Gavilan College  
Social Science Department (Psychology)  
PSYC 1A: Introduction to Psychology (CRN 40054)  
3 Units, Spring 2012

Please review the syllabus **regularly** to maintain awareness of course expectations

**INSTRUCTOR:** Carlton H. Oler, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist

**OFFICE:** SS 107. Office hours: Monday & Wednesday (11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. & 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.), & Thursday (4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

**PHONE/EMAIL:** (408) 852-2808/coler@gavilan.edu. My webpage can be found on the Gavilan College website under “Class Homepages.”

**CLASS TIME:** Monday and Wednesday, 8:10 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

**CLASSROOM:** SS 214


**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The nature, scope, methods, presuppositions, history, and fields of psychology together with the scientific study of factors influencing human behavior, human development, perception, learning, memory, emotion, personality, frustration, and psychotherapy. Advisory: Eligible for English 250 and English 260. **This course involves much reading and writing, so if you’re not willing to do both you should probably avoid this class.**

**ADA ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT:** Students requiring special services or arrangements because of hearing, visual, or other disability should contact the Disabled Student Services Office, their counselor, or their instructor.

**OCCUPATIONAL/VOCATIONAL STATEMENT:** Occupational/Vocational students – Limited English language skills will not be a barrier to admittance to and participation in Vocational Education Programs.

**STUDENT HONESTY POLICY REFERENCE STATEMENT:** Students are expected to exercise academic honesty and integrity. Violations such as cheating and plagiarism will result in disciplinary action which may include recommendation for dismissal.

**TEACHING STRATEGIES:** Lectures, audio-visual aids, small group work, discussions, critical thinking questions, end of chapter quizzes, examinations, research paper, and demonstrations. Additional strategies may be utilized to help students’ better grasp the subject matter.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. To recognize psychology as the science that systematically studies observable behavior and its relationship to unseen mental processes and events in the environment.
2. To define basic psychological terms, concepts and theories.
3. To identify the nature and operations of behavioral patterns.
4. To apply psychological terms, concepts and theories to personal, interpersonal and professional functioning.
5. To describe the role of the APA Ethics Code in the field of psychology.
6. To explain the importance of addressing diversity issues in the field of psychology.

MAJOR CONTENT TOPICS

1. The Science of Psychology
11. Stress and Health Psychology
4. States of Consciousness
3. Sensation and Perception
5. Learning
6. Memory
7. Cognition and Mental Abilities
2. The Biological Basis of Behavior
8. Motivation and Emotion
9. Life-Span Development
10. Personality
12. Psychological Disorders
13. Therapies
14. Social Psychology

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance: Be on time for class. Students are allowed two absences according to Gavilan College policy. If class is missed a third time, the student will be dropped from the course (save your two absences for when you really need them). Avoid being absent or tardy on an exam day or when an assignment is due. If you come to class after roll call, be sure to see me at the end of class so I can mark you as present (letting me know at a later time will be too late). Students’ with perfect attendance (never absent, tardy, leave early, or exit class during class time from the first day of class—no exceptions) will receive a half grade boost to their final grade. Keep track of your attendance.

Classroom Etiquette/Participation: All electronic devices (e.g., cell phone, laptop, iPad, iPod) must be turned off (no texting, tweeting, checking/sending e-mail, surfing the internet, listening to music, playing computer games) and put away (out of sight) during class time—unless being used for typing lecture notes. When not typing notes, the laptop screen, iPad, etc. must be face down. The first breach of these requirements will result in a warning, the second the shutdown of the electronic device for the remainder of the class period, and the third the electronic device not being allowed in the classroom. No recording of the lectures is permitted unless deemed necessary by the Disability Resource Center. When your name is called during roll call, raise your hand high and shout “here” so I can be sure to mark you present. Please respect others’ beliefs, feelings, etc. in class—just as you would like others to do for you. Avoid self-disclosing or asking how to handle personal problems in class or in my office (counseling is available at the Gavilan College Counseling Department or your local mental health center). No eating or drinking (except water) is permitted in class. Refrain from using class time to copy notes from a missed class. Children can’t be allowed in the classroom (make sure to see me before inviting visitors). Sit close to the front of the class, and come prepared to participate in order to maximize learning (speak clearly and loud enough to be understood). Students with regular quality class participation (don’t overdo it) will have five bonus points added to their lowest exam score.
Critical Thinking Questions (CTQs): Students must type an answer to one or more CTQs for each of the 14 chapters. The answers should be single-spaced and typed in Times New Roman 12-font. The CTQs will be posted online at least a week before they’re due. Each CTQ answer should be typed on a separate sheet of paper. If you turn in more than one CTQ answer at a time, **staple them all together.**

Steps to typing strong CTQ answers: (1) read the CTQs carefully, (2) read the chapter carefully that the CTQs come from, (3) take time to think about and formulate your CTQ answers, (4) type your answers up according to the instructions on the CTQs website, (5) type only what **directly and specifically** answers the CTQ, and (6) don’t wait until the last minute to do the CTQs—have them printed out, stapled if two or more pages are handed in, and ready to turn in no later than the night before they’re due (be sure to **check/review** your CTQs answers before you turn them in to make certain that you’ve followed the instructions). Lack of a textbook isn’t a legitimate excuse for not turning in assignments on time. An excellent CTQ example answer is on my website. CTQ answers must be turned in **before** roll call is completed and stapled if necessary to be accepted. Students are encouraged to take the quizzes throughout the textbook to facilitate chapter understanding.

**Research Paper:** Students are required to type a 10 (full) to 12 page research paper on a topic in psychology (see Instructions for the 10 to 12 Page Research Paper below).

**METHODS OF EVALUATION**—keep track of your points/grades

**Examinations:** Exam 1 will cover chapters 1, 11, 4 and 3, exam 2, chapters 5, 6, 7, 2, and 8, and the final exam (Wednesday, May 23 at 8:00 a.m.), chapters 9, 10, 12, 13 and 14, and pulling it all together. Exams 1 and 2 will start at 8:10 a.m., and all three exams will include a combination of short answer, essay, multiple choice and true and false items from the lecture notes, CTQs, textbook, small group work, and discussions. I **VERY STRONGLY** encourage you to start studying for the exams the day you receive notes for a particular exam, so that cramming and stressing out can be avoided, and learning and grade satisfaction are maximized. Bring a large (11” x 8.5”) green book on each exam day and write your answers in ink. **NO** make-up exams or extra credit assignments are available.

**Grading System:**

Exam 1 (100 pts) ----------------------------------------------------------- 16%
Exam 2 (100 pts) ----------------------------------------------------------- 16%
Final Exam (100 pts) ------------------------------------------------------ 20%
Critical Thinking Questions (100 pts/7 pts. each CTQ) ---------------------- 18%
Research Paper (100 pts) -------------------------------------------------- 30%

500 pts. total

100%

**Exams/CTQs/Research Paper:**

A = 90%-100% (90 pts. up)
A- = 89% (89-89.9 pts.)
B+ = 87%-88% (87-88.9 pts.)
B = 80%-86% (80-86.9 pts.)
B- = 79% (79-79.9 pts.)
C+ = 77%-78% (77-78.9 pts.)
C = 70%-76% (70-76.9 pts.)
D = 60%-69% (60-69.9 pts.)
F = 59% and down (59.9 pts. and below)

**Total:**

A = 90%-100% (450 pts. up)
A- = 89% (445-449.9 pts.)
B+ = 87%-88% (435-444.9 pts.)
B = 80%-86% (400-434.9 pts.)
B- = 79% (395-399.9 pts.)
C+ = 77%-78% (385-394.9 pts.)
C = 70%-76% (350-384.9 pts.)
D = 60%-69% (300-349.9 pts.)
F = 59% and down (299.9 pts. and below)
COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1, Overview of the Class
2/1 (W) Review of the Syllabus

Week 2, Overview of the Class (continued)
2/6 (M) Review of the Syllabus

2/8 (W) Strategies for Academic Success

Week 3, Overview of the Class; Library Orientation/Conducting Research
2/13 (M) Strategies for Academic Success

2/15 (W) Library Orientation/Conducting Research (library staff)

Week 4, Science of Psychology
2/20 (M) Presidents’ Day

2/22 (W) Chapter 1 CTQ answer due; what psychology is, careers in psychology, perspectives in psychology, human diversity in psychology

Week 5, Science of Psychology: Stress and Health Psychology
2/27 (M) Chapter 11 CTQ answer and topic card due; research methods in psychology, ethics in psychology, what stress is, sources/causes of stress, how stress affects health

2/29 (W) Coping with stress

Week 6, States of Consciousness
3/5 (M) Chapter 4 CTQ answer due; what consciousness is, states of consciousness, daydreaming and fantasizing, sleep disorders, dreaming

3/7 (W) Drug-altered consciousness, meditation and hypnosis

Week 7, Sensation and Perception
3/12 (M) Chapter 3 CTQ answer due; the nature of sensation, perception

3/14 (W) The five senses

Week 8, Learning
3/19 (M) Exam 1 (Chapters 1, 11, 4, 3); Chapter 5 CTQ answer due; what classical conditioning is, phobias

3/21 (W) What operant conditioning is, observational/vicarious learning theory

Week 9, Memory; Cognition and Mental Abilities
3/26 (M) Chapters 6 and 7 CTQ answers due; types of memory, causes of memory loss/forgetting

3/28 (W) Cognition, language, problem solving, intelligence, creativity
**Week 10, The Biological Basis of Behavior; Motivation and Emotion**
4/2 (M) Research paper and Chapters 2 and 8 CTQ answers due; neurons, the central and peripheral nervous systems, endocrine system, genes

4/4 (W) What motivation is, perspectives on motivation

**Week 11, No Class**
4/9-15 Spring Break

**Week 12, Motivation and Emotion (continued)**
4/16 (M) Hunger

4/18 (W) Sex, emotion—what it is, theories of emotion

**Week 13, Life-Span Development**
4/23 (M) Exam 2 (Chapters 5, 6, 7, 2, 8); Chapter 9 CTQ answer due; what life-span development is, prenatal development

4/25 (W) The newborn, infancy, childhood

**Week 14, Life-Span Development (continued); Personality**
4/30 (M) Chapter 10 CTQ answer due; adolescence, adulthood, late adulthood, what personality is psychodynamic theories

5/2 (W) Humanistic, trait and cognitive-social learning theories, personality assessment

**Week 15, Psychological Disorders**
5/7 (M) Chapter 12 CTQ answer due; perspectives on psychological disorders, mood and anxiety disorders

5/9 (W) Psychosomatic/somatoform, dissociative, sexual, gender-identity, personality and schizophrenic disorders, gender and cultural differences in psychological disorders

**Week 16, Therapies; Social Psychology**
5/14 (M) Chapter 13 CTQ answer due; what therapy is, insight, behavior, cognitive and group therapies, biological therapies, client diversity and treatment

5/16 (W) Chapter 14 CTQ answer due; what social psychology is, social cognition, attitudes, social influence, social action

**Week 17, Final Exams Week**
5/23 (W) Final Exam—8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. (Chapters 9, 10, 12, 13, 14 and pulling it all together)

**Note:** students are held responsible for any announcements or changes made during class time whether present, late, or absent
INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE 10 TO 12 PAGE RESEARCH PAPER
PSYC 1A Introduction to Psychology
Spring 2012

Your research paper should cover a topic in psychology of interest to you. The ideas for your research topic must come from the textbook. Your research topic title must be cleared by me face-to-face either right after class or during my office hours before you start working on your paper through bringing a list of five research topic titles to me (with your name on it) written down according to the phrasing of the Example PSYC 1A Research Paper Titles on my website (don’t choose your title from this list—they’re just examples). Bring your textbook with you to show me where in it you got the ideas for your five research topic titles. Once your research topic title is approved, you can turn in a research topic card. The research topic card (3” x 5”) should contain your name, the approved research topic title, and a brief description of what you plan to write about (see Research Topic Card Example below)—the card must be turned in correctly filled out by Monday, February 27 before roll call is completed. If not turned in by this date and/or done incorrectly, your topic card won’t be accepted, you won’t be able to write a research paper, and won’t receive any points for this assignment. Once your topic card is approved, you have one week to determine if there are enough empirical research articles (all contain a Methods and Results section) available to write a research paper on it. If there aren’t enough empirical research articles on your topic, you will have to come up with another topic and approve it with me by the end of that week. Make a copy of the final topic card approved (worth up to 5 pts) for yourself. Your research paper title drives your paper—ONLY write about what your TITLE says.

The research paper should be 10 (full) to 12 double-spaced pages long; not including the cover sheet or references page(s). Make sure to number your pages in the upper right-hand corner (the first page number begins on the page where you start writing about Why I Chose to Write on My Topic, and the last page number ends on the last page of your references list). You must have a minimum of seven (7) differently named references (journals), all of the articles in them must be empirical research articles, and at least two thirds of the references (journals) must be dated 2000 or later. Only material where an author and its origin can be cited can be used in the research paper. PLEASE READ the Sample PSYC 1A Research Papers and References List Examples on my website MULTIPLE TIMES to be clear on what your research paper should look like. Make sure to consult the American Psychological Association (APA) Formatting and Style Guide link on my website for additional details regarding how your research paper should be written. Also, I encourage you to use the Writing Center for help in writing your research paper. The research paper must be original research; not a rewritten paper from this class or another class, or from someone who wrote the paper for you, and must be printed out in Times New Roman 12-font. Two copies of the research paper and a copy of only those pages from the articles used to write your paper (stapled in alphabetical order with the information from the articles used in the paper highlighted in yellow) must be turned in by Monday, April 2 before roll call is completed—absolutely no excuses. Make sure to write the citations for the articles you use on the first page at the very top of the articles you turn in (if this information isn’t already provided). All material must be placed in a 10” x 13” manila envelope with your name on it. Five points will be added to papers turned in at least a week early by 8:10 a.m.—I VERY STRONGLY encourage you to schedule the research paper due at least a week early to earn the bonus five points. You can gather articles for your research paper from Ebscohost through the Gavilan College library contact the staff at the library NOW for access to Ebscohost and other data bases, and for help in researching your topic. Students are required to complete LIB 736 Develop a Research Topic. You have three weeks once the online class is opened to successfully complete all six modules—failure to do so will result in five points being deducted from your research paper. Also, there’s an excellent online tutorial on Researching Empirical Studies (articles) for PSYC 1A on the Gavilan College Library website.
There are five sections in the research paper: (1) Why I chose to Write on My Topic (worth up to 5 pts.), (2) What the Research Says About My Topic (worth up to 50 pts.) should describe the topic you’re writing on and present the information, theories, findings, citations, etc. related to your topic and make up the majority of the pages in your paper (don’t put any personal or treatment statements in this section—ONLY what the RESEARCH says), (3) What I Learned Personally, Interpersonally and Professionally (worth up to 10 pts.), (4) How I plan to Apply What I Learned Personally, Interpersonally and Professionally (worth up to 10 pts.), and lastly, the (5) References page(s) (worth up to 20 pts.). The first, third and fourth sections of your research paper should take up no more than three pages combined. The cover sheet of your research paper should have your research paper title, your name, my title and last name, the class title and meeting days and times, Gavilan College, and the date the paper was handed in all centered (see cover sheet example below). Take time to CHECK/ REVIEW your research paper before you turn it in to make certain that you’ve followed all of the instructions so that learning is maximized and valuable points aren’t lost.

RESEARCH TOPIC CARD EXAMPLE (3” x 5”)
(Handwritten on a lined index card)

Your name
Title of your research paper
PSYC 1A, M, W 8:10-9:30 a.m.

I plan to write about.... (complete the paragraph)

DON’T PROCRASTINATE, START WORKING ON YOUR RESEARCH PAPER NOW!
OUTLINE FOR THE 10 TO 12 PAGE RESEARCH PAPER  
(Remember to indent each paragraph)

**Why I Chose to Write on My Topic**

I chose to write on my topic... (complete one or more paragraphs)

**What the Research Says About My Topic**

Describe your topic (complete one or more paragraphs)

The information, theories, findings, citations, etc. on your topic (complete several paragraphs)—no personal or treatment statements can go in this section

**What I Learned Personally, Interpersonally and Professionally**

I learned personally

1a… (complete the paragraph)

I learned interpersonally

2a… (complete the paragraph)

I learned professionally

3a… (complete the paragraph)

**How I Plan to Apply What I Learned Personally, Interpersonally and Professionally**

I plan to apply what I learned personally

1b… (complete the paragraph)

I plan to apply what I learned interpersonally

2b… (complete the paragraph)

I plan to apply what I learned professionally

3b… (complete the paragraph)

**References**

(Starts on a new, separate page)

List 7 or more references

**Personally** means

1a write about what you learned about yourself from what the research said about your topic, and

1b how you plan to apply what you learned about yourself to yourself—use words like I, me, my or myself to indicate that you’re writing about personally;

**interpersonally** means

2a write about what you learned about others (e.g., mother, father, sister, brother, spouse, significant other, friends, boyfriend, girlfriend, roommate) from what the research said about your topic, and

2b how you plan to apply what you learned to these people—use words like mother, father, sister, brother, spouse, significant other, friends, boyfriend, girlfriend or roommate to indicate that you’re writing about interpersonally;

**professionally** means

3a write about what you learned about your past, present or future job (e.g., supervisor/boss, coworkers, place of employment, customers, supplier) from what the research said about your topic, and

3b how you plan to apply what you learned to your past, present or future job—use words like my supervisor/boss, coworkers, customers, supplier, my job, my work, my employer or my career, self-employment to indicate that you’re writing about professionally.
The Impact of Borderline Personality Disorder on Relationship Functioning

Laura Kelly

Professor Oler

PSYC 1A Introduction to Psychology, M,W 8:10-9:30 a.m.

Gavilan College

April 2, 2012
CHECKLIST FOR THE 10 TO 12 PAGE RESEARCH PAPER

**MUST** be stapled to the front of a copy of your research paper—five points will be deducted if not attached and filled out. Put a check next to the statements that are **TRUE** for your paper.

1. ____ My research paper is original research; not a rewritten paper from this class, another class, another student, any other person, through the internet, or anything else.

2. ____ My research paper is 10 (full) to 12 typed double-spaced pages long; not including the cover sheet or references page(s), and is printed out in Times New Roman 12-font. It includes a cover sheet with my research paper title, my title and last name, the class title and meeting days and times, Gavilan College and the date the research paper was turned in all centered. The first page number begins on the page where I write about why I chose to write on my topic, and the last page number on the last page of the references list. No more than 3 pages have been used to cover the first, third and fourth sections of my research paper. My research paper is stapled together in the upper left hand corner.

3. ____ I have at least seven (7) differently named references (journals), all of the articles I used are empirical, and at least two thirds are dated 2000 or later.

4. ____ The overall style of my research paper is in harmony with the American Psychological Association Formatting and Style Guide and the sample research papers on my website.

5. ____ The first section of my research paper describes Why I Chose to Write on My Topic.

6. ____ The second section of my research paper, What the Research Says About My Topic, describes my topic, and presents the information, theories, findings, citations, etc. on my topic based on what the research says (I put no personal or treatment statements in this section).

7. ____ The third section of my research paper addresses What I Learned Personally, Interpersonally and Professionally.

8. ____ The fourth section of my research paper addresses How I Plan to Apply What I Learned Personally, Interpersonally and Professionally.

9. ____ The fifth section of my research paper (starts on a new page) is the References page(s).

10. ____ I have highlighted in yellow all the information in the articles that I used in my paper. I have also made sure that the first page of all the articles I used in my paper is attached. If this first page doesn’t contain the author(s) name, title of article, year the article was published, name of the reference the article is published in, and the pages in the reference where the article can be found, I have written this information clearly at the very top of each first page.

11. ____ I have enclosed everything in a 10” x 13” manila envelope with my name written on it—the order of material in my envelope is two copies of my research paper first, and only the pages of the articles I used in my paper second (stapled in separate sets in alphabetical order).

12. ____ I have turned in my research paper to Dr. Oler in class by 8:10 a.m. on Monday, April 2 before roll call was completed: __________________________ signature and phone number.