

SOUTHERN MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
South Portland, ME 04106
Social Science Dept
Fall 2021

Course Title: Introduction to Psychology

Credit hours: 3

Instructor: Marshall E Abbott
mabbott@smccme.edu

Psych100 D-6

Contact Hours: 45

Course Syllabus

Course Description: This course is designed to provide a broad overview of the field of Psychology. Special attention will be given to helping the student become a better thinker by learning to take charge of ideas one has about psychology. The goal of this course is to think consciously, deliberately and skillfully about human behavior. Topics such as physiological psychology, perception, learning, cognition, emotions, health psychology, psychological disorders, as well as others, are included. Prerequisite(s): (s): ENGL-050, ENGL-075

Course Objectives: After successfully completing this course, the student will be able to:

1. Define psychology as a discipline and explain its history, and how it is distinct from and related to other disciplines.
2. Explain how psychology is a science and become familiar with the research methods used by psychologists, including different research designs, limitations of research findings, and APA ethical principles.
3. Explore the subject matter in the field of psychology and become familiar with the vocabulary, major concepts, theories, and research findings of psychology.
4. Further develop critical thinking skills by applying them to the field of psychology.
5. Become a cautious and analytical consumer of psychological information that is proclaimed to be scientific or based on research and recognize the usefulness and limitations of research findings.
6. Understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organization issues.
7. Become aware and respectful of diversity issues which affect behavior and psychological processes, and recognize that sociocultural contexts may influence the development and application of psychological principles.

Learning Outcomes Competencies:

Critical Thinking: Upon completion of this course students will have:

1. Read and demonstrated an understanding of complex ideas by identifying key concepts in the field of psychology.
2. Applied theory to practices using problem solving techniques and data analysis.

3. Analyzed and evaluated research data to produce a well-reasoned argument or position on an issue.

Global Citizenship: Upon Completion of this course students will be able to use psychology concepts to:

1. Explain how social interactions are influenced by local, regional, national, and/or global cultures.
2. Recognize cultural and individual differences that underlie the complexities of human behavior and social interaction.

Required Materials: Sdorow, L.M., Rickabaugh, C. A. & Betz, A. J. *Psychology, 8thth Ed.* (2019). Academic Media Solutions

Brightspace: This course is an online course on Brightspace.

Course Overview: Welcome to Introduction to Psychology! Whether you are taking this course as a requirement or an elective, if you apply yourself you will learn skills and information that you will use in your life. Most employers today are looking for people who can solve problems and think critically, who are responsible and innovative. It is my view that you can develop these skills in a cooperative-community learning environment. We each have a responsibility to make this class one in which we all can learn. My role is to act as a guide and facilitate this learning process. Your role as a student is to be responsible for your learning by doing the assignments and participating, and by sharing and helping to facilitate in the learning of your fellow students. If you engage yourself and apply what you are learning to your life, you will succeed not only in this class, but also in other areas of your life. In addition, we all have a responsibility to respect each other's opinions and differences. Please contact me as soon as possible if you are having concerns or problems with your performance in this class.

Introduction to Psychology Core Requirements

- **Critical Thinking:** Introduction to Psychology is designated as a Critical Thinking course. There may be several critical thinking assignments during the semester.
- **Information Literacy (IL)** – One way to improve IL skills is through library assignments. In this course you will learn how to critically evaluate information and discern credible from non-credible material. For example, an assignment utilizing the pod casts that are located on the Library “On-line Tutorials” may be included during the semester.
- **Metacognition** – One of the major goals of this class is to strengthen your ability to be an engaged and motivated learner.
- **Assessment of Textbook Reading** – You will learn how to locate and integrate information using advanced analysis of the meaning and form of the text. You will be able to provide specific text support for inferences, informative statements, and comparisons within and across readings.

Course Requirements: Attendance, Brightspace Orientation, Syllabus Quiz, & Introduction Discussion, Reading Quizzes, Application Assignments, Chapter Tests, Final Exam

I. Attendance: You are required to complete work each week (see below for specifics) and to check Bright Space every weekday. **If you do not attend class for two consecutive weeks and do not contact me, you are in danger of receiving an AF grade for the course.**

If you do not log on and complete the Week 1 assignments by Sunday 11:59 pm (or if you add the class, within 5 days of when you are enrolled in the course) you will be reported as a **NO SHOW** to the administration and dropped from the class.

Answering Emails and Class Communication: Please Note: **I will only accept emails from your SMCC student email account.** I will not read or respond to other personal email addresses. I will do my best to respond to emails promptly (within 24 hours) Monday-Friday 9 am-5 pm, but will not likely respond to any emails between 6 pm-9am Monday-Friday or on weekends.

II. Syllabus Quiz, and Introduction Discussion : During the first week (or if you add the class, within 5 days of when you enroll in the course), you need to complete and submit the syllabus quiz and introduction discussion.

III. Reading Quizzes and Assessment of Textbook Reading. You should be able to locate and integrate information using advanced analysis of the meaning and form of the text. You should also be able to provide specific text support for inferences, informative statements, and comparisons within and across readings. In other words, a requirement of the course is that you develop skills that you will be able to use when reading textbooks and using text information in assignments. We will be using on-line Reading Quizzes to support your reading. Each week you will take a multiple choice quiz on each chapter. You can take each quiz up to 2 times; Brightspace will record the highest grade. **If you do not take the quiz before it closes, you will receive a 0. There are no make-ups or alternative dates, so please don't wait until the last minute to take the quiz. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.** Quizzes are timed. Notes and books may be consulted, but keep in mind that you need to read the chapter before taking the quiz. The time limit (60 minutes) will prohibit you from reading the chapter as you answer questions.

IV. Application Assignments and Critical Thinking: Each week you will complete one application assignment which involves applying material from the chapter and the chapter presentation on Brightspace. Assignments consist of discussion board prompts, journal entries, and general assignments involving information literacy and critical thinking. The purpose of these assignments is to provide you with an opportunity to think critically and apply course material in a thoughtful way, sharing and discussing with your classmates. Instructions for each assignment are posted in the course content section corresponding to the chapter for each week. All late work must be turned in within 1 week of the due date. Please see grading rubrics below.

Please note that work must be submitted through Brightspace. Emailed attachments will not be accepted.

V. Chapter Tests. You will take a multiple choice test each week on the chapter and the Chapter Presentations on Brightspace (including the video links). Tests are timed. Notes, textbook, and the Chapter Presentation on Brightspace may be consulted, but keep in mind that you need to read the material and study before taking the test. The time limit (3 hours) will prohibit you from reading the material as you answer.

GRADING: All assignments must be completed in order to pass the course (Your current grade is available to you in the "Grades" section of Brightspace).

Discussion Guidelines

Discussions in an online course are meant to be academic debates between you and your classmates, moderated by the instructor. Following these instructions will assure you a higher grade for your discussion posts, but, more importantly, allow for informed classroom debate.

1. 1.First, remember that this is a “virtual” classroom, not a social network post. Limit your comments to what would be appropriate in a classroom setting, which includes being respectful of diverse students who are also in your class (please see the SMCC Student Code of Conduct). Opinions should be supported with facts from the reading (or other sources when appropriate). Your FIRST source should be your textbook and other assigned class readings. No credit will be given for answers that are obviously just “googled” from other sources, copied and pasted. The point of the discussions is to ensure that you can restate the class material in your own words and apply the concepts you are learning to other examples and that you can engage in thoughtful debate with your classmates.

1. 1.Read the discussion posting directions carefully. What is it you are being asked to comment on? Make sure you know what you are supposed to write about. Sometimes it is a personal response, sometimes it is a chance to absorb the material by restating the ideas presented in the reading, and sometimes the discussion board is a combination of ideas. Also, make sure you answer all of the questions being asked in the assignment.

2. 2.Think about your point. What is it you want to say to your fellow classmates and your professor? Try to limit yourself to the topic and make sure your point is relevant. Don't ramble.

1. 1.Gather your references. Make sure to cite your references in your posting. Even if it is a discussion posting, **not giving others credit for their work is plagiarism**, so cite your source and use APA (American Psychological Association) in text citation format. Posts containing plagiarized material will receive a zero grade.

1. 1.Reference the reading. The discussions are meant to encourage deeper understanding of the reading and Chapter Presentations. As you craft your discussion, make sure you reference the material in the readings to support your writing.

1. 1.Develop a Thesis Statement! A Thesis Statement is near the introductory paragraph of a paper, and it offers a concise solution to the issue being addressed. It states the claim of the argument presented in a paper. In many cases you can reword the Discussion question as your thesis statement.

1. 1.Support your Thesis Statement! When you make a statement, please back it up with facts. See #4, #5 and #6.
2. 2.Give meaning to your posts. Don't ever write only "I agree" or "Good thought" or any other short response to another posting. Be sure to include details. For example: "I agree with Brian" is much different than "I agree with Brian. I had a similar experience where Theory XYZ came into play..." and the second one will get you a much better grade than the first
3. 3.Post on time. It is hard to have a conversation when you do not post on time. See syllabus for due dates. Full credit will be given for students who also respond to their classmates'/professor's comments on their own post.

1. 1.Check spelling and grammar! Type your discussion post in Word and then run your writing through the programs spell checker. Make your corrections and then you can copy and paste your document into the discussion board post. This is a college course, and only college-level writing will receive full credit.

To receive a grade of 50 on your discussion, you should:

- | Post on time
- | Answer all of the questions asked in the assignment
- | Respond to at least 2 other classmates
- | Reply to classmates'/professors' comments on your own post
- | Cite the reading and Chapter Presentations – be able to restate concepts in your own words
- | Have a strong thesis
- | Support your thesis
- | Spell-check/grammar check

See student handbook for other academic policies.

End-of-Course Evaluation In order to gain access to final course grades, students must complete evaluations for all courses. Students can now evaluate their SMCC courses online and anonymously by going to **Academics** on the SMCC homepage and choosing **Course Evaluations**. This feature is typically available the last two weeks of every class (in most cases, this will be the last two weeks of the semester).

ADA Syllabus Statement Southern Maine Community College is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and employer. For more information, please call [207-741-5798](tel:207-741-5798). **If you have a disabling condition and wish to request accommodations in order to have reasonable access to the programs and services offered by SMCC, you must register with the Disability Services Coordinator, Sandra Lynham, who can be reached at 741-5923.** Further information about services for students with disabilities and the accommodation process is available upon request at this number. Course policies about online testing are modified to suit each individual's accommodations.

SMCC Pay-for-Print Policy Per Page Costs Each semester students receive a \$20 printing credit. The balance resets at the end of the semester and any remaining credits are removed. The cost varies depending upon page size and whether printing is done in black and white or color.

- a. There is a \$.10 per page fee for standard 8.5" by 11" black and white documents.
- b. The reverse sides of duplex (double-sided) documents are free.
- c. There is a \$.50 per page fee for standard 8.5" by 11" color documents.
- d. There is a \$.20 per page fee for 8.5" by 14" (legal) or 11" by 17" (tabloid) black and white

documents.

e. There is a \$1.00 per page fee for 8.5" by 14" (legal) or 11" by 17" (tabloid) color documents.

Duplex charges (printing on both sides of a page) work in the following fashion: One page is \$0.10, two pages are \$0.10, three pages are \$0.20, and four pages are \$0.20, etc. The flipsides are free, but another sheet of paper is \$0.10. Please be aware that a document with any color at all (when printed to a color printer) will by default be printed in color. You are responsible for setting the print job to print black and white if you do not need color. For directions, please go to the IT Help tab in My SMCC.

How does it work?

The College's pay-for-print system monitors printing on all printers (including those in general access labs, library printers, the Academic Achievement Center, Noisy Lounge and technology labs). Students can check the number of pages they have printed by using the Printing Balance tool available on SMCC computers (located in the lower right corner of the screen, near the clock). Departments with work study students who need to print documents for the department should contact the HelpDesk at 741-5696 to have a special account set up.

Refunds

Print jobs are eligible for a refund in the event of mechanical or electronic error on the part of the printer, print server, or software used to submit the job. Jobs are not eligible for a refund in cases where the job was not set up correctly, was submitted multiple times, or the student is not satisfied with the result. To request a refund, please bring the offending print to the IT Department in the basement of the Ross Technology Center. Refunds will be granted in the form of a credit to the student's account.

Why is SMCC charging for printing?

The pay-for-print system is an effort to control escalating printing costs. Charging for printing helps offset the increasing cost of supplies and encourages students to conserve resources. To find ways to reduce your printing charges, please go to the IT Help tab on My SMCC. If you have questions about the pay-for-printing policy or your printing charges, please contact the HelpDesk at 741-5696 or send an email to helpdesk@smccme.edu. *Be sure to log OUT of the system when you've finished your printing, to prevent unauthorized access to your account.*

Add-Drop Policy

Students who drop a course during the one-week "add/drop" period in the fall and spring semesters and the first three days of summer sessions receive a 100% refund of the tuition and associated fees for that course. Please note any course that meets for less than the traditional semester length, i.e., 15 weeks, has a pro-rated add/drop period. There is no refund for non-attendance.

Withdrawal Policy

A student may withdraw from a course only during the semester in which s/he is registered for that course. The withdrawal period is the second through twelfth week of the fall and spring semesters and the second through ninth week of twelve-week summer courses. This period is pro-rated for shorter-length courses. To withdraw from a course, a student must complete and submit the appropriate course withdrawal form, available at the Enrollment Service Center (no phone calls, please). The designation "W" will appear on the transcript after a student has officially withdrawn. A course withdrawal is an uncompleted course and may adversely affect financial aid eligibility. Failure to attend or ceasing to attend class does not constitute withdrawal from the course. There is no refund associated with a withdrawal.

Plagiarism Statement

Adherence to ethical academic standards is obligatory. Cheating is a serious offense, whether it consists of taking credit for work done by another person or doing work for which another person will receive credit. Taking and using the ideas or writings of another person without clearly and fully crediting the source is plagiarism and violates the academic code as well as the Student Code of Conduct. If it is suspected that a student in any course in which s/he is enrolled has knowingly committed such a violation, the faculty member should refer the matter to the College's Disciplinary Officer and appropriate action will be taken under the Student Code of Conduct. Sanctions may include suspension from the course and a failing grade in the course. Students have the right to appeal these actions to the Disciplinary Committee under the terms outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.