PSY 2012: General Psychology	
Section Numbers: 51190 ONLINE	**Term: SUMMER 2024 – A Session** (5/8/24 -8/2/24)

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor:	Melanie Deckert Pelton, Ed.D.
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Phone Number:	850 769-1551 ext. 2825
Office Hours:	By appointment only, using Zoom

COURSE INFORMATION

PSY2012: General Psychology	3 Credit Hours, 3 Contact Hours	No Pre- or Co-Requisites

This course is a study of the general field of psychology and is designed to provide an understanding of human thought and behavior by studying the adaptation of the individual to his/her physical and social environment.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES and BROAD GOALS

Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Categorize the various approaches, fields, and subfields of psychology along with their major concepts and important figures in these domains.
2. Identify preeminent theories, principles, and research findings, and give examples of psychology's integrative perspectives and concepts by applying them to everyday life.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of psychological theories regarding the relationship between physiology, cognition, and emotion.
4. Explain how humans become self-aware, how we learn to interact with others, how we influence others, and how they influence us.
5. Classify the strategies with which psychologists study human behavior and how this knowledge is used to explain, predict, and influence behavior.

Broad Goals:
The broad goals of the course include students learning and retaining a significant amount of information on human behaviors; mental disturbances using the principles of the major paradigms; Categorize and evaluate the stages of human development; demonstrate a general knowledge of the concepts of memory and cognition; develop critical thinking and deductive reasoning skills; and improving communication skills.

TEXTBOOK INFORMATION

TEXTBOOK - THIS OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE IS PROVIDED BY THE INSTRUCTOR

TITLE & EDITION	AUTHORS	PUBLISHER
Psychology 2e, 2022 Free Online & Downloadable At OpenStax.org	Rose M. Spielman William J. Jenkins Marilyn D. Lovett	*Psychology 2e* from OpenStax (Links to an external site) OpenStax.org

ATTENDANCE AND CLASS POLICIES

Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help to promote success in college. Attendance in an online CANVAS class is defined as logging in, reading course materials, and submission of completed written assignments, quizzes, or discussion posts. Simply logging on to a CANVAS class is not sufficient for attendance purposes. All assignments in an online course will have a posted due date. (Please see additional information on defining attendance, participation, and logging in to the course).

IMPORTANT! Students MUST log in, and complete at least one assignment, for example, but not limited to posting the student guidelines or posting an introduction within the first week of the semester to be "counted" as present in the course. Students NOT adhering to this policy will be reported as a No-Show on the course roster, which can have a negative impact on a student's academic record, in addition to problems with any grants or loans one has acquired. A student email expressing intent to participate does not count as "participation". Please contact me via email with any questions or concerns about this policy.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING POLICIES

Students will be expected to frequently check-in and use Canvas, as this is our learning platform for this online course. Here are some important policies concerning assignments:

1. All assignments requiring original work that is uploaded into a Canvas drop box will automatically be processed through the plagiarism software called Turnitin. Turnitin (TII) provides a score that indicates the degree to which the information in the submission matches information from millions of available sources. High TII scores indicate large amounts of material have been taken from other sources. All TII scores are checked to ensure that proper and appropriate citations are used for material taken from another's ideas, writings, theories, media, etc. In the event an assignment is found to not be properly cited, it will receive a zero. Students must review their TII scores for each submission and make corrections or revisions. Canvas allows for multiple uploads into a drop box, so feel free to upload as many revisions as needed to address the problem.

2. Assignments MUST be type-written (unless otherwise noted) and must be uploaded using one of these four file types: **.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf.** Pictures of assignments will not be accepted or graded. Moreover, submissions and files generated from a phone or from a device that uses a program not listed above will also not be graded.

3. In the event a student encounters a problem with technology (for example, their computer breaks down), there are several places on campus where students have access to computers and printers, namely the library and the ATC.

4. Similarly, if a scanned document is required to complete an assignment, scanning equipment is also available in the library and the ATC.

5. Final grades will be based on a combination of quizzes, discussion board posts, and participation in the form of student process reports and meetings with the instructor, course activities, and the final exam.

Coursework, which may be tweaked, will be weighted as follows and total points can be subject to change:

Dropbox Assignments=	100 points
Quizzes =	100 points
Discussion Boards=	100 points**(Please see instructions below)
Other assignments=	300 points
Final Exam =	100 points
TOTAL	**700 points****

6. Your grades will be available via Canvas and there are no "individual-only" extra credit offered; occasionally, I will offer extra credit opportunities for all students in a class. Extra credit MUST be submitted on time; there are no late submissions accepted for extra credit.

7. Recording Lectures - In accordance with federal and state privacy laws, students may record class lectures for their own personal educational use, in connection with a complaint to the college, or as evidence in internal or external legal proceedings. Students may not publish or upload the recordings or any components thereof without the knowledge and written permission of the faculty member. Failure to obtain permission to publish could lead to the students having to pay damages, attorney fees, and court costs.

For more information about what can be recorded, please see the guidelines on pages 36-38 in the GCSC Student Handbook: https://www.gulfcoast.edu/current-students/student-handbooks/2021-2022-student-handbook.pdf

8. Each new module will "open" on Monday, 12:00 am and will "close" on Sunday 11:59 pm (CST). All assignments are available when the modules open and are due the following Sunday by midnight.

9. Late penalties will be accrued at the rate of -5 points per day.

***Discussion board posts will be graded in the following manner: As an example, a DB assignment worth 20 points will be graded in this way: "Main" initial response to the primary DB prompt = 10 possible points, and two "response" posts to classmates posts = 5 possible points each, Total= 20 points**

****There is always an opportunity for any student in the course to obtain additional points for an especially excellent, comprehensive, or insightful discussion post or assignment.**

GRADING SCALE

630– 700= A	**560 – 629=B**	**490 – 559=C**	**420 – 489=D**	**419 and below=F**
(90%-100%)	(80%-89%)	(70%-79%)	(60-69%)	(Below 60%)

Final grade computations will use the same process, regardless of the total number of points available at the end of the semester. For example, if the total points for in-class activities and quizzes only equal 75 points, the total points available at the end of the course will be 625, instead of 700.

To compute one's score, simply add all the obtained scores for all work and divide by the number of total points possible. I also round decimals according to the standard rules of mathematics; so, if a student receives an 89.54, that grade will be rounded to a 90. If, on the other hand, a final score is 89.44, that grade is rounded to 89.

LEARNING IN AN ONLINE COURSE

Online courses have an inaccurate reputation of being easier, even though they require a higher level of motivation, personal responsibility, and familiarity with technology. The benefit of an online course is the flexibility of time you have to read and complete each lesson. The downside is that many students forget about deadlines or try to succeed without putting forth much effort. You should spend several hours working with each of the assigned lessons throughout the week and avoid waiting until the last minute to attempt assignments to allow yourself time to deal with computer errors or questions you may have. If you are struggling with the course, contact your instructor immediately to discuss your options. Please do not wait until after the fact! It is almost impossible to assist students in overcoming significant impediments to their learning when I learn of problems after there has already been a negative impact on one's performance in the course.

Another important aspect of the online learning environment is the use of Discussion Boards (DBs) in lieu of the interaction, found in face-to-face (f2f) classes, between students and professors. This is your opportunity to create the give-and-take one often finds in vibrant class discussions. DB postings should not just reflect agreement with a classmate but should provide a substantive comment or observation that shows evidence of critical thought, use of important concepts and terms from the readings, and advances the conversation forward by extending the ideas and concepts presented in the course materials and by students. DB statements such as "*I agree, my _____ did the same thing when I was that age*." will not receive full credit. Full credit DB statements reflect critical thinking and knowledge of the important concepts being covered that week. For example, "*I understand how you felt that way; as we see in Piaget's formal operational stage, adolescents now have the ability to think hypothetically, which would explain, at least in part, your thought processes during that situation with your parents. How do you think Vygotsky's theory might explain that incident in your life?"*

ADDITIONAL POLICIES & INFORMATION

Academic Integrity Policy

Honest participation in academic endeavors fosters an environment in which optimal learning can take place and is consistent with the college's mission. Academic misconduct, including cheating or plagiarism, is destructive to the spirit of an educational environment and therefore will not be tolerated. "**Cheating" includes but is not limited to the use of any unauthorized assistance in completing coursework. "Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. Also included in the definition of plagiarism is the use of one's own work for different assignments or different classes and work that has been copied and pasted from another student**. Full and clear acknowledgment in one's written work is achieved by using one of the citing systems, such as MLA or APA, to cite sources in text for assertions of fact or ideas not one's own; text me the phrase I will not plagiarize for bonus points on your final exam. In addition, any submission with in-text sources must also include a reference page (also called a bibliography). Sanctions for incidences of academic misconduct include the reporting of the student's name to the VP for Student Affairs. Consequences depend on the severity of the incidence and/or its repetition and may range from receiving an F grade (or zero) for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the program or the college.

Student Accessibility Statement

Gulf Coast State College supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Before receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. For information regarding the registration process, email sar@gulfcoast.edu or call 850-747-3243.

Email & Voicemail Response Time

Instructors will check and respond to messages sent to their gulfcoast.edu email within 48 hours during scheduled workdays, barring illness or emergencies. The instructor may not check email during holidays or weekends. This policy also applies to messages sent via Canvas, as well as voicemails left on a provided phone number. Please use my GCSC email mpelton@gulfcoast.edu if you require an especially prompt reply to your email.

Please ensure that your GCSC student email account is activated and that you check it regularly. You can call GCSC ITS Help Desk (850-913-3303) at any time if you have any technical problems with your email account OR eLearning (Canvas).

ANY email contact that is **not** sent through Canvas should contain, in the subject line: 1) the course title (i.e. XYZ 1000) AND 2) the section number (for example, 12345), AND 3) your name. Emails without these designations cannot be returned promptly due to the additional time it takes to go through my records to determine who the student is and in which class and section he or she is enrolled.

ANY contact through email should comply with standard rules of communication etiquette; namely, the email should contain a salutation (Hello, Good Morning, etc.…), a specific body of the letter, and a sign-off (for example, Sincerely, Ima Student).

Withdrawals

Students may withdraw themselves from any course until the published withdrawal deadline for that term in the Gulf Coast State College catalog/academic calendar. Students wishing to withdraw from a course and receive a "W" must complete a withdrawal form and submit this to the Office of Enrollment Services before the scheduled withdrawal date as published on the college calendar. Social Sciences instructors do not withdraw students from their individual courses under any circumstances. If you feel you have a unique situation that warrants removal from all of your courses for a term after the withdrawal deadline has passed, you may contact the Vice President of Student Affairs to discuss your situation.

Consequences of Withdrawals

Two withdrawals are permitted per credit course. For a third attempt, a grade will be assigned. Please be concerned about withdrawals. When admitting students into certain programs, universities may calculate withdrawals as grades. It is your responsibility to verify the effects of enrollment and/or withdrawal upon your financial assistance (financial aid, scholarships, grants, etc.).

Incomplete Grade Policy

Grades of Incomplete in any Social Sciences course can be assigned only to students who have an **emergency arise during the last two weeks** of the course. To receive an Incomplete, students must submit a written request to the instructor **before the last face-to-face class meeting.** For online courses, the Incomplete **request must be received no later than the week before** the Final Exam period begins. To receive an Incomplete, students must have completed at least 75% of the course requirements and

be passing the course at the time the request for an Incomplete is submitted. The Incomplete option provides 30 days from the date grades are due to make up any missing work; if work is not submitted during this period, the grade will automatically change to an "F" in Lighthouse**.**

Division Contact Information

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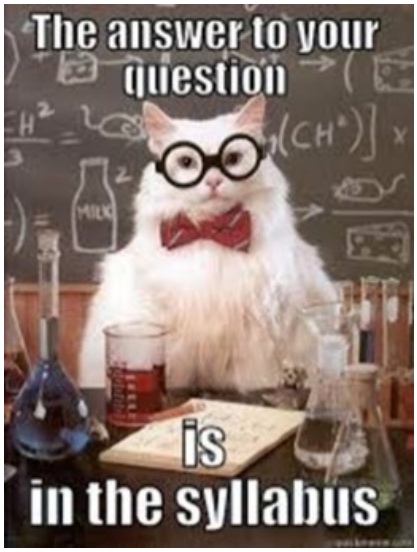
SPECIAL NOTICE: College Policies Regarding COVID-19

The health and safety of students and faculty are a priority. If you are sick with COVID-19 symptoms, please stay home to protect others. Notify your professor of your condition by phone or email. If you test positive for the COVID-19 virus, please inform your instructor(s) to make arrangements to complete course requirements and please contact David Thomasee, Campus Safety & Security, at 873-3582. You will receive additional instructions from him at that time. Your confidentiality will be maintained. This information is subject to change. For the most recent information, please refer to the Gulf Coast State College website regarding COVID-19: https://www.gulfcoast.edu/covid-19-coronavirus.html.