

MAYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Welcomes You to PSY 150-10 - General Psychology
Credit Hours: 3 Contact Hours: 3
Fall, 2007

Course Description

This course provides an overview of the scientific study of human behavior. Topics include history, methodology, biopsychology, sensation, perception, learning, motivation, cognition, abnormal behavior, personality theory, social psychology, and other relevant topics. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of the science of psychology. *This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement general education core requirement in social/behavioral sciences.*

Prerequisites: RED 090

Corequisites: None

Instructor Information

Instructor: April Pittman
Office Location: 247 Gwaltney Hall
Telephone Number: 828-765-7351, ext. 266 or 1-800-462-9526
E-mail Address: arpittman@cc.mayland.edu
Office Hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 11am-2pm and other times by appointment.

Course Information

This course meets on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9-9:50am in room 252 of Gwaltney Hall.

Required Text: Morris, C. G. & Maisto, A. A. (2008). *Understanding Psychology*, 8th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Course Objectives and Goals:

Upon completion of this course the student should have

- Knowledge of psychological theories and a historical perspective of psychology.
- An appreciation of the social, cultural, biological, and mental processes underlying and influencing human behavior and learning.
- An understanding of the broad scope of psychology and its place in the scientific community.
- An understanding of the factors that influence behavior and mental processes.
- An understanding of human diversity, heredity and environment as factors affecting human behavior.

Mayland Community College's General Education core courses will provide the essential body of knowledge and skills that enable all degree-level students to perform competently as employees and as contributing members of society.

Graduates of all degree programs at Mayland Community College will have completed the general education core. That core encompasses the essential knowledge and skills that enable all degree-level students to perform competently as employees and as contributing members of society.

Upon completion of the general education core, students will be able to demonstrate the following:

1. Effective communication in speaking and listening situations needed for college, personal, and work successes
2. Effective communication in writing and reading situations needed for college, personal, and work successes
3. Logical, critical, and creative thinking to evaluate evidence and reach a conclusion
4. Application of basic computer use skills
5. Application of fundamental math skills
6. Basic awareness of the diversity of various world groups from both historical and contemporary contexts

For each of the following goals of General Psychology, the applicable General Education Learning Competencies are noted.

To be successful in this course you will need to:

- Be an active participant in class and small group discussions regarding topics in psychology (1 and 2).
- Apply critical thinking skills to material presented in the textbook, lectures, activities, and discussions (1, 2, and 3).
- Work independently and as part of a group to successfully complete written assignments related to material from the course (1, 2, and 6).
- Develop an understanding of cultural, racial, and ethnic differences in human thought and behavior (6).

Attendance and Participation Policy:

Attendance and participation are important in order for you to be successful in this course. You will be responsible for material that is covered during class lectures that is not covered in the textbook. In addition, you will receive an attendance and participation grade for this course, which will account for 5% of your final grade. You will be allowed two absences before your attendance grade will be affected. Attendance will be taken each day in this course at the beginning of class. For each day of class that you are present for the entire class (without being tardy or leaving early) you will receive 2.23 points towards your attendance grade. A good attendance grade will also depend on active and appropriate participation in class discussions and activities.

Make-Up and Late Work:

All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the designated due date and students should not work on homework assignments during class time unless otherwise directed by the instructor. There will be a 10-point per day late penalty for assignments that are turned in after the due date. This means that if an assignment is due on a Tuesday and it is not submitted until the following Thursday, that assignment will be assessed a 20 point penalty. Being absent from class is not a valid excuse for submitting work late. If you must miss class you should check the assignments area of LEO, check with your instructor, or with another student to find out what was assigned. **If you are going to be absent on an assignment due date, you should make arrangements to submit the assignment early, either in person or via e-mail.**

The projects will not be accepted after the due date and no other assignments will be accepted after Friday, December 7.

There will be no make-ups for Unit Assessments. One assessment grade will be dropped before the final grade is calculated. A grade of 0 for a missed assessment will be treated as the lowest grade and dropped.

Grading Criteria:

<i>Assessments.....</i>	<i>60%</i>
<i>Project.....</i>	<i>15%</i>
<i>Assignments.....</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Attendance & Participation.....</i>	<i>5%</i>

Assessments: There will be six assessments on the dates and topics listed in the attached course outline. Keeping good notes, reading the text, and doing end of chapter quizzes and regular reviews will provide a good basis for test preparation.

Term Projects: There is a term project requirement for this class. Term project opportunities involve both group and individual work and will be described in greater detail in a separate handout.

Assignments: During the semester we will have a number of assignments consisting of group assignments, internet assignments, and other activities.

Note Regarding Extra Credit: In this course I will not give extra credit assignments. Students will, however, have an opportunity to earn points towards unit tests. More information regarding this opportunity will be provided on the first day of class.

Grading Scale: **A** = 93-100 **D** = 70-76
 B = 85-92 **F** = 0-69
 C = 77-84

Inclement Weather Procedures:

Please review the Inclement Weather Policy in the Mayland Community College Catalog. In the case of bad weather use your best judgment and remember that personal safety must come first. Call me in advance if weather prevents you from coming to class. While calling does not excuse the absence, it allows me to pass along information about class assignments.

In the event of a delay schedule, this class will meet from 10:45-11:25am.

Academic Standards/Student Expectations/Ethics:

Honesty and integrity with respect to academic work is expected in this and all classes at Mayland Community College. As outlined in the MCC Student Code of Conduct, any form of academic dishonesty is subject to disciplinary action. At the minimum, students who engage in academic dishonesty of any type will receive a grade of F for the course. For a description of acts considered to be violations of the code of conduct, refer to the MCC Code of Conduct in the student handbook and college catalog.

Note regarding cell phones, pagers, MP-3 players, etc...

Technology has made our lives much easier in many ways. It has made it easier for us to stay in touch with our loved ones and it makes us much more accessible to the rest of the world. While this technology can be wonderful, it can be very disruptive in the classroom. For that reason I am asking that you turn off and put away (in your book bag, purse, pocket) cell phones, pagers, and other devices of that type while in this class.

Withdrawal Dates:

Tuesday, September 25 – End of Unconditional Withdrawal

Thursday, November 1 – End of Conditional Withdrawal

If a student has not been in contact with the instructor and has not attended class for a consecutive two-week period, an administrative withdrawal will be submitted by the instructor. After a student has been administratively withdrawn from a class he/she will not be allowed to re-enter the class that semester.

Accommodation:

Any student requesting special accommodations for this course due to a disability should apply for services through the SOAR Office or the Counseling Center, which will document the disability. A counselor will then help determine which accommodations, if any, the student needs for success in this course.

Disclaimer:

While I have attempted to be as thorough as possible with this syllabus, actual class procedures may vary to suit the needs of this group.

Course Outline

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Mon. 8/20	Introductions and Syllabus	
Wed. 8/22	The Science of Psychology	Read pp. 2-12
Fri. 8/24	The Science of Psychology, cont.	Read pp. 12-25
<i>Drop/Add – August 20-24</i>		
Mon. 8/27	The Science of Psychology, cont.	Read pp. 26-41
Wed. 8/29	Memory	Read pp. 196-203

Fri. 8/31	Memory, cont.	Read pp. 203-210
<i>September 3 – Labor Day Holiday – College Closed</i>		
Wed. 9/5	Memory, cont.	Read pp. 211-217
Fri. 9/7	Memory, cont.	Read pp. 217-227
Mon. 9/10	Assessment #1	
Wed. 9/12	The Biological Basis of Behavior	Read pp. 42-53
Fri. 9/14	The Biological Basis of Behavior, cont.	Read pp. 53-65
Mon. 9/17	The Biological Basis of Behavior, cont. Assessment #2	Read pp. 65-83
Wed. 9/19	Consciousness	Read pp. 128-139
Fri. 9/21	Consciousness, cont.	Read pp. 139-141
Mon. 9/24	Consciousness, cont.	Read pp. 141-156
Wed. 9/26	Consciousness, cont.	Read pp. 178-183 Project Proposals Due
Fri. 9/28	Learning	Read pp. 162-168
Mon. 10/1	Learning, cont.	Read pp. 168-177
Wed. 10/3	Learning, cont.	Read pp. 177-186
Fri. 10/5	Learning, cont.	Read pp. 186-195
<i>Oct.8-9 Fall Break – No Classes</i>		
Wed. 10/10	Assessment #3	
Fri. 10/12	Cognition and Mental Abilities	Read pp. 228-243
Mon. 10/15	Cognition and Mental Abilities, cont.	Read pp. 243-256
Wed. 10/17	Cognition and Mental Abilities, cont.	Read pp. 256-271
Fri. 10/19	Motivation & Emotion	Read pp. 272-284
Mon. 10/22	Motivation & Emotion, cont.	Read pp. 284-294
Wed. 10/24	Motivation & Emotion, cont.	Read pp. 294-305
Fri. 10/26	Assessment #4	
Mon. 10/29	Personality	Read pp. 353-365
Wed. 10/31	Personality, cont.	Read pp. 365-368
Fri. 11/2	Personality, cont.	Read pp. 368-375
Mon. 11/5	Personality, cont.	Read pp. 375-383
Wed. 11/7	Stress & Health Psychology	Read pp. 384-391

Fri. 11/9	Stress & Health Psychology, cont.	Read pp. 391-397
<i>November 12 – Veteran’s Day Holiday – College Closed</i>		
Wed. 11/14	Stress & Health Psychology, cont.	Read pp. 398-401
Fri. 11/16	Stress & Health Psychology, cont.	Read pp. 401-413
Mon. 11/19	Assessment #5	
Wed. 11/21	Psychological Disorders	Read pp. 414-422
<i>November 22-23 – Thanksgiving Holiday – College Closed</i>		
Mon. 11/26	Psychological Disorders, cont.	Read pp. 422-427
Wed. 11/28	Psychological Disorders, cont.	Read pp. 427-430
Fri. 11/30	Psychological Disorders, cont.	Read pp. 430-437
Mon. 12/3	Psychological Disorders, cont.	Read pp. 437-449
Wed. 12/5	Social Psychology	Read pp. 482-501
Fri. 12/7	Social Psychology, cont.	Read pp. 501-513 Projects Due
Mon. 12/10	Assessment #6	
Wed. 12/12	Project Presentations	
Fri. 12/14	Project Presentations	
Mon. 12/17	Project Presentations	Last Day of Class Have a Good Break!