinth Campus, contact: Robin Truhe (rtruhe@nctc.edu, 940-498-6207) or Penny Cogbill (pcogbill@nctc.edu, 940-498-6212) or Nicole Walton (nwalton@nctc.edu, 940-498-6224 in Suite 170. On the Gainesville and Bowie Campuses, contact Yvonne Sandmann (ysandmann@nctc.edu, (940) 668-7731 ext. 4321) in Room 112.</p> <p>TRIO Programs are federally funded programs which offer services designed to assist students in achieving their academic goals. Students may be eligible for TRIO if they are first generation status—neither parent has a 4 year degree, low income levels, and/or has a documented disability. TRIO is located in Room 170 on the Corinth Campus and Room 114 on the Gainesville Campus.</p> <p>The Student Success Center helps all NCTC students achieve their academic goals. Students can attend free interactive workshops and tutoring to improve their academic performance. Come visit us in Rooms 160 and 170 in Corinth and 114 in Gainesville .</p> <p>Students can access our website by going to www.nctc.edu and clicking on the red button in the middle of the page labeled “Tutoring and Other ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES” or by going directly to http://www.nctc.edu/Student_Services/Access/AcademicandStudentSupportServices.htm</p>
EEOC Statement	North Central Texas College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, or disability in the employment or the provision of services.
Scholastic Integrity	Scholastic dishonesty shall include, but not be limited to cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. See “Student Rights & Responsibilities: Student Conduct [FLB- (LOCAL)]” page 146-148 of NCTC Catalog .
Withdrawal Date	Students wishing to withdraw must notify the Registrar’s Office by completing a Petition for Course Drop. The last date to withdraw for this semester is Friday, November 13th, 2009 .
Other Pertinent Information	I have a ZERO TOLERANCE late policy. When the deadline hits, the deadline hits. There is only one exception to this policy – a documented seven day hospital stay the day of the deadline. Otherwise, there are no late quizzes, discussions or papers. Even 1 second late will be thrown out. Please do not test me on this policy, as you will lose. I have literally had a paper turned in at 12:00:03 in a previous class where I counted it as a 0 – didn’t even read it or grade it. I ask you again, please do not test me on this policy. This is why I have the policy. Most of you WILL procrastinate. That is not my problem. That is your problem – and you should try to break yourself from it.

	<p>There is a lot of work (but a lot of fun and learning) involved in this class so you will put it off as long as you can. The only thing that will motivate you to do it is the deadline. Then, you plan on working on psychology all day, and your significant other gets in a car accident or your baby is sick or you had to work late – so you had a true emergency – but the other 6 days of the week, you just chose not to work on it. To me, that is not a plausible excuse for not having work in on time.</p>
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