Syllabus for Introduction to Psychology

Date: Fall 2015
COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: PSYC 101-60 Introduction to Psychology
CREDIT HOURS: 3
TIME AND PLACE: ONLINE
INSTRUCTOR: Gay Lewis MS LMHC  galewis@lcmail.lcsc.edu

A successful student will use:
Intelligent Student Behavior: Keep the syllabi from all your courses handy. Read them more than once. Look them over at least once a week. Look at your course calendar at least 3 times a week.

Course Description/Purpose
From the catalog: “A general survey of the field of psychology and the principles of behavior including; methodology, conditioning and learning, memory, perception, motivation and emotions, individual differences, adjustment and social interaction.”

General Course Goals/Objectives of PSYC101
The general goal of the course is to increase our interpersonal and intrapersonal intelligence.
1. Demonstrate knowledge of the theoretical and conceptual frameworks of the discipline of psychology. In terms of evaluation this is the major goal of the course.
2. Develop an understanding of self and the world by examining the dynamic interaction of individuals, groups, and societies as they shape and are shaped by history culture, institutions, and ideas.
3. Evaluate how reasoning, history, or culture informs and guides individual, civic, or global decisions.
4. Understand and appreciate similarities and differences among and between individuals, cultures, or societies across space and time.
5. Demonstrate critical thinking about central concepts of psychology through the use of such cognitive skills as application, analysis, and evaluation.
6. Explore, learn and recognition of mental health issues, addiction and application of psychology to the mental health arenas.

An e-book version of this text can purchased at the following website:

http://bcsworthpublishers.com/myers10e/#t_746145

Please be aware when buying your textbooks that the class requires the 11th edition of the Myers textbook. Although it is tempting to save money by ordering earlier versions, the 11th editions is significantly different from earlier version and it may prove difficult to pass your textbook quizzes if you are using previous versions.
Reading and studying the Myers' text is essential for both learning about the field of Psychology and performing well on the exams.
Evaluation and Grading

A  876-1000 points
B  751-875 points
C  626-750 points
D  501-625 points
F  0- 500 points

Course Activities
Introduction 30 points
Syllabus Assignment 30 points
Group Activity: worth 150 points 150 points
Weekly discussions
Your personal threads 1x10 points x 13 weeks 130 points
Your response 2 weekly x 10 points ea x 13 wks 260 points
Exams 8 x 50 400 points
Total Points 1000 points

Course Requirements

Learning Modules
Located on the Home Page are 8 Units. Each Unit contains 2 chapters from the book. The Units contain the following content to assist your success in this course:

Chapter Lecture Slides
These notes contain a brief overview of the information contained in the textbook chapter. They will assist you in organizing your thoughts/notes while reading the textbook.

Assessments
A link to the Unit assessment, which is the test on the information, you have been studying in each Unit. Each assessment covers the content of 2 chapters. 1st assessment covers Chapters 1 and 2, 2nd assessment covers Chapters 3 and 4 and so forth. 8th Assessment covers chapters 15 and 16.

Assignments
Please see instruction pages at the end of the syllabus for direction on each assignment. It is your responsibility to make sure you have posted each week. There will be a group activity starting in Unit 2. The group members will be by random selection and be posted on February 7, 2015. All members of the group will receive the same amount of points for the project. Dates and times that assignments are due are in the syllabus.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RESPOND TO EACH OTHER’S POST RESPECTFULLY. WE MAY NOT ALL AGREE WITH EACH OTHER’S BELIEFS BUT WE MUST BE RESPECTFUL OF THE DIFFERENCES.
Due Dates

Please be advised of the following due dates for assignments. Discussions are due on the date posted. If you miss a posting you will get a zero for that posting. It is your responsibility to make a note of when assignments are due. It is strongly suggested that you mark assignment due dates in a planner and check your planner weekly.

**Your post is due by Wednesday night of each week. Your responses to your classmates posting is due by Saturday of each week. The first one will be due August 26, 2015 by Midnight. The last weekly discussion to by posted will be on December 16, 2015.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 1 post</td>
<td>August 26, 2015 by Midnight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reply to classmates</td>
<td>August 29, 2015 by Midnight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>August 29, 2015 by Midnight</td>
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<td>Syllabus Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 2 posting</td>
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<td>Response posting</td>
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<td>Assessment Unit 1</td>
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<td>Chapter 3 Post</td>
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<td>Chapter 4 Post</td>
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<td>Response Post</td>
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<td>Assessment Unit 2</td>
<td>September 19, 2015 Midnight</td>
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<td>Chapter 5 Post</td>
<td>September 23, 2015 Midnight</td>
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<td>Response Post</td>
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<td>Chapter 6 Posting</td>
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<td>Response Posting</td>
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<td>Assessment for Unit 3</td>
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<td>Response Post</td>
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<td>Chapter 8 Post</td>
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<td>Response Post</td>
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<td>Assessment for Unit 4</td>
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<td>Chapter 9 Post</td>
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<tr>
<td>Response Post</td>
<td>October 24, 2015 Midnight</td>
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<td>Chapter 10 Post</td>
<td>October 28, 2015 Midnight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Response Post</td>
<td>October 31, 2015 Midnight</td>
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<td>Assessment for Unit 5</td>
<td>October 31, 2015 Midnight</td>
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<td>Chapter 11 Post</td>
<td>November 4, 2015 Midnight</td>
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<td>Response Post</td>
<td>November 7, 2015 Midnight</td>
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<td>Assignment</td>
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<td>Chapter 12 Post</td>
<td>November 11, 2015 Midnight</td>
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<td>Response Post</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment for Unit 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 13 Post</td>
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<td>Response Post</td>
<td>November 21, 2015 Midnight</td>
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<td>Thanksgiving break November 23-27 no posting due</td>
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<td>Chapter 14 Post</td>
<td>December 2, 2015 Midnight</td>
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<td>Response to post</td>
<td>December 5, 2015 Midnight</td>
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<td>Assessment for Unit 7</td>
<td>December 5, 2015 Midnight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 15 Post</td>
<td>December 9, 2015 Midnight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Response to post</td>
<td>December 12, 2015 Midnight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 16 post</td>
<td>December 13, 2015 Midnight</td>
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<td>Responses</td>
<td>December 16, 2015 Midnight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment for Unit 8 (chptrs 15 &amp; 16)</td>
<td>December 16, 2015 Midnight</td>
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Assignment dates may change if deemed necessary but will be posted ahead of time.

**Assistance**

If you are experiencing difficulties accessing your course, navigating Blackboard, or distance learning, please contact the Student Services Coordinator for Distance Learning:
Website: www.lcsc.edu/dl
Phone: 792-2239
Toll free: 800-879-0458

It has been my experience, both as a student taking on-line courses and as an instructor of online courses, that these types of classes require significant discipline, independence, and dedication in order to receive a successful grade. I have designed the course for you to take the assessments every two weeks with the exception of the 3 weeks break for Unit 7 because of the Thanksgiving holiday. I have developed this online course with the understanding that students enrolled in this instructional method are accustomed to independent learning. In addition, I understand that waiting for teacher feedback and correction can be frustrating when you are used to an independent learning style. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions about the textbook and/or course content. In addition, I recommend frequent check-ins to the course website in order to ensure that you are staying up-to-date on all of the requirements of the course.

**Availability for feedback and questions.**
Please note that I will check the Blackboard e-mails on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays by 5 pm. Exception maybe internet problems and should that happen I will
be sure to check them on these days but it maybe later in the day. I may also check them more frequently but will promise to be consistent on these days. If you have questions please be sure to use the course e-mail located on the left hand side of your screen. I will be prompt with replies and helping you with the answers to your questions. I look forward to teaching and learning along with you and wishing you all a great and successful semester.

**Syllabus Review**

**30 Point Value**

This assignment requires that you write a 2 pages paper on what is stated in the syllabus. Please include the following
- What constitutes a successful student (found in this syllabus)
- Introductory assignment.
- Due dates for postings, please be sure to check Chapter 16 posting dates
- Requirements for a successful post
- Group assignment.

**Introductory Assignment**

**30 point Value**

This assignment requires you to give some information on yourself. You are welcome to attach a picture of yourself and family if you would like. I would enjoy seeing a photo if you have one but it is not required. This assignment will be done in the discussion portion. You can locate it under the forum portion on Unit 1. Post must be done by January 24, 2015.

**Requirements**

- Write a 2-3 of paragraphs on yourself
- Please include what your thoughts are on Psychology and why you enrolled in this class
- Some information on things you enjoy doing, hobbies, work and other activities that you find appropriate to share.
- Please also include your major if you have decided on one.

You can type your introduction in a Word Document if you want and then cut and paste it into the discussion window. Hopefully this will be one of the more fun and easy assignments for the semester.

If you have any questions about this assignment please do not hesitate to contact me through the course e-mail. I am here to help in anyway that I can.
Discussion Assignments

390 Points

Each week you will be required to post a question or thought regarding the chapters in the Unit reading. Part 1 due on the Wednesday of each week.

Your post will need to have the following to receive the full 10 points

- Page number from the text regarding your questions or thoughts
- Formulated questions or ideas that are a minimum of 150 words.
- Post should be stated with respect. Please refrain from calling your classmates information or idea stupid or idiotic.
- This is a way to learn critical thinking and to respect other’s opinions, even if they differ from yours

Part 2 Point value of 10 points each for a total of 20 points due by Saturday of each week (exception, Chapter 16 post please check due dates for that week).

- You are required to respond to at least 2 posts from your classmates.
- Your post should be respectful thoughts and ideas in regards to the your classmates post.
- You will be given points on how well you apply the material to your personal experiences, ideas and beliefs.
- You lose points for short posts; your posting should be well thought out in response to you classmates post. Use a personal story or something you have read about in the news or saw on a program relating to your classmates post.

So the total points per week on Discussion assignment will be 30 points
10 points for you original post regarding questions and thoughts about the material
20 points for two separate postings on your fellow classmates original thoughts and ideas and these need to be longer than “I agree” or “I found your post interesting and I agree”

I think this is a great way to learn about how others interpret the information. Online classes leave out the element of in class discussion, which I always found helpful to broadening my critical thinking. I hope that this will help in some proportion. I hope we can have fun with this assignment 😊

Should you have any questions about the assignments please do not hesitate to contact me through the course e-mail.
Mandatory Group Assignment
150 Points

This is mandatory to pass the class. You must participate in this project to pass the class. Not participating with your group on this project will result in failure of this class.

Using the instructions on this page, your group of 5-6 students will create a game that deals with the material you learned in this course. The assignment will be submitted to me as an attachment on Blackboard e-mail and I will play the game with my family. It would also be fun if you played the game to review the knowledge you have learned.

Why am I asking you to design a game? The main purpose of this exercise is to help you learn about psychology in a new and different way. As you construct your game, you will learn various psychological theories and facts. You can use ideas from games like Trivia pursuit, Jeopardy or other educational based games. It is important to be able to ask and answer questions in the game. You may cover all the material in the course, or you may limit your game to specific topics and chapters that you find interesting. In designing the game, be sure to title the game in a way that identifies its goal—for example, “Knowledge of Brain Structure” or Overview of the Textbook.” Use this as a chance to do something that intrigues you.

A second goal of this exercise is to give you experience working in groups whether your career is as a bricklayer, politician, or a homemaker, you will interact with people. As you design the game, group members will need to organize and solve problems. As part of this project you will reflect on the group’s interactions—what went well and what didn’t—and become better prepared for future group interactions.

The third and equally important goal for this project is to allow you to exercise your creativity. Too often, introductory classes consist of memorizing and regurgitating facts. We’ll have our share of that, but it is also important that you think about information in new ways and do something with that information. In this class, that “something” is creating a game.

Your grade for this project will consist of two parts: a score for the game itself and a score for the essay describing your experience with the process. The games will be evaluated on the following criteria.

1. Relevance to psychology (after all this is a psychology course)
2. Clearly indentified goal
3. Completeness of instructions (can other people play the game without help from you?)
4. Is it “playable?” (Do players attain the stated goal? Are there adequate supplies of questions for players? In other words, does the game “make sense”?)

Your INDIVIDUAL essay should address the following points,

1. What did you learn about psychology from creating the game?
2. Was the specific goal achieved?
3. What does your game do well?
4. How could it be improved?
5. Please submit your essay on the course e-mail.
As with any written work, the essay should be well constructed. It should be approximately four pages typed and double spaced (follow APA guidelines). You will find that if you work on the project throughout the course it will be more enjoyable than if you procrastinate. I will check on your progress at mid-term. Be creative and have fun!!!!