COURSE SYLLABUS FALL 2015

COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE:
PSYC 2301 General Psychology

COURSE (CATALOG) DESCRIPTION:
General Psychology is a survey of the major topics of psychology. It introduces the study of behavior and the factors that determine and affect behavior.

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<tr>
<th>INSTRUCTOR:</th>
<th>Frank Coronado</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OFFICE:</td>
<td>W-352</td>
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<td>OFFICE HOURS:</td>
<td>MTWTh 2-3:30PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>CONTACT INFORMATION(TELEPHONE AND EMAIL):</td>
<td>Telephone – 956-364-4849</td>
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<td></td>
<td>E-mail – <a href="mailto:fcoronado21704@tstc.edu">fcoronado21704@tstc.edu</a></td>
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MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
This course will cover 25 modules divided into 13 parts. Student participation, communication, and critical thinking will be evaluated every time class meets. This course will be an active-learning course. Active-learning implies that students will be expected to engage the instructor and each other in regards to the reading, writing, discussion, and/or problem solving assignments of the course content. Students will also have 3 writing assignments to be completed outside of class. Finally, students will be required to take 4 exams, with the 4th exam also serving as the Final. I will drop the lowest exam grade. There will be no make-up exams.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Identify various research methods and their characteristics used in the scientific study of psychology.
2. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology.
3. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology.
4. Use terminology unique to the study of psychology.
5. Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation.
6. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior.

CORE OBJECTIVES
1. Critical Thinking (CT) – Students will engage in creative and/or innovative thinking, inquiring analysis, evaluation, synthesis of information, organizing concepts, and constructing solutions.
2. **Communication Skills (CS)** – Students will demonstrate effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.

3. **Empirical and Quantitative Skills (EQS)** – Students will demonstrate the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.

4. **Social Responsibility (SR)** – Students will demonstrate intercultural competency and civic knowledge by engaging effectively in local, regional, national and global communities.

**Tentative Schedule (Subject to change by your instructor)**

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic/Lecture/Event</th>
<th>Measurable Activity</th>
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| 1    | Introductions, syllabus, Part 1 (Modules 1 and 2) | Communication and critical thinking  
Assignment 1 – Syllabus (financial aid) (Aug 31st – Sept 2nd) |
| Aug/Sept 31st – 4th | Explain definitions and goals  
Compare and contrast modern approaches  
Discuss historical approaches |
| 2    | Part 1 & 2(Modules 2 & 3) | Class discussion (communication), (critical thinking)  
Writing Assignment 1 – What I Expect (Due Sept 14th/15th) |
| September 7th – 11th | Discuss genes and evolution  
Discuss and explain Descriptive Research  
Discuss what a well-generated thesis is and the expectations of the rest of the assignment |
| 3    | Part 2 (Modules 3 & 4) | Class discussion (communication, critical thinking) |
| September 14th – 18th | The human brain  
The brain and Alzheimer’s disease  
Neurons vs nerves  
The Nervous System |
| 4    | Part 3 (Modules 5 & 6) | Class discussion (communication), (empirical, quantitative skills, and social responsibility) Exam 1(Sept 21st/22nd) |
| September 21st – 25th | Discuss vision  
Discuss audition  
Discuss chemical senses |
| 5    | Part 4 (Modules 7 & 8) | Class discussion (communication and critical thinking)  
Writing Assignment 2 – Social Responsibility Assignment (Sept 28th/29th due Oct 8th/9th) |
| Sept/Oct 28th – 2nd | Social Responsibility Project  
Discuss and explain the different states of consciousness  
Discuss the stages of sleep |
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| 6    | Part 5 (Modules 9 & 10)  
      - Discuss Classical Conditioning  
      - Explain reinforcers and schedules of reinforcement  
      - Discuss Operant Conditioning  
      - Explain the contrasts between Classical and Operant Conditioning | Class discussion  
      (communication and critical thinking) |
| 7    | Part 6 (Modules 11 & 12)  
      - Explain the 3 stages of memory  
      - Sensory memory  
      - Short-term memory  
      - Long-term memory  
      **Exam 2** | Class discussion  
      (communication), (empirical, quantitative skills, and social responsibility)  
      **Exam 2 (October 12/13)** |
| 8    | Part 7 (Modules 13 & 14)  
      - Define and discuss intelligence  
      - How is intelligence measured?  
      - Nature-nurture question  
      - **Appendix** | Class discussion  
      (communication),  
      **Writing Assignment 3 – Qualitative and Empirical Skills Assignment (Oct 19 due Nov 5/6)** |
| 9    | Part 8 (Modules 15 & 16)  
      - Theories of motivation  
      - Functions of emotions  
      - Universal facial expressions | Class discussion  
      (communication and critical thinking) |
| 10   | Part 9 (Modules 17 & 18)  
      - Discuss prenatal development  
      - Discuss social and gender development  
      - Explain gender roles, love, and relationships | Class discussion  
      (communication and critical thinking) (empirical, quantitative skills, and social responsibility) |
| 11   | Part 10 (Modules 19 & 20)  
      - Discuss Freud’s contributions  
      - Explain Social Cognitive Theory  
      - Discuss stress and health  
      **Exam 3** | Class discussion  
      (communication and critical thinking)  
      **Exam 3 (Nov 9/10)** |
| 12   | Part 11 (Module 21)  
      - Discuss appraisal of stress  
      Part 12 (Module 22)  
      - Discuss the importance of assessment | Class discussion  
      (communication and critical thinking) |
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| 13 Nov 23rd – 27th | Part 12 (Modules 23 & 24)  
• Discuss Mood Disorders, Personality Disorders  
• Explain causes and treatments  
• Discuss therapies               | Class discussion (communication and critical thinking) (empirical, quantitative skills, and social responsibility) |
| 14 Nov/Dec 30th – 4th | Part 13 (Module 25, and Appendix)  
• Explain behavior in groups, physical attractiveness, stereotypes  
• Discuss attitudes  
• Cultural diversity and attitudes | Class discussion (communication, critical thinking)                                     |
| 15 December 7th – 11th | Final (TBA)                          | Final (TBA)                                                                          |

**Participation:** Participation will be evaluated by attendance, quizzes, and class interaction. Students are encouraged to engage each other (WITH RESPECT) in discussions, ideas, and attitudes of the course. These points will not be easy. Students will be expected to participate. This portion of your overall grade can mean a letter grade difference. (10% of final grade)

**Writing Assignments:** There will be 3 APA formatted writing assignments throughout the semester. Each assignment will be worth 10% of your final grade. (30% of final grade)

**Exams:** There will be a total of 4 exams, but your lowest exam will be dropped. All exams will be weighted equally. (60% of final grade, each exam 20%). There will be NO make-up exams. If you miss an exam it will be the exam grade that will be dropped.

**Extra Credit** – there will be NO extra credit assignments. Exams are difficult, daily/weekly quizzes will serve as extra credit towards exams. Read, study, and come prepared to class.

**Sources and values**
- Participation – 10%
- Writing – 30%
- Exams (4) – 60%
- 100%
The grading scale shall be:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59 and under</td>
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REQUIRED TEXT AND MATERIALS:
The textbook is available at the TSTC book store. If you would like to purchase the text from another source, the ISBN is 9781133939535.

ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT:
If you have a documented disability which will make it difficult for you to carry out classwork as outlined and/or if you need special accommodations due to a disability, please contact (956) 364-4520 or visit the Support Services Office in the Auxiliary Services Building as soon as possible to make appropriate arrangements.

CLASS POLICIES

Academic Dishonesty
Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of an educational institution. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person’s work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences that range from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, or collaboration, consult the course instructor, and or TSTC Harlingen, Student Handbook: Code of Student Conduct. Academic Dishonesty includes but is not necessarily limited to the following:

A. Cheating or knowingly assisting another student in committing an act of cheating or other academic dishonesty.

B. Plagiarism occurs when one presents work which is taken from another person who is not given due credit.

   a) You are providing information that your reader may use in seeking further knowledge on your topic, or on a subtopic or peripheral topic that you have treated only briefly.
   b) You are providing a means whereby another person may verify the accuracy of your use of sources.
c) Copying files from a student’s disk and submitting to yours is another example.

Intellectual honesty is fundamental to scholarship. Accordingly, the College views plagiarism or cheating of any kind in academic work as among the most serious offenses that a student can commit. Academic dishonesty can result in a grade of F or 0 for the particular test or assignment involved. A student wishing to contest this ruling must do so within one (1) week after return of graded papers.

Copyright Statement

The materials used in the course [textbooks, handouts, media files (podcast, MP3, Videos, RSS (Feeds), and all instructional resources on the colleges Learning Management System (Moodle)] are intended for use only by students registered and enrolled in this course and are only to be used for instructional use, activities associated with, and for the duration of the course. All materials generated for this course, which includes but are not limited to syllabi, quizzes, exams, lab problems, in-class materials, review sheets, and any additional materials.

These materials may not be retained in another medium or disseminated further. They are provided in compliance with the provisions of the Teach Act. These materials may not be reproduced, displayed, modified or distributed without the express prior written permission of the copyright holder or TSTC. For further information contact your instructor.

Communicating with your instructor (MyMail E-mail System)

All official college E-mail to students is sent through MyMail, the official student e-mail system at TSTC Harlingen. When communicating with instructors and/or employees of the college, you are required to use your TSTC MyMail student e-mail address. If you choose to forward your e-mail to another account, please be advised that you must respond from the MyMail account.

TSTC Harlingen faculty, staff, and students are asked to report all threats, perceived or real, immediately to College Police located in the Auxiliary Building. If the threat is imminent, the College Police emergency phone line at 364-4234 or 9-911 should be called. College Police will then coordinate the proper response in accordance with State and federal laws and TSTC System/College rules and regulations.

Tutoring Statement

The Supplemental Instruction & Tutoring Program at TSTC offers free tutoring and academic support services to help you achieve your academic and career goals. You can access the most up-to-date Supplemental Instruction & Tutoring Schedule, as well as MyTSTC Video Tutor Library, by visiting:

https://portal.tstc.edu/studentservices/harstudentsupport/hartutoring/Pages/default.aspx
(Tutoring Schedule)
For more information, please contact the Office of Student Success at 956.364.4163 or the Supplemental Instruction & Tutoring Program at 956.364.4170.

**Student Issues and Complaints**

Please make yourself familiar with the College Catalog and Student Handbook.

**Important Dates**

September 7th – Holiday

September 15th – 11th class day (official record date)

November 13th – Last day to apply for graduation

November 13th – Last day to DROP with a “W”

November 26th-27th – Thanksgiving (no class)

December 9th – Final Exams begin

December 11th – End of semester

**NOTE:** Any changes to this syllabus will be provided in writing to the student and updated on all posted locations (HB 2504, course Moodle sites, building offices, etc.).
Couse Syllabus and Expectations and Responsibilities

I have read and understand the course syllabus. I understand that I am responsible for all the content that will be assigned.

Print Name and ID: ___________________________

Sign your name: _____________________________

Instructor’s signature: ______________________