

# General Psychology



Class Info: Fridays 8:30 - 11:53 ❁ Office Hours Mon - Thurs 9-11am  
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*“Education, therefore, is a process of living and not a preparation for future living.”*

J. Dewey (1897)

General Psychology (Psych 101) is an intensive study of human behavior. It examines scientific principles, psychological & biological basis of behavior; sensation, perception, learning, memory, motivation, thinking, states of consciousness, individual differences, intelligence, personality, social influences on behavior; behavior disorders, and therapeutic behavior change.

RECOMMENDED PREP.: Eligibility for **English 101**.

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of:

- 🎧 scientific methods in psychology.
- 🎧 psychophysiology, sensation, & perception.
- 🎧 lifespan human development.
- 🎧 personality theories & assessment.
- 🎧 intelligence, memory, & thinking.
- 🎧 factors in emotions and motivation.
- 🎧 social influences on behavior.
- 🎧 behavioral disorders & therapy.

My goal for this course is to help you understand behavior & mental processes as they relate to your life. As such, this



course will provide **opportunities** for you to use course content to demonstrate (as a learning outcome) that you think, behave, and feel in increasingly complex ways. This increase in complexity is intended to help students better their relationships with the self, their families, their communities, and the world.

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**Regular attendance** is expected, and it can affect your grade. Test questions often come from lectures or activities in class, and some of these activities are graded.

Students are **responsible** for dropping their courses. If you do not officially withdraw (through Admissions & Records) from this course, you will receive a letter grade at the end of the term. Faculty cannot drop students after the 1st meeting of class.

All students with disabilities requiring **accommodations** are responsible for making arrangements in a timely manner through the Center for Students with Disabilities (818 240-1000 x5905).

No make-up assessments (quizzes, exams, etc.) will be given; instead, your **lowest exam score** will be dropped.

Late assignments/assessments will **not** be accepted.

**Cheating & Plagiarism** are forms of Academic Dishonesty. If you do either one, you'll earn "0" points, and you may be referred to the College Administration for possible further action.

Exams & papers should be the result of **individual effort**. They are intended to assess your own knowledge & ability. So, cheating, plagiarizing, and/or submitting another person's work as your own are not acceptable. Any form of academic dishonesty will result in disciplinary action as outlined in college policy (Board Policy 6133).

**Required text:** Psychology: Selected Chapters for GCC. Thompson Publ. (only available at the college bookstore)

**Required supplies:** Four Scantron 882-ES (100 Qs), & No. 2 pencils w/ erasers.



Assessment		Value	
Exams (Three Exams/125 points each; lowest dropped)		250 points	
Cumulative Final Exam		150 points	
Film Reviews: Thinking Like a Psychologist		45 points	
Participation, Attendance, & Activities		55 points	
<b>A = 500 - 451</b>	<b>B = 450 - 401</b>	<b>C = 400 - 351</b>	<b>D = 350 - 301</b>

Date	Topic	Reading/Activity
9/4/09	Introduction History	Pages 1-74
9/11/09	Psychodynamic Approach Consciousness	Pages 66-74 Pages 75-90
9/18/09	Science	Pages 91-118
9/25/09	Exam ONE	Film
10/2/09	Behaviorism & Learning Theory	Pages 119-147 <b>Film Review #1 DUE 10/2</b>
10/9/09	Behaviorism & Learning Theory Psychometrics and Intelligence	Pages 148-163
10/16/09	Exam TWO	Film
10/23/09	Cognitive Science & Memory	Pages 165-187 <b>Film Review #2 DUE 10/23</b>
10/30/09	Humanism & Identity	Pages 189-199
11/6/09	Exam THREE	Film
11/13/09	Biological Psychology	Pages 201-248 <b>Film Review #3 DUE 11/13</b>
11/20/09	Drugs & Disorders	Pages 249-283
11/27/09	<i>Fall Holiday - no class</i>	
12/4/09	Therapy	Pages 285-325
12/11/09	<b>FINAL EXAM</b> - 10:30 to 1:00	

## OUR AGREEMENT...

I come to class prepared, so should you. Read the assignments, and come to class ready to participate in discussions and/or activities. The more we question each other, the more likely we are to learn from each other. I will present information to you, but it is up to you to take it, analyze it, and make it your own. This often leads to discussion, which is a vital part of learning.



I expect everyone to be courteous and respectful towards each other. If you make or engage in rude, disruptive, or distracting comments or behavior, you may be asked to leave the room.

I believe that thinking and writing are inseparable. So I will frequently ask you to write. If this is an issue for you, please see me. If you would like to seek help on your own, visit the writing center in AD238, or call them at (818) 240-1000 x5339 for more information.

This is college. It is supposed to be challenging. I intend to do my best to both challenge and support you. If you need assistance with something related to the course, contact me. I will do my best to help.