

Syllabus General Psychology

When/Where <http://insight/ccsf.edu>,

Dates January 18 to May 17th

Instructor Yolanda van Ecke, Ph.D.

50 Phelan Avenue L 336, San Francisco, CA 94112

Contact Info: During the course, please only email me in the course webmail.

Before the start of the semester, you may mail me at

yvanecke@ccsf.edu .

Office hours Tues 3-4 PM, in Batmale Hall 336

Course Description: General Psychology

This 3 credit course is an overview and introduction of general psychology as a behavioral science, taught online. Course emphasis is placed on the scientific foundations of psychology, including the history and origins of psychology, introductory statistical concepts, motivation, emotion, biological determinants of behavior, environmental factors in behavior, psychological tests and measurements, learning and personality theory, psychological problems and therapies, as well as cultural and social psychology.

Specifics for Online Class:

You may not have taken an online class before. The college has its own webspace for the course, which you can find at <http://insight.edu>. You can only access the course after I make it available to the students, on the first day of class. To access your online courses you need to be registered for the course, and have a username and password for insight. For any username or password issues, go to

<http://insight.ccsf.edu/mod/resource/view.php?inpopup=true&id=50692> . When you are taking an online course, you should check in daily, and keep up with the work weekly as there is no going back to catch up in the online class.

Transfer of course units:

This course transfers as CSU/UC/CAN psy 2

Prerequisites: none, but you should be able to read and write at an academic level.

This course requires six hours of study outside the three-hour weekly lecture. Students are advised to have English competency at the level of ENGL 92, ESL 82 or ESL 160 or placement in ENGL 93, ENGL 94 or ESL 170.

Text: Wayne Weiten, Psychology: Themes and Variations, Briefer 7th edition. ISBN 13 978 0 495 47335 0, Publisher: Thomson Wadsworth. Your text is available through the CCSF bookstore at <http://www.ccsf.edu/Resources/>

The publisher's website for this text is at

http://www.cengage.com/cengage/student.do?codeid=5D66&courseid=PY07&product_isbn=9780495100584&disciplinenummer=24

Exams and Grading:

Your final grade is based on total points you earn for participation in weekly discussion postings, grade points for weekly quizzes, and for written research assignments.

Weekly discussion postings called **forums** are responses to weekly questions that I will ask on the course website. Usually you have to go do a reading, and then present your thoughts on the reading. Sometime you have to do a project, and then present your findings. Each week this question will be clearly listed.

Quizzes are mostly multiple choice, but some will be short written assignments or projects. Please remember: Quizzes and postings cannot be made up.

Papers are submitted online, through a special online dropbox in the course web site. You compose your paper, save it to your computer or memory stick, and then

upload it to the course website dropbox. Do not submit papers in person or via email. I will give you handouts on how to do the written work. You will usually be required to do one paper that applies psychology to real life, and one paper that is research based. The research paper will require a bibliography. I will give you handouts on how to do this. Papers due may be only made up with documented proof of unforeseeable circumstance that is personal, legal or medical in nature (mailed to my office). At the end of the course, the number of maximum points you have determines your grade.

Deliverable by you. Due Mondays by 11 PM.	Max Pts	% of Grade	End of semester grade calculation	
15 quizzes @ 20 pts each	300 pts	30%	90% or 900-1000 pts	Grade A
1 Midterm paper	100 pts.	10%	80% or 800 – 899 pts	Grade B
1 Final paper	300 pts	30%	70% or 700 – 799 pts	Grade C
15 Participation postings	300 pts.	30%	60% or 600 – 699 pts	Grade D

Participation:

Participation is always important, but especially in online classes. You get 20 points per your weekly discussion posting, up to 300 points.. If the posting is excellent, (i.e. about three paragraphs, responds to the topic posted, with a beginning, middle and an end and makes an original contribution) you get 20, if it is good (responds but not thoughtful) 15, passing 10 (short, superficial) and below acceptable (not on topic, too short) but still responding is 5 pts.. Not all weeks require a grade posting, and not all weeks have a graded quiz.

Attendance and dropping the course:

You should sign in daily, and plan to spend one hour daily to read the work, do your writing, and to respond to other students.

Please remember it is your responsibility to drop the class with the registrar's office. You are responsible to complete a drop card and turn in to the Admissions Office or submit your drop request on WebAdvisor. Print a copy of the withdrawal for your records. Do not assume that instructors will automatically drop you for non-attendance. Check the schedule for withdrawal dates.

If you stop attending and do not drop the class, you may get yourself an F, bad for your grade point average. Better to take the time to withdraw, sometimes that is just a sensible thing to do. However, if you do not participate for two weeks but are not planning to drop, I may drop you from the class for non-participation, and not reinstate you. So, take the initiative.

Plagiarism and cheating policy:

Plagiarism is using someone else's work or words without giving them credit, and presenting it as your own. It is pretty easy to avoid plagiarism charges. Most of what is written in psychology is done with reference to others. So, just be sure to reference your statements with a name and a year. Students who commit plagiarism or cheat on exams will receive a failing grade and be asked not to return to further classes. By signing up for this class you are expressing agreement with this rule. Avoiding plagiarism is really easy: just keep good records and cite your sources in your writing. I will give you handouts on how to cite sources and how to write papers.

MAJOR LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course you, the student, will be able to do the following:

1. Describe the historical antecedents of psychology.
2. Compare and contrast the major contemporary theoretical perspectives in psychology.
3. Describe, contrast and evaluate the basic research methods of psychology.
4. Identify and evaluate psychological issues as presented in the popular media using peer reviewed psychological research.
5. Summarize, discuss and evaluate current and past research and theory in the following major content areas: physiological correlates of behavior, development, learning, memory, cognition, consciousness, motivation, emotion, psychological disorders, treatments for psychological disorders and social psychology.
6. Apply the theories and research findings discussed in class to increase understanding of self and others.

Again, welcome to the course, and we will meet online.

**Best wishes,
Dr. van Ecke**