

LaGuardia Community College
City University of New York
Social Science Department

General Psychology: SSY 101 2604

COURSE INFORMATION		PROFESSOR INFORMATION	
Semester:	Spring 2012	Professor:	Prof. Lara Beaty
Class time:	Mon, Tues, Thurs: 1:00-2:00	Office:	C-459C
Classroom:	C-117	Telephone:	x5796
Office hours:	Mondays: 10:00-11:30 am	e-mail:	LBEATY@lagcc.cuny.edu
	Wednesdays: 4:30-5:00 pm Thursdays: 10:00-11:30 am	Webpage:	http://lbeaty.freeshell.org

Required Text Book: Myers, D. G. (2010) *Psychology* (Ninth Edition in Modules). New York: Worth Publishers.

The book is available for purchase in the bookstore. There is also a new website to allow students to buy and sell used textbooks at <http://www.flierguy.com>. It is important to get the “Modular” version to know what to read for class.

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. As part of the *Imagination and Reality* cluster, the class will particularly explore issues and questions about the connections between thinking and the world, the role of the unconscious and creativity, and the effort by scientists to clearly distinguish the Truth from opinions and biases. The class will return regularly to the question, “How can we know what is real?”

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.
- To explore the distinctions and connections between imagination and reality

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 depth. 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. Notes will be collected at the conclusion of the course for extra credit.
- 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 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 NOT be accepted unless arrangements are made with the professor prior to the due date.
- 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.
- Powerpoint 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.

Examination 1	10%	_____ x .10 = _____
Examination 2	10%	_____ x .10 = _____
Examination 3	20%	_____ x .20 = _____
Discussion Board & Low-Stakes Writing	15%	_____ x .15 = _____
Staged Paper	25%	_____ x .25 = _____
Group Presentations	20%	_____ x .20 = _____
		Total = _____

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:

A- = 90.0 to 92.5	A = 93.0 to 100	
B- = 80.0 to 82.5	B = 83.0 to 96.5	B+ = 87.0 to 89.5
C- = 70.0 to 72.5	C = 73.0 to 76.5	C+ = 77.0 to 79.5
D- = 60.0 to 62.5	D = 63.0 to 66.5	D+ = 67.0 to 69.5
F = Below 59.5		

Examinations

Three examinations will be given across the semester. They will be *difficult*, and only 30 minutes will be given for the first two and an hour for the third, but *students are permitted to use notes*. They will relate directly to Discussion Board activity and the textbook readings. No make-up exams will be given under any circumstances.

Discussion Board & Low-Stakes Writing

The Discussion Board on Blackboard will provide forums that students are expected to participate in bi-weekly. Questions will be posted and students will be expected to answer the questions and respond to classmates' answers. Each forum will be graded and the average grade will be used in the determination of final grades. Other "low-stakes" writing assignments will be assigned in class from time to time. The grade on these assignments will not have a great impact on your final grade; doing the assignments is more important than the grade because they are intended to help you master that material. Improvement across the semester will be taken into account.

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. The first assignment (Reflection 1) will be to locate and reflect on an article from *Psychology Today*, *Scientific American*, the *New York Times* Science section, or similar periodical about psychological research. The second reflection will be a review on the topic as covered in the textbook. The third reflection will be a summary of a research article from a professional journal on the same topic. The next assignment will be a description of an imagined research study on the topic, and the final paper will combine the first three reflections into a literature review and study design, using APA format.

Group Presentations

Students will be required to do two presentations during the semester as part of a group. Assignments will be given on the second day of class. These are limited to 15 minutes and must meet the specific requirements described.

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 1-2 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:

Center for Student Success (Rm. C-249)

(718) 482-5245, css@lagcc.cuny.edu

The Student Information Call Center: Welcome Center, M-Building Lobby

(718) 482-5935, e-mail: 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

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 at <http://lbeaty.freeshell.org>.

	Date	Topic	Reading	Other
1	3/5	Introduction		
2	3/6	Questions and Methods		<i>Short Story</i>
3	3/8	Topics and Fields	Module 1	
4	3/12	Biopsychology: Neurons	Module 4	
5	3/13	Biopsychology: The Brain	Module 5-6	
6	3/15	Biopsychology: Genes	Module 11	<i>Reflection 1</i>
7	3/19	Sensation: Psychophysics	Module 17 & 18	
8	3/20	Perception: Gestalt	Module 21	Group 1 Activity Presentation
9	3/22	Ecological Psychology	Module 22	
10	3/26	Psychoanalysis	Module 45	Exam 1
11	3/27	The Unconscious	Psychoanalysis.pdf	
12	3/29	Consciousness	Module 7	
13	4/2	Dreams	Module 8 Hock: hobson.pdf	
14	4/3	Research & Ethics	Module 2	
15	4/5	Research Strategies	Module 3	<i>Reflection 2</i>
Spring Break: 4/6-4/15				
16	4/16	Emotion	Module 40	
17	4/17	Personality: Theory	Module 46	Group 2 Activity Presentation
18	4/19	Personality	Module 47 Hock: rotter.pdf	Group 3 Research Presentation Group 4 Activity Presentation
19	4/23	Social Psychology	Hock: festinger.pdf	Group 1 Research Presentation
20	4/24	Social vs. Personality	Module 56 -57	

21	4/26	Learning: Behaviorism		Exam 2
22	4/30	Learning: Conditioning	Module 23-24	Group 5 Activity Presentation
23	5/1	Modern Approaches to Learning	Module 25 Hock: bandura.pdf	Group 2 Research Presentation
	5/3	<i>No class due to professor attending conference</i>		
24	5/7	Cognition: Information Processing	Module 26-28	Group 3 Activity Presentation
25	5/8	Cognition: Thinking	Module 29-31 bjork&bjork.pdf Hock: loftus.pdf	Group 4 Research Presentation
26	5/10	Cognition: Intelligence & Creativity	Module 33 gardner.pdf sternberg.pdf	
27	5/14	Cognition: Language	Module 32	<i>Reflection 3</i>
28	5/15	Comparative Psychology	Module 12 MonkeyBabble.pdf EvenAmongAnimals.pdf	
29	5/17	Evolutionary Psychology	Hock: bouchard.pdf Jacklin1989.pdf	Group 5 Research Presentation
30	5/21			Attend Social Science Student Conference in Room E242
31	5/22			
32	5/24	Developmental Psychology	Module 14-15	<i>Study Design</i>
	5/28	Memorial Day, No class		
33	5/29	Individual vs Sociocultural	rogoff.pdf	
34	5/31	Mental Illness	Module 48 Americanization.pdf DSM.pdf	
35	6/4	Disorders	Module 49-52	
36	6/7	Therapy	Module 53 & 54	<i>Final Paper</i>
	6/11	Final Exam		