

Harrisburg Area Community College

Virtual Campus

Online PSYCHOLOGY 101 COURSE SYLLABUS

<u>TERM:</u>	2nd 6-Week Summer, (July 6 – Aug. 13) 2015	
<u>COURSE PREFIX & NUMBER:</u>	PSYCHOLOGY 101	Credits: 3
<u>COURSE TITLE:</u>	General Psychology	
<u>SECTION:</u>	CRN: 1164	
<u>INSTRUCTOR:</u>	Dr. Ming Gao, Professor of Psychology	
<u>Email Address:</u>	mygao@ehacc.hacc.edu (this is the ONLY email address to use; you must use your HAWKmail account for withdrawal)	
<u>Office Hours:</u>	I do not have fixed online office hours. I check my class mailbox regularly	
<u>TELEPHONE:</u>	When Desire2Learn server is down, you may call me at 358-2923 only during the regular spring and fall semesters (NOT during the summer)	
<u>DIVISION:</u>	Social Sciences	

CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OVERVIEW:

Examination and application of major principles of psychology including: an introduction to scientific and research methods, biological foundations, sensation and perception, learning and conditioning, human development, motivation and emotion, thinking, memory and intelligence, personality theories, stress and coping, social psychology, psychological disorders and their treatment.

This course will be delivered using the Desire2Learn software. All the course-related activities will be conducted online, including the delivery of course materials, course related discussions, and exams. However, students still need to purchase a copy of the required textbook and a CD-ROM disk that comes with the book. The instructor plans to cover 13 chapters from the textbook. For each of the 13 chapters, the instructor will provide a written study guide which highlights the main concepts and theories discussed in each chapter and MP3 audio lectures recorded in an on-campus PSY101 class (based on a previous edition of the textbook).

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to display the attainment of basic-level competence in Psychology through the following:

- Demonstrate familiarity with the major theoretical perspectives (such as biological, psychoanalytic, behavioral, cognitive, and humanistic) in the field of Psychology
- Identify the major subfields of psychology (such as sensation, perception, motivation, intelligence, learning, social psychology, etc.)
- Apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues
- Demonstrate an understanding of research methods in Psychology
- Locate and summarize psychological information published in professional Psychology journals
- Use critical and creative thinking and skeptical inquiry to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes
- Recognize sociocultural and international diversity and their influence on psychological development.
- Properly cite and reference sources in current American Psychological Association (APA) style

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

1. Textbook: Weiten, Wayne. (2014). Psychology: Themes and Variations (The Briefer Version). 9th ed. Brooks/Cole Publishing Company.
2. Psyk-Trek 3.0 CD-ROM Disk (This disk should be packaged together with the above textbook at a discount price. Otherwise, you would pay more for it.)

(Please note that you can do well in the class without the CD, but it is highly recommended that you purchase it. It offers extra explanations, with visual and graphic illustrations. It also contains self-testing quizzes.)

You may buy a used book on the internet, such as at www.half.com. It is most likely that it doesn't come with the CD. If you are a good student with good study skills, you can do without the CD. There is no special code required anywhere in this class. There are no specific assignments based on the CD.)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

To successfully complete the course, each student will be required to:

1. Complete four online exams as scheduled: There are four multiple-choice exams evenly spaced out in the semester/summer session. Each exam consists of 50 multiple-choice questions. (See more explanation below.)
2. Write a summary of a psychology **empirically based** research article that reports **an actual experimental study (meaning it is an actual experiment, NOT a descriptive or a correlational study, and NOT a case study)**. If you do not understand the difference, read Chapter 2 as many times as necessary and look at the difference on the internet, or post your question in class). It has to be an original research journal article based on an actual experimental study, not someone's literature review article of other people's work): This is to demonstrate, in today's computer information age, the student's ability to locate and summarize information published in **Psychology professional journals** (not an article published in a newspaper, or a parent magazine, or a book.) "PsycInfo" and "PsycArticle(ProQuest)" are two acceptable databases where articles may be located. The student must complete the summary in a prescribed format. **The assignment is to be submitted via the**

Assignment dropbox in this class only (NOT to any of my email addresses). (More detailed instructions about the requirements are attached below at the end of this syllabus document.)

3. Post a minimum of 10 responses in class discussion: class discussion is a crucial component of the whole learning process.

Please note that, based on HACC's requirement, you must post at least one reply in the chapter content discussion board during the first week of class (posting in the self-introduction and housekeeping areas do not count), to indicate you have engaged in content-related activities. Otherwise, you may be dropped from this class at the end of the first week for non-attendance. If you are dropped for this reason, please do not ask the dean to ask me to put you back into my class. I won't. If I were expected to put you back, you should not have been dropped from my class in the first place.

Students are encouraged to share ideas, views, and personal experiences with fellow students, in addition to demonstrating their understanding of concepts and theories discussed in the course. Please note that while I post many class discussion questions on the board, **you are NOT required to answer all of them. You can pick and choose to answer some of them. If you post 10 or more responses (not per week or per chapter, but a total of 10 responses for the entire semester or summer session) by the last day of classes for the semester or the summer session, you will receive the full 40 points for class participation. If you post less than 10 responses by the last day of class, you will NOT receive any points for class participation.**

In order to encourage meaningful class discussions, and discourage postings just for the sake of posting, I will count what you post that contains more than 5 sentences as one post. If you answer a question, you can easily go beyond 5 sentences. If you ask a question, instead of asking a one-sentence question such as "What is physiological psychology?", I would like you to spell out your question, and explain what you read in the book, and exactly what you don't understand. In sum, this is what you can post:

1. You can answer a question I raised.
2. You can ask a question for other students to answer, open-ended or close-ended.
3. You can raise a question, and answer it yourself.
4. You can share information or personal experience with the class that is related to psychology (e.g., if you have ADD or if you know someone who has ADD, you want to share with the class your knowledge about ADD, how people can cope with ADD, etc.), that will be fine too.

The emphasis is on "meaningful discussions." Although I encourage students to participate in class discussions regularly, I will not require you to post every day or even every week. Both your "new threads" or "your replies" will count. After the participation deadline is over, I will look at how many posts you have altogether and post your participation grade in the D2L gradebook.

DEADLINES FOR CLASS PARTICIPATION POSTINGS

Each student is required to post a minimum of 10 responses on the class discussion board in the chapter content discussion areas only by the last day of classes (the "Classes end" day in HACC's academic calendar posted at www.hacc.edu, NOT the last day of exam days). (In the summer, class participation ends when Exam #4 ends.)

OTHER RECOMMENDED COURSE WORK

1. Read the appropriate chapters in the textbook as assigned; (this is the core course material)
2. Carefully go through the study guide for each chapter provided by the instructor (the study guide specifies the scope of the study and the content material to be tested on exams) and other course content-related materials;
3. Go over relevant material on the CD-ROM disk (the disk provides more explanation, visual illustrations, exercises, and practice test questions);
4. Listen to the optional MP3 audio lectures which are made available at this class site.

GRADING SYSTEM FOR THIS COURSE:

First Examination: 100 points (covering Chapters 2, 3, and 4)

Second Examination: 100 points (covering Chapters 6, 7, and 8)

Third Examination: 100 points (covering Chapters 9, 10, 11, and 13)

Final Examination: 100 points (covering Chapters 12, 14 and 15)

Summary of a psychology article: 20 points (due Sat, Aug. 8, see the attached for detailed requirements)

Posting 10 responses: 40 points

See Extra Credit Instructions (in the “Getting Started: Read Me First” folder under the Content Browser, for possible extra credit points)

The final grade will be based on the total number of points earned. The maximum number of points a student can make is 460.

A = 90-100% (above 414 points)

B = 80-89% (above 368 points)

C = 70-79% (above 322points)

D = 60-69% (276 points)

F = 59% or below (below 276 points)

The “I” grade is given extremely rarely, solely at the discretion of your instructor. Please refer to HACC AP 667 for relevant guidelines.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITES: CHAPTERS TO BE COVERED IN THIS COURSE

EXAM 1:

Chapter 2: The Research Enterprise in Psychology

Chapter 3: The Biological Bases of Behavior

Chapter 4: Sensation and Perception

EXAM 2:

Chapter 6: Learning
Chapter 7: Human Memory
Chapter 8: Cognition and Intelligence

EXAM 3:

Chapter 9: Motivation and Emotion
Chapter 10: Human Development Across the Life Span
Chapter 11: Personality: Theory, Research, and Assessment
Chapter 13: Stress, Coping, and Health

EXAM 4:

Chapter 12: Social Behavior
Chapter 14: Psychological Disorders
Chapter 15: Treatment of Psychological Disorders

EXAM SCHEDULE

Exam #1 will be given on 7 /15 - 16
Exam #2 will be given on 7/24 - 25
Exam #3 will be given on 8/5 - 6
Exam #4 will be given on 8/12 - 13

ATTENDANCE POLICY

For HACC's general policy on attendance, please review HACC AP661 - Student Attendance. For this class specifically, although students are encouraged to visit the class regularly and are expected to fulfill the class participation requirement, there is no specific requirement as to how often the student must visit the class. That is, students do not earn credit for just logging in to the class site. They do earn credit for participating in class discussion. **If a student has not participated in content-related class discussion by the end of the first week of class, the student may be dropped from this class.** As long as the student has posted at least one response in the chapter content discussion area in the class (posting in other areas, such as self introduction or in the housekeeping folder does not count), the student will remain on the class roster as a current student until/unless he or she makes a formal request to be dropped from this class.

WITHDRAWING FROM THE CLASS

Please note that if a student wants to withdraw from this course once he or she has registered for it, it is the student's responsibility to initiate and go through the formal withdrawal procedure set by the College. Because this is an internet course, we do not meet regularly in the classroom. I want to make life easier for my students. It is my policy that if you want to withdraw from this course (all the way up to the last week of class for the current semester or summer session), all you need to do is to **send me an email request to my mygao@ehacc.hacc.edu email address using your HACC Hawkmail account** (that is the only valid form of request accepted by the Registrations Office). I will do the necessary paper work for you. **If you wish to withdraw from the class with a "W" grade, you must contact me at least 3 days before the last of classes (not the last of the exam week)**, so that I will have time to submit the necessary paperwork before the deadline set by the college. If you receive some form of financial aid for your classes, you should consult with a financial aid counselor first to discuss any financial implications before you send your withdraw request to me. If the student simply

stops engaging in course-related activities (with excessive absences) and/or does not send me an email withdrawal request, the student will most likely receive an F grade (which will hurt the student's GPA). So, please be a responsible student and do not let this happen.

Please refer to HACC AP667 for details regarding the W grade.

Incomplete (I) grade is given extremely rarely, only under very unusual circumstances.

MORE EXPLANATION ABOUT EXAMS

There will be a total of four examinations evenly spaced out in the semester (or summer session). Each exam will cover three to four chapters of materials. The specific exam dates are posted in the course Calendar (one of the links listed on the course menu). The format for all the four exams will be the same. **Each exam will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions.** All the questions will be based on materials from the specified chapters in the textbook, the accompanying CD-ROM disk, the content-related materials posted online including discussion questions posted in class. All the four exams will be close-book exams. Students will take all the four exams online during the specified dates. Students can take the exams using a home computer or any other computers that are connected to the internet. **The time limit is 60 minutes for each of the four exams.** There are no pen-and-paper exams for this internet course. There are no forms to fill out or any other paper work to do for completing the exams. If you want to use a computer in the student computer lab on campus (for the faster internet speed), you may feel free to do so. No appointments are necessary.

You will access the exams by clicking on "Assessments" tab and then "Quizzes" in the menu.

Specific exam dates are listed above.

MAKE-UP POLICY:

If you anticipate missing an exam, you must discuss it with your instructor AHEAD of time. Otherwise, you will automatically receive a "0" grade for the exam. Every student will be allowed to make up, or retake, one of the first three exams at the end of the semester (or summer session) (you cannot retake Exam #4). If all the first three exams are taken, the make-up exam may be used to replace a low grade (to bring up your average). If an exam is missed, the make-up is used to replace the "0" grade. If more than one exam is missed, thorough documentation of illnesses or emergencies will be required for additional make-ups. This policy will be carefully observed. It is nothing personal. It is a matter of principle, training students to be responsible for their own actions and also trying to be fair to everybody.

Usually after the third exam is given, I will post an announcement about this. Students who wish to make up or retake one of the first three exams must post their requests in the designated make-up/retake exam sign-up folder in the class discussion board. Make-up/retake exams will be released only to students who made a specific request. **The retake/make-up exams will be given during the same period when Exam #4 is given.**

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Please refer to HACC AP594 Academic Dishonesty for details. Academic dishonesty is defined as an intentional act of deception in which a student seeks to claim credit for the work or effort of another

person, or uses unauthorized material or fabricated information in any academic work. It includes, but is not limited to:

- A. Cheating – giving or receiving answers on assigned material, using materials or aids forbidden by the instructor, alteration of academic records, unauthorized possession of examinations, ~~or~~ the falsification of admissions, registration or other related college materials, or any other intentional use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information, or study aid.
- B. Plagiarism – the offering of someone else’s work, words, or idea as one’s own or using material from another source without acknowledgement.
- C. Interference – interfering without permission with the work of another student either by obtaining, changing or destroying the work of another student.
- D. Buying or selling of term papers, homework, examinations, laboratory assignments, computer programs, etc.
- E. Falsifying of one’s own or another’s records.
- F. Knowingly assisting someone who engages in A-E above

Penalties for students found to have committed academic dishonesty include but may not be limited to the following:

1. Faculty may impose the following disciplinary actions within the context of a course:
 - a. lowering of a grade or failure for a particular assignment,
 - b. lowering of a grade, failure and/or dismissal from the course.
2. The Division Dean/Chief Branch Campus Administrator (CBCA) responsible for the student’s curriculum may impose harsher measures within the context of the College such as:
 - a. disciplinary probation-may include a limitation on credits, mandatory repeat of a course, etc
 - b. suspension from a curriculum.
3. The Division Dean/CBCA may recommend to the Chief Academic Officer (CAO) that the student be suspended from the College.
4. The CAO may suspend the student from the College for a period of one semester or more.

A NOTE TO STUDENTS IN NEED OF ACCOMMODATIONS:

Your instructor is committed to helping students with special needs to succeed in this class. If you have a documented learning disability and wish to receive some special accommodations, you will need to show necessary documentation and discuss the matter with our counselor for special populations at any of the HACC physical campuses. Recommended accommodations, when applicable, will then be passed to your instructor. Your instructor will follow the recommendations. If the recommended accommodation for you is "extended testing time," I will need you to send me an email request for extended testing time at least two days before the start date for **EVERY exam**. The email

request should be sent only to this email address: mygao@ehacc.hacc.edu. If I do not receive such a request, I will assume that you do not intend to use the accommodation, even though I have received an accommodation recommendation letter from the special needs office.

Students with disabilities who are in need of accommodations should contact the campus disability coordinator listed below. Coordinators for each campus are listed here:

<http://www.hacc.edu/Students/DisabilityServices/Contact-Disability-Services.cfm>

HACC EEOC/ PHR STATEMENT:

EEOC POLICY 005: It is the policy of Harrisburg Area Community College, in full accordance with the law, not to discriminate in employment, student admissions, and student services on the basis of race, color, religion, age, political affiliation or belief, gender, national origin, ancestry, disability, place of birth, General Education Development Certification (GED), marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, veteran status, genetic history/information, or any legally protected classification. HACC recognizes its responsibility to promote the principles of equal opportunity for employment, student admissions, and student services taking active steps to recruit minorities and women.

The Pennsylvania Human Relations Act (“PHRAct”) prohibits discrimination against prospective and current students because of race, color, sex, religious creed, ancestry, national origin, handicap or disability, record of a handicap or disability, perceived handicap or disability, relationship or association with an individual with a handicap or disability, use of a guide or support animal, and/or handling or training of support or guide animals.

The Pennsylvania Fair Educational Opportunities Act (“PFEOAct”) prohibits discrimination against prospective and current students because of race, religion, color, ancestry, national origin, sex, handicap or disability, record of a handicap or disability, perceived handicap or disability, and a relationship or association with an individual with a handicap or disability.

Information about these laws may be obtained by visiting the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission website at www.phrc.state.pa.us.

COMMUNICATIONS

When students have course related questions (about textbooks, course content, exams, etc.), they should post their questions on the class bulletin board under appropriate topic headings, most often being the "Announcements/Ask Dr. Gao" board. The instructor will post his answers, normally within 48 hours, on the bulletin board also, so that the rest of the class can see both the questions and answers. When students wish to discuss with the instructor about some private issues (e.g., health issues, having missed exams, withdrawing from the class, etc.), they are expected to email the instructor.

So, if you wish to email me, please send your message to: mygao@ehacc.hacc.edu. When you request a withdrawal from the class, you must use your HACC HawkMail account for the request. That is the only one that HACC accepts for with withdrawal request.

Requirements for the Written Summary of a Psychology Journal Article

Psychology 101: General Psychology

ASSIGNMENT OBJECTIVES:

In today's computer age, there is so much information made available electronically, on the internet and in computer databases, for example. A lot of information is from reliable and credible sources, but other information may not be. One objective of this assignment is that students need to know where and how to locate a psychology journal article on a topic of choice from a credible source. Another objective is that students need to get familiarized with the format of a psychology journal article, so that they can identify important information such as the author(s), the journal, the research topic, the hypothesis, the method, the results, and the conclusion, etc. and will be able to summarize psychological information published in professional psychology journals. The third objective is to get students familiarized with the APA format.

RESEARCH: The student needs to find one psychology journal article, electronically, that was published within the last 15 years. The article must be empirical in nature and based on experimental research, meaning it reports an actual experimental study the author(s) did (not a correlational or descriptive study, and not a case study) (also read the relevant part in the course syllabus). The student is NOT to use a literature review paper in which the author(s) did theoretical analysis and reviewed other people's work only (instead of reporting their own studies). The article can be on any topic of the student's choice, as long as it is a psychology journal article (NOT an article on a website) reporting a study in the field of psychology. The student is expected to locate, read, and write a summary of the article in the format required.

LENGTH & FORMAT:

Every empirical psychology journal article follows the same format. It consists of sections such as synopsis, method, results, and discussion. These sections (except synopsis) are clearly labeled, and follow the right sequence. If the article you found does not have these labeled sections, you have found the wrong article. The student is expected to summarize the article following the format described below (you will not get credit otherwise):

The paper should contain (a) a cover page (showing a heading A Summary of the Article 'xxx,' your name, the course name, the instructor's name, and date), (b) a bullet-point list of facts: the heading of the article, the author(s) of the article, the name of journal/publication, the year of the publication, the source of this article (where it was retrieved), the hypothesis of the study, the independent variable and dependent variable, the experimental group and the control group. (c) the summary of the article include a synopsis, and the summary (the summary should follow this format, with clearly labeled separate headings: Method (subjects, why the study, what the researcher did, and how, etc.), Results (what happened, including some simple statistics), and Discussion (the author's final discussion of whether the results supported the hypothesis and final conclusion) and (d) a reference page (just list this one article in the APA format including everything that should be included in an entry of a reference list.

The paper must be typed, double-spaced, and the body of the summary should be 2-3 pages in length (not counting the cover page and the reference page). The print font used should be size 12. The margins on all four sides should be one inch. The citation of references and punctuations should follow the **APA format**.

I have posted a sample paper in class in the "Welcome, Getting Started" folder.

WHERE TO FIND THE ARTICLE: electronic databases: PsycArticles, PsycInfo and [Psychology Module™ \(ProQuest\)](#) (HACC library has these databases, PsycInfo is a bigger database, but the other one contains more full-length articles.)

You can go to: www.hacc.edu → Library → Databases and Journals → Databases A-Z → PsycArticles or ProQuest or PsycINFO, etc. (You will need to enter your HACC id and PIN at this point.) More explanation will be given in class if necessary.

DUE DATE: Saturday, Aug. 8, 2015, 11:59 pm, to be submitted in a Word/pdf file to "Dropbox" in D2L. **NO late paper will be accepted.**