

# Los Angeles Mission Community College

## Course Syllabus

Course:	General Psychology	Course Code:	Psy 001 SEC # 0421/0422/3293
Instructor:	Dr. F. Christopher Williams	Contact Phone:	818-833-3413
Start Date:	08-26-13	E-mail:	williacf@lamission.edu
End Date:	12-07-13	Drop Days:	09/08
Final	0421---MW 8:55---12/09/13 (10am-12)- 0422---T,TH 09:05---12/10/13 (10:00am-12:00) 3293---M 03:30---12/11/11 (05:30pm-07:30)	With a refund	09/08
		Without a W	09/08
		With a W	11/17
		Last Day	
Office hours	Mon-Thurs 8:30-9:00 Tues. 12:30-1:30/5:00-6:30 Wed. 02:30-03:30	Holidays	02/17-20/12-President's Day 03/30/12-Cesar Chavez Day 04/02-09/12-Spring Break 05/28/12-Memorial Day
Class Days:	M,W (0421) M (3293) T,TH (0422)	Time:	M-W 08:55-10:20 M 3:30-06:40 T-TH 08:55-10:20
Prerequisites			
Textbook:	The World of Psychology Wood, Wood, & Boyd 7 <sup>th</sup> edition		
Materials:	Handouts, experiments		

### My Teaching Philosophy

I teach from an interpersonal philosophy. What this means is that I think that every interaction in your life is that of an interpersonal nature. Throughout our lives we all learn to take/give things to each other; I wish for the same give and take to occur during the semester. Class participation is instrumental in the continuous development of both you and me; basically I mean let's get to know each other. Sometimes we stay quiet in class, but when we do that much of the lecture can be lost because we may not understand the material and may be apprehensive about asking questions. Let's not allow for things to go over our heads, let's raise our hands and find out why we watch scary movies and then go home and sit in the dark. I'd like to create an atmosphere that is safe for you to participate and engage one another without fear of reprisal from me or other students'. I believe that there is no such thing as a stupid question, please feel free to engage me and assist in your learning in a respectful manner.

### Course Description

This introductory psychology course covers biological foundations of behavior, various theoretical perspectives including learning, personality, and intelligence theories as well as experimental and research methodology.

This syllabus is to be utilized as a framework or outline of material that will be covered throughout the semester. The atmosphere I wish to create is one of openness, positivity, creative learning and class participation. During the semester material may be omitted from the syllabus at my leisure, while some material may be covered in depth. I will inform you of ALL material that will be due. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

### Grading Scale – 450 Point Scale

Five exams will be given throughout the semester, however only 300 points are possible through exams. I will drop two of the five exams and the score will be calculated from the remaining three. A paper will also be due which is worth 50 points. The point breakdown for the paper is as follows:

APA format    20 points  
 Content        15 points  
 References    10 points  
 Spelling       05 points

Homework, quizzes, extra credit, and class participation will be worth no more than 100 points.

### Unit Plan

Course Code:	PSY 001	Course Title:	General Psychology	Clock Hours:	
Key:	Student Learning Outcomes = Student Will=Objectives			Credits:	3

1. SW: Explain and describe one of the four goals of psychology
2. SW: Describe the basic structure and functioning of the brain and nervous system
3. SW: Analyze psychological disorders, their causes and treatment options
4. SW: Compare and contrast two theories of psychological development

Class Day	Objective #'s Met	Objectives	Process	Materials	Assessment
Week 1-2	1,2	SW: Describe the four goals of psychology SW: Discuss the settings used for psychology SW: Demonstrate competency in naming the goals of psychology	TW: Discuss course requirements, and lecture on goals of psychology. Outline a psychological theory. TW: Explain the uses of psychology and the major settings where it is used.	Textbook, Handouts	HW: Write the goals of psychology and how they relate to some part of your everyday life

Class Day	Objective #'s Met	Objectives	Process	Materials	Assessment
Week 3-5	1,2	SW: Plan an experiment based on the rules of the scientific method, and discuss the experiment with the class and explain the rationale	TW: Lead a discussion on the scientific method, and how to conduct an experiment, present lecture on purpose for experimentation. Demonstrate how	Textbook, Handouts.	Quiz on psychological process, mental awareness, and the scientific method.

			mental acuity and awareness are essential to survival.		
Week 6	1,4,5	SW: Describe the differences between the differing psychological theories and explain how they relate to any current situation. SW: Compare and contrast two psychological theories.	TW: Lecture on the psychological theories.	Textbook, handouts.	
Week 7-8	1,3,5	SW: Explain how sleep deprivation can cause harm in stressful and non-stressful situations. SW: Demonstrate how sensation is around us at all times. SW: Explain perception and how we interpret our environment.	TW: Discuss sensation and perception in a Lecture format. TW: Discuss sleep and dream interpretation, begin the brain, nerves and neurotransmitters	Textbook, handouts.	Quiz, extra credit opportunities, review for Mid-term.
Week 9	3,4	SW: Define the parts of a neuron, and discuss neurotransmitters and explain their function.	TW: Discuss neurons, neurotransmitters and how certain drugs affect brain chemicals. TW: Discuss the major parts of the brain. Explain the functions of the four lobes of the brain. TW: Relate the brain to the endocrine system.	Textbook, handouts.	Mid-term Exam. HW: Create an outline of the brain and how neurons work.
Week 10-11	1,3,4	SW: apply hypnotic theories to study techniques SW: Learn how to relax through progressive relaxation techniques.	TW: Explain the process of hypnosis; discuss the different classifications of drugs and their effects. TW: Discuss intelligence testing, types of measurements used; types of intelligence.	Textbook, handouts.	Review for quiz, relaxation exercise. HW: Create a hypnotic induction script.

Class Day	Objective #'s Met	Objectives	Process	Materials	Assessment
Week 12	1,4	SW: Explain how stress affects everyday life. SW: Design coping techniques outside of relaxation based on lecture materials.	TW: Discuss different kinds of stressors and physiological responses to such; discuss how one's personality can affect how they deal with stress. TW: give examples of different types of coping methods.	Textbook, handouts.	Oral quiz on stress, and intelligence.

			TW: Begin discussing what mental disorders are and how they are assessed and diagnosed.		
Week 13	1,4,5	SW: Identify various mental disorders. SW: Lead discussion on mental disorders and the perceptions society places on those with certain disorders.	TW: Discuss the various mental disorders outlined in modules 22 and 23. TW: Explain symptoms and treatments for each. TW: Show film based on the material covered on this day.	Textbook, handouts.	Student responses to discussion questions; quiz.
Week 14	1,4,5	SW: Discuss naturalistic observation as it pertains to mental disorders and the general public. SW: Differentiate between depression and Schizophrenia.	TW: Discuss mood disorders, particularly Major Depression, and Schizophrenia.	Textbook, handouts.	Quiz on personality and mood disorders, review for Final Exam, extra credit opportunities.
Week 15	1,4	SW: Discuss how basic psychological awareness can assist in their chosen professions. SW: Take Final Exam	TW: Summarize the module, and discuss extra credit opportunities. TW: Facilitate class discussion on psychology and its' purpose in various fields.	Textbook, handouts.	Final Exam

## Grading

You are assigned letter grades (A through F) in your course work for each class attempted. I use a percentile breakdown and assign final letter grades as follows (see accompanying chart). You may complete a class with a D (1.0). However, to graduate, you need to maintain a minimum, cumulative grade point average of 2.0 (C). A Grade Point Average (GPA) is calculated from the letter grade using the following values:

Letter Grade	Percentile Range	Percentile Entered	Grade Point Assigned
A	400-450	100	4.0
B	350-399	89	3.0
C	250-349	72	2.0
D	200-249	62	1.0
F	0-199	50	.0

## Expanded Grade Symbol Definitions

- A: (Excellent) Meeting course requirements with a superior level of performance.
- B: (Good) Meeting course requirements with a high level of performance.
- C: (Satisfactory) Meeting course requirements with an acceptable level of performance.
- D: (Unsatisfactory) Repeat course.
- F: (Failing) Repeat course.

Plagiarism –This is important

### Plagiarism Defined

Plagiarism means using another person's work, writing, words, ideas, research, graphics, programs, music, pictures, data, and/or other creative expression without giving the other person full credit. You must enclose another person's words in quotation marks and cite your source(s), and you must give citations when using the ideas of another person, even if those ideas are paraphrased in your own words.

Using words, ideas, computer code, or any work by someone else without giving proper credit is plagiarism. Any time you use information from a source, you must cite it.

### Plagiarism and the Internet

The Internet has become a very popular resource for information for student assignments. The same rules regarding plagiarism apply to resources found on the Internet as do to a printed source: when a student refers to work, writing, words, ideas, and the like or quotes from an internet site, he or she must cite that source. Many of the same rules apply when using visual information from an internet site; the source of the visual information or graphic must be cited. This includes definitions found online on Wikipedia, materials from blogs, twitter, or other similar electronic resources.

### Useful Strategies to Avoid Plagiarizing Another Person's Work

If you copy words, sentences, phrases, and the like from a text, put what you copy in quotation marks. This is especially important when you take notes.

If you choose to paraphrase, be certain that you are not just rearranging or changing a few words. A useful technique is:

- a. Read the area you want to paraphrase carefully;
- b. Cover up the text with your hand, or close the book or computer page so you cannot see any of the words;
- c. Write out the idea in your own words without referring back to the words
- d. Check your attempt at paraphrasing against the original text to be sure you have not accidentally used the same phrases or words, and that the information is accurate

At times students accused of plagiarism claim that their plagiarism occurred without their knowledge or intent. Since ignorance of this fundamental rule is not a reasonable defense, it is best to become thoroughly familiar with the various ways in which plagiarism can occur and how to avoid plagiarizing someone's work. If you have any doubts or questions, it is your responsibility to ask your teacher for clarification.

If you are found guilty of plagiarizing, you are subject to disciplinary actions up to and including suspension or termination from the program, so please study and do your best.

First offense, you will receive a zero for the assignment in question. Any further offenses may result in expulsion from the class, as determined by the disciplinary action from the Office of Student Services.

Remember: If you plagiarize:

- a. You are only cheating yourself
- b. You don't learn to write out your own ideas or thoughts in your own words, and
- c. You don't get specific feedback to meet your specific needs.

Cheating- unauthorized material used during an examination (including electronic devices), changing answers after work has been graded, taking an exam for another student, forging or altering attendance sheets or other documents in the course, looking at another student's paper/scantron/essay/computer or exam with or without their approval is considered cheating. Any student caught cheating will receive a zero for the assignment/exam and referred to the Department chair and/or Student Services for further disciplinary action.

Recording devices in the classroom- Section 78907 of the California Education Code prohibits the use of any electronic audio or video recording devices, without prior consent of the instructor. (including cell phones, laptops, MP3 players, and more)

Reasonable Accommodations: If you are a student with a disability and require accommodations, please send me a private email. The sooner I am aware of your eligibility for accommodations, the quicker I will be able to assist the DSP&S Office in providing them. For students requiring accommodations, the DSP&S Office at Mission College provides special assistance in areas like: registering for courses, specialized tutoring, note-taking, mobility assistance, special instruction, testing assistance, special equipment, special materials, instructor liaisons, community referrals and job placement. If you have not done so already, you may also wish to contact the DSP&S Office in Instructional Building 1018 (phone 818/364-7732 TTD 818/364-7861) and bring a letter stating the accommodations that are needed.

All students should have the Sheriff department # in cell phone (818) 364-7843

#### Attendance Policy

Attendance in all scheduled courses is essential for academic achievement. Perfect attendance – no absences, tardiness or early departures – is encouraged as punctuality develops within you a sense of responsibility that will have a positive impact upon your professional career. I will have quizzes at the beginning of each class (small scantron), if you are late you may miss the quiz and it may impact your class participation grade, please try to be on time.

Attendance is directly linked with the final grade a student receives in a course-(via class participation/if you are not here, you can't participate). To receive a passing grade in this course, you must maintain 85% attendance or greater. Should absences exceed 15% in this course (2 absences), you will be either excluded from my class, or you will receive a failing grade for the course. There will be NO TEXTING IN THIS CLASS!! If you text, initially I will politely ask you to put things away and respectfully pay attention, however if texting continues I will drop you from the class and then text you the reason as to why you were dropped. Please be respectful and save your texting until after class. Cell phones should be turned off or on vibrate.

Attendance is taken each day at Mission. You are responsible for notifying me, if you are going to be absent from school. I will excuse (2) absences throughout the semester, anything over (2) absences, and a half a letter grade will be deducted from your grade, so please use them wisely; you never know when an emergency may occur. You are strongly encouraged to make non-school personal appointments at times that will not conflict with your scheduled classes.

Remember, if you treat me with respect, you will be treated with respect! Please avoid side conversations, if you have any questions please ask me! Do not be afraid of utilizing my student engagement hours, I am there for you! If you need to see me outside of my office hours, please let me know and I will do my best to accommodate you!

I know that no one really pays much attention to the syllabus, so I have prepared a small acknowledgement section for you to sign as way to let me know that you have read and that you understand what has been mentioned in the syllabus.

### **Please read and initial the following:**

Please do not assume I will drop you from class if you stop attending class. If you do not drop yourself, you will receive an "F" at the end of the course **Initial**\_\_\_\_\_.

Three occurrences of attending class late are the equivalent to one absence **Initial**\_\_\_\_\_.

If you miss part or all of a class session you are still responsible and accountable for all announcements, all assignments, and material covered in that session **Initial**\_\_\_\_\_.

If you need clarification on **anything** you will come to me **Initial**\_\_\_\_\_.

I do not accept assignments via-e-mail **Initial**\_\_\_\_\_.

You are expected to have read the assignments before coming to class **Initial**\_\_\_\_\_.

Attend every class with text books, journals, any handouts and all completed assignments **Initial**\_\_\_\_\_.

I will not accept late work during the last week of the semester **Initial**\_\_\_\_\_.

If you are caught plagiarizing, you will receive an "F" for the entire class. To reiterate; If you are caught plagiarizing, you will not just receive an "F" for the paper you've plagiarized, but will most certainly receive the final grade of an "F" for the class. Plagiarism may result in possible expulsion from LAMC **Initial**\_\_\_\_\_.

During the course of the semester you must meet with me during scheduled student engagement hours, and you can also just stop by if I'm available **Initial**\_\_\_\_\_.

Handwritten assignments of any kind are not acceptable **Initial**\_\_\_\_\_.

# Student Resources

**LAMC Bookstore:** For hours of operation, book availability, buybacks, and other information call 818-364-7798 or 364-7768 or visit: <http://www.lamissionbookstore.com/>

· **Counseling Department:** For appointments and information call 818-364-7655 or visit <http://www.lamission.edu/counseling/>

· **Disabled Students Programs and Services:** For appointments and information call 818-364-7732 or visit <http://www.lamission.edu/dsps/>

· **Extended Opportunity Programs and Services:** For appointments and information call 818-364-7645 or visit <http://www.lamission.edu/eops/>

· **Financial Aid:** For information and applications call 818-364-7648 or visit <http://www.lamission.edu/financialaid/>

· **Library:** For information on library hours, resources, workshops, and other services contact 818-364-7105 or 364-7106 or <http://www.lamission.edu/library/>

· **Tutoring Services in Learning Center:** Laboratories for Learning, Writing, Math & Science. Walk-in and appointment services offered. Call 818-364-7754 or visit [www.lamission.edu/learningcenter](http://www.lamission.edu/learningcenter)