

**BLINN COLLEGE – BRYAN CAMPUS**  
**PSYCHOLOGY 2301 – GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY**  
Course Syllabus  
Summer 2012 – Section 400

## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Instructor:** Mike Pinney

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**Your email-box:**

<http://www.blinn.edu/acadtech/studentemail/>

**Phone:** (979) 450-0519

**Office:** A265

**Office Hours:** Immediately following class, or by appointment

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an introductory course presenting elementary principles of human behavior, development, and mental processes. Course material includes an overview of the basics of psychological research, biological bases of behavior, perception, learning, cognition, emotion, motivation, individual development, psychological disorders, methods of treatment, and an introduction to social psychology. (3 credit hours, meeting 10 hrs per week)

## PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites. Good reading skills are required for success.

## CORE CURRICULUM

This is a Core Course in the 42-Hour Core of Blinn College. As such, students will develop proficiency in the appropriate Intellectual Competencies, Exemplary Educational Objectives, and Perspectives. For details see: <http://www.blinn.edu/corecurriculum.htm>

## COURSE OBJECTIVES AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Those who successfully complete this course will be able to satisfy the following requirements: 1) Examine the goals of psychology. 2) Assess the use of scientific method in Psychology. 3) Distinguish the central features of major psychological theories. 4) Examine basic psychological terms and concepts. 5) Utilize key psychological terms and concepts in real life examples. 6) Characterize the work of leading contributors to the field of psychology. 7) Evaluate how psychological, biological, and social, factors can affect behavior and mental processes. 8) Demonstrate the ability to use critical thinking skills to analyze research and reports of human behavior. 9) Assess real-life situations that may require professional psychological help and compare various treatment options. 10) Differentiate the various parts of the Nervous System and summarize their role in behavior.

## STUFF YOU NEED

- 1) Textbook, "Psychology" (5th Ed.) – Hockenbury & Hockenbury
- 2) (4) **Advantage** Scantron forms for exams **#28980**
- 3) **BLINN STUDENT E-MAIL** Blinn administration will use this for important messages such as financial aid, drop warnings and I may as well. Students can find instructions for using their Blinn College emails at <http://www.blinn.edu/acadtech/studentemail> Be sure to check it daily!!

# COURSE OUTLINE

## Partial and Tentative Course Lectures and Readings\*

Week	Topic	Readings
Week1	<b>Introduction</b> - Psychology, it's all just common sense, or is it?	Chapter 1
	<b>Research Methods</b> - Does ice cream cause violent crime?	Chapter 1 (cont)
	<b>Neurons</b> - Boy, do we have nerve!	Chapter 2
	<b>The Brain</b> - The biological computer	Chapter 2 (cont)
<b>EXAM 1</b>		
Week2	<b>See, Hear, Smell, Taste &amp; Touch</b> - Oh, now that makes sense!	Chapter 3
	<b>Perception</b> - Do you see what I see?	Chapter 3 (cont)
	<b>Sleep</b> - A nice place to visit, for about 25yrs.	Chapter 4
	<b>Altered States</b> - Not just a classic 1980 Sci-fi movie	Chapter 4 (cont)
<b>EXAM 2</b>		
Week3	<b>Learning: Classical (respondent)</b> - Enough to make a dog spit!	Chapter 5
	<b>Learning: Instrumental (operant)</b> - How many times does a rat have to press a bar to get something to eat around here?	Chapter 5 (cont)
	<b>Memory</b> - Tips and Tricks for Note-taking and Studying	Chapter 6
	<b>S - E - X</b> - Lighten up, it's not a four-letter word	Chapter 10
	<b>Human Growth &amp; Development</b> - How to grow your own healthy little human	Chapter 9
<b>EXAM3</b>		
Week4	<b>Personality: Psychodynamic Theories</b> - It's not my fault, my id made me do it!	Chapter 11
	<b>History &amp; Modern Day Witch Hunts</b> - Damned if they were, damned if they weren't	Handouts
	<b>Intro. to Abnormal Psych. &amp; Anxiety Disorders</b> - I'm normal, it's the rest of the world that's whacko!	Chapter 14
	<b>Psychoses &amp; Schizophrenia</b> - Beware, the CIA has implanted a bug in this syllabus because the President knows that I know he controls the stock market and manipulates the economy so	Chapter 15
Week5	<b>FINAL EXAM on Monday, August 6th</b>	
*Instructor reserves the right to vary schedule and readings given advance notice to students.		
Exam dates will remain unchanged if at all possible.		

## CIVILITY STATEMENT & CIVILITY NOTIFICATION

Members of the Blinn College community, which includes faculty, staff and students, are expected to act honestly and responsibly in all aspects of campus life. Blinn College holds all members accountable for their actions and words. Therefore, all members should commit themselves to behave in a manner that recognizes personal respect, and demonstrates concern for the personal dignity, rights, and freedoms of every member of the College community, including respect for College property and the physical and intellectual property of others.

If a student is asked to leave the classroom because of uncivil behavior, the student may not return to that class until he or she arranges a conference with the instructor: it is the student's responsibility to arrange for this conference.

## COURSE FORMAT & REQUIREMENTS

### LECTURES

Lectures will cover some of the material in the book and will add other relevant and current information to the topic. By missing a lecture, you will miss important information that will show up on an exam. It will be virtually impossible to make an "A" grade if you do not attend the lectures. Lectures will also contain many demonstrations and class activities designed to stimulate you and to help you think critically about psychology. If you want additional information on a topic mentioned in the text or lecture, please feel free to ask, either during class or afterward. It's your money that pays for instructors to be here, so get your money's worth.

### **EXAMS (80% of your grade)**

Four exams (each worth 20% of your grade), will be given during this short semester. The exams will contain (50) multiple-choice questions and will only cover the lecture and reading material since the previous exam, so they are non-cumulative. Refer to the course schedule listed in this syllabus for times or check the class website for updated details.

### **CRITICAL THINKING ASSIGNMENTS (10% of your grade)**

These take-home assignments are designed to help you think critically about topics we are discussing in class. Most are short-answer.

**PARTICIPATION (10% of your grade)** - Class Participation will constitute 10% of your final grade and will be based on 6 or more in-class assignments, quizzes and/or exercises

**CALENDAR:** Please refer to the "**Course Outline**" for specific dates and times for all readings, assignments and exams.

**GRADING SCALE: A=90-100% / B=80-89% / C=70-79% / D= 60-69% / F=0 – 59%**

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

The College District believes that class attendance is essential for student success; therefore, students are required to promptly and regularly attend all their classes. Each class meeting builds the foundation for subsequent class meetings. Without full participation and regular class attendance, students shall find themselves at a severe disadvantage for achieving success in college. It is the responsibility of each faculty member, in consultation with the division chair, to determine how participation is achieved in his or her class. Faculty will require students to regularly attend class and will keep a record of attendance from the first day of class and/or the first day the student's name appears on the roster through final examinations. If a student has one week's worth of absences during the semester, he/she will be sent an e-mail by the College requiring the student to contact his/her instructor and schedule a conference immediately to discuss his/her attendance issues. If the student accumulates two weeks worth of absences, he/she will be administratively withdrawn from class.

There are three forms of excused absences recognized by the institution:

1. Observation of religious holy days – Sec. 51.911(b), Texas Education Code. An institution of higher education shall excuse a student attending classes and/or required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day. A student whose absence is excused under this section may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment. The student should notify his or her instructor(s) not later than the 15th day of the semester concerning the specific date(s) that the student will be absent for any religious holy day(s); and
2. Representing the College District at an official institutional function. If a student is asked by the College District to be an official representative of the College District at any function approved by the institution, the student will be excused from any classes missed and must be allowed to complete all work without penalty for that absence(s) in a timely manner as directed by the faculty member.
3. A high school student representing the independent school district at an official institutional function. If a high school student is asked by the independent school district to be an official representative of the school district at any function approved by the institution, the student shall be excused from any class missed and must be allowed to complete all work without penalty for the absence(s) in a timely manner as directed by the faculty member.

Other absences may be excused at the discretion of the faculty member.

If a student resides in College District housing, failure to attend classes may be grounds for loss of residential housing privileges (see residential housing contract for details). Students enrolled in developmental courses are subject to state-mandated attendance policies. Failure to attend developmental classes shall result in removal from the course as defined by state law. **The final date to drop with a 'Q' is Jul 27<sup>th</sup>**

### **ADA STATEMENT**

Blinn College is dedicated to providing the least restrictive learning environment for all students. Support services for students with documented disabilities are provided on an individual basis, upon request. Requests for services should be made directly to the Office of Disability Services serving the campus of your choice. For the Bryan campus, the Office of Disability Services (Administration Building) can be reached at (979)209-7251. Additional information can be found at [www.blinn.edu/disability](http://www.blinn.edu/disability).

## **OTHER POLICIES**

No food or drinks are allowed in the classroom. Appropriate dress is required. Blinn College does not tolerate cheating, plagiarism or collusion. Procedures for dealing with these acts are outlined in the Scholastic Dishonesty Policy. Please be aware that arriving late or leaving class (and returning) is disruptive to other students as well as the instructor and is to be avoided. **ALL CELL PHONES AND PAGERS MUST BE TURNED OFF UPON ENTERING ANY CLASSROOM, LIBRARY OR THE LEARNING CENTER.**

### **TALKING IN CLASS**

Please avoid talking in class among yourselves unless we are having an open discussion or exercise. If excessive talking becomes a problem, you will be asked to leave the classroom for the day.

### **ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY**

All the functions of all personal electronic devices designed for communication and/or entertainment (cell phones, pagers, beepers, iPods, and similar devices) must be turned off and kept out of sight in all Blinn College classrooms and associated laboratories. Any noncompliance with this policy will be addressed in accordance with the Blinn College civility policy (Administrative Policy). Additionally, any communication understood by the instructor to be in the nature of cheating will have consequences in accordance with this Blinn College policy section regarding academic dishonesty. Students exempted from this policy section include, active members of firefighting organizations, emergency medical services organizations, commissioned police officers, on-call employees of any political subdivision of the state of Texas, or agencies of the federal government. Exempted students are expected to set the emergency-use devices on silent or vibrate mode only.

Any student violating this policy shall be subject to discipline, including suspension, in accordance with Blinn Policy.

### **INCOMPLETES**

A grade of incomplete will only be given in serious extenuating circumstances such as a death in the immediate family or an illness that requires hospitalization. This is school policy. You must have a passing grade and supply official documentation verifying the circumstance. An incomplete will NOT be given in the case of vacation plans, job conflicts, apartment lease problems, social engagements or forgetting about the last exam. If you need an incomplete, you must speak with the instructor, provide the documentation and fill out the required paperwork before you leave.

### **EXTRA CREDIT**

No extra credit assignments will be given during the semester.

### **MAKEUP EXAMS**

**Makeup exams will be available in the Learning Center for exactly one week following the scheduled exam and will contain different questions than the exams given in class.** (If the exam is scheduled for Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup>, the makeup exam will be available from Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> through Monday the 19<sup>th</sup>). Extensions will only be given in serious, extenuating circumstances such as a death or serious illness. If you cannot provide reasonable verification of these circumstances, please do not ask for an extension.