

**LaGuardia Community College**  
City University of New York  
Social Science Department

## **General Psychology: SSY 101 1935**

COURSE INFORMATION		PROFESSOR INFORMATION	
Semester:	Fall 1 2013	Professor:	Dr. Lara Beaty
Class time:	Mondays, Tuesdays, & Thursdays, 9:15-10:15	Office:	C-459C
Classroom:	C-262	Telephone:	x5796
Office hours:	Mondays, 11:30-1:00 Tuesdays, 12:45-2:15 & by appointment	e-mail:	LBEATY@lagcc.cuny.edu
		Webpage:	<a href="http://lbeaty.freeshell.org">http://lbeaty.freeshell.org</a>

### **Required Text Book:**

Myers, D. G. (2013) *Psychology* (Tenth Edition in Modules). New York: Worth Publishers.

The book is available for purchase in the bookstore. The Eighth and Ninth editions will also be acceptable, but use of these requires that you check that the module numbers have not changed. Table of Contents are always available online.

*Additional required and recommended resources will be available on Blackboard.*

### **Course Description**

This course is an introduction to some of the major fields of study and practices in the science of psychology. An emphasis will be placed on how psychologists develop theories and knowledge across a wide range of activities and on the nature of science. This course is writing intensive.

### **Course Objectives**

- To learn about the diversity of fields and theories in psychology
- To explore different research designs and methods
- To understand different roles a psychologist can have
- To develop critical thinking about psychological theory and research.

### **All students are expected to:**

- Complete all the reading during the week in which it is discussed. The purpose of class is NOT to repeat what was in the book but to draw connections and explore issues in more detail. Not reading severely limits a student's ability to participate in class.
- PARTICIPATE in class activities.
- TAKE NOTES during discussions as well as during lectures.
- RESPECT ALL members of the class at all times.
- Behave appropriately at all times in the classroom.
- Turn off or silence cell phones. A cell phone ringing during an exam will result in five points deducted from the exam grade, and phones cannot be used for any purpose during an exam.
- **Spend an average of 3 hours work for every hour spent in class.** This can be distributed throughout the week, but if you really don't have three hours per class available, it is extremely

hard to really master course material.

- **Use Blackboard.** All students must have a working blackboard account with an email account associated with it that you use. Personnel in computer labs and the course instructor are available for assistance. Use of Blackboard is necessary to access supplementary readings, participate in Discussion Board, receive announcements, and submit papers.

### **Course Guidelines:**

- Late assignments will lose five points per class period that it is late.
- Students are encouraged to review grades on Blackboard and bring concerns to the instructor.
- Departures from the classroom must be kept to a minimum because they can distract other students, but students should leave quietly when necessary.
- Presentations will be posted on Blackboard. When possible, they will be posted before class. Note, that if you intend to print them, some small formatting adjustments will make them more readable (and use less ink) because they are designed for presentations rather than printing.
- Use of office hours is encouraged to address any course-related concerns or to seek advisement.
- Late students should sign the attendance sheet left for late students.

## **ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES**

### **Course Requirements and Grading Policy**

All assignments are required unless students discuss modifications with the professor. Failure to complete assignments results in zeros, which severely impact course averages. Assignments will affect your overall grade as indicated below. This table can be used to calculate your grade.

Examinations	25%	_____ x .25 = _____
Final Examination	10%	_____ x .10 = _____
Reflections & Discussion Board	10%	_____ x .10 = _____
Staged Paper	30%	_____ x .30 = _____
Group Presentations	25%	_____ x .25 = _____
		<b>Total = _____</b>

*Grades will be posted on Blackboard.*

### **Grade Guidelines:**

All assignments will be graded by percent credit earned. The following table indicates how grades are assigned:

<b>A- = 90.0 to 92.5</b>	<b>A = 93.0 to 100</b>	
<b>B- = 80.0 to 82.5</b>	<b>B = 83.0 to 96.5</b>	<b>B+ = 87.0 to 89.5</b>
<b>C- = 70.0 to 72.5</b>	<b>C = 73.0 to 76.5</b>	<b>C+ = 77.0 to 79.5</b>

<b>D- = 60.0 to 62.5</b>	<b>D = 63.0 to 66.5</b>	<b>D+ = 67.0 to 69.5</b>
<b>F = Below 59.5</b>		

### **Examinations**

At the end of each unit, a 15 minutes, single question essay-test will be given in class. The lowest grade will be dropped, and no make-up tests will be given.

### **Final Examination**

The final exam will consist of three short-essay questions. More details will be provided.

### **Reflections & Discussion Board**

Short essays will be required in class and on blackboard to reflect upon course material. Students are encouraged to use these in writing the final paper. Other aspects of participation, such as attendance and class discussions will influence this grade.

### **Staged Papers**

A series of short papers will be given across the semester in preparation for a final paper that will present a design for a research study with a literature review. All papers will use APA referencing when relevant.

- 1) A reflection of your understandings and knowledge of psychology as they relate to the first chapter of the book and class discussions (3-4 pages)
- 2) Methods & Results: A detailed description of the group activity (3-5 pages)
- 3) A reference list including the textbook and at least two readings that were not assigned for class (1-2 pages)
- 4) Literature Review: A description of research on your topic (3-5 pages)
- 5) A description of a fantasy research study on your topic (2-3 pages)
- 6) A final paper that combines these papers and adds a conclusion to consider how research relates to psychological knowledge (12-15 pages)

### **Group Presentations**

Students will be required as part of a group to do two in-class presentations and a poster for the Psychology Conference. The in-class presentations include a "Research Activity" and "Classic Research Presentation." The poster will be based on the Research Activity, and class time will be given to prepare. Groups and group topics will be given on the second day of class. These are limited to 10 minutes and must meet the specific requirements described in the handout.

### **Extra Credit**

Opportunities may appear throughout the semester to earn extra credit, which can be applied to a particular assignment or to the final grade as agreed upon with the professor. Attending and writing a 1-3 page reflection paper on a college event can earn extra credit as can the submission of thorough notes at the end of the semester. For details, contact the professor.

## **COLLEGE POLICIES AND INFORMATION**

### **Incomplete Grades**

Please note that incomplete grades are only possible when students meet with the professor and they agree that—due to a specific situation—more time is needed to meet course requirements. Incomplete grades are only permissible where students are already passing the course, have legitimate reasons for not completing all the work of the class, have furnished appropriate documentation, and have agreed to a deadline by which all unfinished work must be completed. Failure to submit all assigned course work or to appear for a final exam are NOT legitimate reasons for granting an incomplete grade.

### **Attendance**

The College's attendance policy reads as follows: "Attendance in class is a requirement and will be considered in the evaluation of student performance. Instructors are required to keep an official record of student attendance. The maximum number of unexcused absences is limited to 15% of the number of class hours [5.4 hours in a 3-credit course]. Note: Absences are counted from the first day of class even if they are a result of late registration or change of program" (2005-06 catalog, p. 114). Keep in mind that students are held responsible for material discussed in class that is not in the reading, thus regular attendance is essential. Attendance will not have a direct impact on grades, but poor attendance prevents participation. Frequent tardiness or early departures similarly reduces participation and can interfere with fellow students' learning. It is recommended that if students miss more than 3 classes, they should speak with the professor and that if students miss more than 7 classes, they should consider withdrawing from the course.

### **Academic Integrity**

Please refer to the College Catalog (pg. 114).

Cheating and Plagiarism: This class will be conducted in compliance with LaGuardia Community College's academic integrity policy. All cases of cheating or plagiarism will be penalized by a failure on the examination or paper at a minimum and may result in failure in the course. All violations will be reported to the College. Please refer to the handout on APA formatting for additional information about plagiarism.

### **Student Support Information:**

The Student Information Call Center: Welcome Center, M-Building Lobby  
(718) 482-5935, e-mail: [callcenter@lagcc.cuny.edu](mailto:callcenter@lagcc.cuny.edu)

Library Media Resources Center (Rm. E-101)

(718) 482-5426, Website: <http://www.lagcc.cuny.edu/library/>

Writing Center (Rm. B-200)

Website: <http://www.lagcc.cuny.edu/english/writingcenter/>

Counseling Department, Division of Academic Affairs (B-100)

(718) 482-5250, Website: <http://www.lagcc.cuny.edu/counseling/services.htm>

Office for Students with Disabilities (M102)

(718) 482-5279, [osd@lagcc.cuny.edu](mailto:osd@lagcc.cuny.edu)

Women's Center

(718) 482-5102

Early Childhood Learning Center (MB09)

(718) 482-5295

### **Tentative Schedule**

All readings are recommended to be completed BEFORE the day in which they are indicated, but particularly for difficult texts, some students find it better to read it immediately following the class in which it is covered. All changes to the schedule will be indicated on the course schedule on Blackboard.

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>Unit 1: Introduction to Psychology</b>				
1	9/9	Introduction		
2	9/10	Topics and Fields	Module 1	
3	9/12	Research & Ethics	Module 2	
4	9/16	Research Strategies	Module 3	Writing 1: My understandings
<b>Unit 2: Freud, Consciousness, &amp; Personality</b>				
5	9/17	Freud	Module 40	<i>Exam 1</i>
6	9/19	Psychoanalysis	Psychoanalysis.pdf	
7	9/23	Consciousness	Module 7 stanovich2007.pdf	
8	9/24	Dreams	Module 8 Hock: hobson.pdf	Writing 2: Research Activity
<b>Unit 3: Personality vs. Social Contest</b>				
9	9/26	Emotion	Module 35	<i>Exam 2</i>
10	9/30	Personality: Theory	Module 41	<b>Group 1 Activity Presentation</b>
11	10/1	Personality	Module 42 Hock: rotter.pdf	<b>Group 5 Research Presentation</b>
12	10/3	Social Psychology	Module 43-44 Hock: darley&latene.pdf	<b>Group 2 Activity Presentation Group 4 Research Presentation</b>
<b>Unit 4: Learning</b>				
13	10/7	Behaviorism		<i>Exam 3</i>
14	10/8	Classical Conditioning	Module 20	<b>Group 3 Activity Presentation</b>
15	10/10	Operant Conditioning	Module 21	
<b>10/14-15</b>		<b>No Classes</b>		
16	10/17	Modern Approaches to Learning	Module 22 Hock: bandura.pdf	<b>Group 1 Research Presentation</b>
<b>Unit 5: Cognition</b>				
17	10/21	Information Processing	Module 23-24	<i>Exam 4</i>
18	10/22	Retrieval and Forgetting	Module 25-26	<b>Group 4 Activity Presentation</b>
19	10/24	Cognitive Research	bjork&bjork.pdf Hock: loftus.pdf	<b>Group 2 Research Presentation</b>

20	10/28	Thinking	Module 27	
Unit 6: Sensation & Biopsychology				
21	10/29	Sensation: Psychophysics	Module 17	Exam 5
22	10/31	Perception: Gestalt	Module 18	Group 5 Activity Presentation
23	11/4	Neurons	Module 4	Writing 3: reference list
24	11/5	The Brain	Module 5-6	
25	11/7	Genes	Module 11 Hock: bouchard.pdf	Group 3 Research Presentation
Unit 7: Developmental Psychology				
26	11/11	Developmental Psychology	Module 13-14	Exam 6
27	11/12	Cognition vs Culture	Module 12 rogoff.pdf	
28	11/14	Lifespan Psychology	Module 15-16	Writing 4: literature review
Unit 8: Cognitive Issues				
29	11/18	Intelligence & Creativity	Module 29-30 gardner.pdf sternberg.pdf	Exam 7
30	11/19	Language	Module 28	
31	11/21	Comparative & Evolutionary Psychology	MonkeyBabble.pdf EvenAmongAnimals.pdf	
32	11/25	Conference Preparation		
33	11/26	Psychology Conference		Group Posters
11/28			No Class, Thanksgiving	
Unit 9: Abnormal Psychology				
34	12/2	Mental Illness	Module 47 Americanization.pdf DSM.pdf	Exam 8 Writing 5: Fantasy research
35	12/3	Disorders	Module 48-51	
36	12/5	Therapy	Module 52-54	Optional Rough Draft
	12/10	Final Exam		
	12/16	Final Paper Due		