

ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY LOS ANGELES
B.A. LIBERAL STUDIES
Course Syllabus

Psychology 104
General Psychology
Fall Semester 2013

Instructor: Chloe Prentoulis, M.A. (Design campus)

Class Meeting Times & Place: Week of August 13, 2013-Week of December 14, 2013
(4 hours per week, 16 weeks); Bungalow 403 (Design Campus)

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 8:00-9:00 AM (Design Campus)

Email: cprentoulis@davincischools.org

Prerequisites: None.

Repeat policy: Students who have earned credit in this course may not repeat the course for credit.

Course Description:

This is the first semester of yearlong introductory course that will provide students with an overview of the current body of knowledge and methods of the science of psychology. In the first semester, topics will include the biological basis of behavior; sensation and perception; states of consciousness; and learning and memory; and in the second semester, developmental psychology; personality psychology; social psychology; abnormal psychology; and motivation and emotion. . Emphasis also will be placed on the historical foundations of psychology and the application of psychology to diverse human endeavors.

B.A. Program Learning Objectives:

- Critical and analytical thinking ability;
- The ability to understand issues from multiple perspectives;
- The ability to connect learning to real experience;
- Social and intercultural awareness;
- Civic and community engagement;
- Core competency in foundational skills: including, writing, quantitative reasoning, information literacy, technological literacy, oral communication, and research.

Course Description and Learning Objectives:

An overriding course goal is to provide access to the way psychologists conduct science, communicate research findings, and apply psychological knowledge. Toward this goal, our objectives for this first semester are that each student will:

- Identify current scientific theory and research in the major topic areas related to the biological basis for behavior; sensation and perception; states of consciousness; and learning and memory;
- Articulate the personal relevance of course material, including an understanding of the role of psychological forces in their lives and the lives of others, and an appreciation of the practical value of psychology;

- Develop skills necessary to evaluate and think critically about information concerning psychological phenomena in the major topic areas, as obtained from research, the general public, and the media;
- Develop and conduct original research within the areas of the biological basis for behavior; sensation and perception; states of consciousness; and learning and memory

Evaluation criteria:

40% - Unit tests and quizzes

20% - Mastery of course content demonstrated through participation and assignments

15% - Habits of mind (homework completion, class participation, effort and behavior)

15% - Design process skills (technical/computer based skills, lab work, statistical analysis, experimental design and execution, project work)

10% - Cumulative final semester exam (covers all content from August through December)

Required Texts:

Griggs, R.A. (2012). Psychology, a concise introduction, third edition. New York, NY: Worth Publishers.
ISBN-10: 1-4292-6155-2

Prentoulis digital portfolio with semester calendar and downloadable documents:
<http://dp.davincischools.org/teacher/cprentoulis/>

Course units

This course is 3 semester units and cannot be taken for additional credit.

Note on assignments: Project overview forms will be distributed for our two major semester projects. Here is an overview of each:

FALL SEMESTER ASSIGNMENTS (still awaiting separate matrix) AND COURSE SCHEDULE

Intro to psychology and behavioral research: August 13 – September 5

Project-based unit: Students will design and conduct behavioral research on a topic of interest to them. They will choose two research methods in their investigation of a chosen behavior, out of the methods studied in class. They will write a term paper or present their findings.

- Introduction to psychology – the study of behavior
- Approaches in psychology – behavioral, cognitive, psychodynamic, humanistic, socio-cultural and biological
- Famous people in psychology, historical context
- Research methodologies for studying behavior: surveys, case studies, naturalistic observation, controlled experiments

The biological basis of behavior: September 5 – October 1

- CNS - Brain anatomy and function. Lab: dissect a sheep brain
- Neural anatomy and function
- Neurotransmitters – Virtual lab: Mouse party (Utah genetics website)
- PNS – Autonomic and somatic divisions. Lab: involuntary changes in heart rate in response to fear (autonomic)

- Lab: ruler drop reaction rate (somatic)

Sensation and perception: October 1 – October 10

- Eye anatomy and function. Lab: Eye dissection
- Visual processing and optical illusions
- Taste, smell and touch. Lab: sense-testing stations
- Jellybean gustation – discerning flavor using senses of taste, smell, sight and touch
- Brain lateralization – Lab: dowel balance challenge and shape determination
- Attention and habituation

States of consciousness: October 10 – October 31

Project-based unit: Students will set a personal goal, write, record and listen to a self-hypnosis script that helps them achieve this goal, measure the effectiveness of their efforts in an objective manner and present on their findings.

- Sleep and dreams – sleep cycles and dream journaling
- Self hypnosis project – see description above
- Hypnotist visit – Shelley Stockwell Nicholas will visit Da Vinci Design
- Drugs – The effect and damage of chemicals that alter consciousness. Online investigation: The meth project
- Meditation. Lab: mean class heart rate before and after guided meditation

Learning: November 1 – November 22

- Classical conditioning
- Operant conditioning

Memory: November 22 – December 10

- Sensory memory, iconic and echoic
- Short-term memory. Lab: dot pattern memory test of 5-7 items
- Long-term memory – implicit, explicit, procedural, episodic, semantic
- Encoding, retrieving, forgetting. Labs: wordlists, recall, eye witness accounts.
- Memory disorders – amnesia, fugue, Alzheimer's

Cumulative unit test: December 17

BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR FURTHER STUDY (TBA)

OTHER COURSE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all class sessions and participate as required in the syllabus. Students missing more than 4 class sessions must make up the missed time by completing assignments per instructors direction; per University policy, students missing more than 10 class sessions will not receive credit for the course. See AULA General Catalog, 2010-2012 (p. 59) for university policy.

Incomplete policy

If you are unable to submit all of your assignments as required in the syllabus, please communicate with me for approval of an Incomplete and to make arrangements to submit all outstanding assignments by the sixth week of the subsequent term, as required by University policy.

Student Conduct policy

Respectful conduct is expected of students on the campus at all times, both inside and outside the classroom. See AULA General Catalog, 2010-2012, (p.59 &71) for university policy.

Plagiarism policy

Plagiarism – that is, the intentional or unintentional borrowing of another person’s ideas, images, research, or data without citation -- is a serious breach of academic integrity that results in sanctions, including dismissal from the University. Students committing plagiarism will be also be subject to disciplinary action from DaVinci Schools as well as from the University.

Please consult Diana Hacker’s A Writer’s Reference, 6th ed., pp. 344-347 for specific guidance on avoiding plagiarism while taking notes, summarizing, paraphrasing, and quoting from sources. Please also feel free to ask me for clarification.

Reasonable Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Antioch University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to qualified students with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 2008. Students with disabilities may contact the Disability Support Services office to initiate the process and request accommodations that will enable them to have an equal opportunity to benefit from and participate in the institution's programs and services. Students are encouraged to do this as early in the term as possible, since reasonable accommodations are not retroactive. The Disability Support Services office is available to address questions regarding reasonable accommodations at any point in the term.

For more information, please contact Josh Williams, Director of Student Affairs, extension 441, jwilliams10@antioch.edu, room A2041.

Antioch University Policies:

Antioch University is committed to building a vibrant and inclusive educational environment that promotes learning and the free exchange of ideas. Our academic and learning communities are based upon the expectation that their members uphold the shared goal of academic excellence through honesty, integrity, and pride in one’s own academic efforts and respectful treatment of the academic efforts of others.

All students are expected to comply with Antioch University policies, including the Title IX Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Policy and the Student Conduct Policy.

To access academic, student, and other university policies are available online: http://aura.antioch.edu/au_policies/

I hereby commit to work hard throughout the year so that I may excel in this challenging college-level course. I will abide by classroom rules and complete assignments on time to the best of my ability.

Student name (printed): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent name (please print): _____ Signature: _____

Parent email: _____ Best phone number for daytime contact: _____