

Rappahannock Community College

Rappahannock Community College's mission is to promote the personal growth of its students and prepare them for success as learners, professionals, and citizens by providing quality educational experiences.

Summer Term 2011

***SYLLABUS
FOR
PSY 200-63***

Principles of Psychology

Scott Mabe, Instructor

WELCOME TO PRINCIPLES OF PSYCHOLOGY!

A DISTANCE LEARNING@RCC COURSE

Welcome to Rappahannock Community College's Principles of Psychology on-line course. I am pleased that you have decided to enroll in this course and I expect you to put forth your best effort to learn the course material and successfully complete the requirements of the course. Please be assured that I will do everything that I can do to assist you in your efforts. As an instructor of psychology, I have taught at RCC for sixteen years. Prior to my teaching experience at RCC, I worked as a marriage and family counselor for twenty-five years. I earned my undergraduate degree at High Point College in North Carolina and received my master's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

➤ INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Name: Scott Mabe Glenns campus (804) 758-6700 Office: Room 108-K E-mail: smabe@rappahannock.edu	Warsaw campus (804) 333-6773 Office: Annex Building – Room 204
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	Day	Time
Office Hours (Warsaw campus)	Wednesday	10:30 am – 12:00 noon
Office Hours (Glenns campus)	Wednesday	2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

➤ INSTRUCTOR-STUDENT COMMUNICATIONS

As a student in this on-line course, you are required to have keyboarding skills, computer experience, and be able to communicate via e-mail, including the use of attachments. **It is critical that you check both your RCC email account and your Blackboard course site for messages and announcements at least every other day.** Failure to meet this requirement can result in your missing timely information and a subsequent loss of grade points. As your instructor, I will reply to your email messages within 24-48 hrs. on normal business days, Monday – Friday.

In case of an emergency that affects the meeting schedule for this class or the instructor's availability, information will be provided in the Blackboard course News & Announcements area. Email notifications and updates will follow as needed.

COURSE MATERIALS

Textbook: Essentials of Psychology (5th edition) Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

Author: Douglas Bernstein

ISBN # 97804958107

SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Principles of Psychology is a survey course that examines the basic concepts of psychology. This course covers the scientific study of behavior, behavioral research methods and analysis, and theoretical interpretations. The course includes topics that cover physiological mechanisms, sensation/perception, motivation, learning, personality, psychopathology, therapy, and social psychology.

COURSE CREDIT 3 Semester Hours

PURPOSE OF COURSE

This course fulfills part of the social science requirement for the Associate Degree and provides the opportunity for students to gain knowledge about basic psychological concepts and learn how these concepts are related to everyday life issues and problems.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the requirements of this course, based upon a 71% or better level of successful performance in e-mail assignments and tests, students will be able to:

1. Describe the origins, perspectives, and value of psychology.
2. Describe how psychological research is conducted.
3. Identify the structures and functions of the brain and nervous system.
4. Describe the organization and operation of the senses and identify the factors that influence perception.
5. Identify the states and levels of consciousness
6. Describe the theories of learning and basic memory processes.
7. Identify the functions of thought, stages of language development, and measures of intelligence.
8. Describe the theories of motivation and the nature of emotion.
9. Identify the theories of personality development.
10. Describe the major mental disorders and the types of therapy used for each disorder.
11. Identify how group social processes influence individual behavior.

Method of Instruction

This is a Distance Learning @RCC course designed specifically for those students whose schedules and learning requirements are best served by providing instructional opportunities beyond the traditional classroom setting.

Students are required to complete a biographical sketch, a course evaluation survey, three essay questions, three discussion board assignments, take a total of six exams and a final exam at one of the Rappahannock Community College Testing Centers.

Instructor Availability

Students are encouraged to contact the instructor at any time during the semester that they need to discuss course work, find solutions for problems that are interfering with their learning, or request additional help. Office hours and telephone numbers are included in this syllabus. The very best way to contact the instructor is by email at smabe@rappahannock.edu

Grading Criteria and Means

Grades will be based on the total number of points that are earned through the completion of a biographical sketch, a course survey, essay assignments, exams, and a final exam. Following are the maximum points that can be earned by completing each course requirement:

Biographical sketch	- 10 points
Student opinion survey	- 10 points
Three discussion board assignments	- 30 points per assignment
Three essay assignments	- 30 points per essay
Six exam scores	- 100 points per exam
Final exam	- 200 points
Total points:	- 1,000

The following grading scale is used:

910-1000 points = A
810- 909 points = B
710 – 809 points = C
610- 709 points = D
0- 609 points = F

ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Outlined below is the schedule for completing this course. I strongly encourage you to work ahead in this course to avoid a loss or deduction of grade points due to unforeseen circumstances that can prevent you from completing an assignment on time.

DATE	TESTS & ASSIGNMENTS	NOTES	CHAPTER(S) ASSIGNED	CHAPTER TOPIC (S)
May 23, 2011	Classes begin			
Week #1 from Monday, May 23, 2011 through Saturday, May 28.	Post a biographical sketch of yourself no later than May 28, 2011 in the Blackboard Discussion Board site. (See the directions at the end of this syllabus).	Biographical sketch assignments that are submitted after the due date will not earn any points. Be sure to download the Study Guide Questions that are found in the Blackboard course site and use them as you prepare for your exams.	Read and Study Chapter #1 in the textbook.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to the Science of Psychology
Week #2 from Monday, May 30, through	Post your response to the Essay Question (EQ) #1 assignment in the	EQ assignments that are submitted after the due date will not earn any	Read and Study Chapter #2 in the textbook.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biology and Behavior

Saturday, June 4.	Blackboard Assignment site no later than June 4. (See the directions at the end of this syllabus).	points.		
May 30.		College Closed (Memorial Day Holiday)		
June 2.		Last day to add/drop classes with a refund.		
Week #3 from Monday, June 6, through Saturday, June 11.	1. Post the first of your two responses to the Discussion Board Topic (DBT) #1 no later than June 9. This will be your posting to the topic. 2. Post the second of your two responses no later than June 11. This will be your posting to another student's response. (See the directions at the end of this syllabus).	DBT assignments that are submitted after the due dates will not earn any points.	Read and Study Chapters #3 and #4 in the textbook.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensation and Perception • Consciousness
Week #4 from Monday, June 13 through Saturday, June 18.	Take both exams #1 & #2 at one of the RCC Testing Centers no later than June 18.	You are not allowed to use any outside resources (textbook, notes, etc.) when you take your exams. Exam #1 covers the material in chapters 1 & 2 and exam #2 covers the material in chapters 3 & 4. You can take exam #1 and exam #2 on different dates as long as both exams are completed by the		

		due date. Failure to take Exam #1 and Exam #2 by the due date will result in a deduction of 10 grade points from the score of each late exam.		
Week #5 from Monday, June 20, through Saturday, June 25.	Post your response to the Essay Question (EQ) #2 assignment in the Blackboard Assignment site no later than June 25.		Read and Study Chapters #5 and #6 in the textbook.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning • Memory
Week #6 from Monday, June 27, through Saturday, July 2.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Post the first of your two responses to the Discussion Board Topic (DBT) #2 no later than June 30. This will be your posting to the topic. 2. Post the second of your two responses no later than July 2. This will be your posting to another student's response. (See the directions at the end of this syllabus). 		Read and Study Chapters #7 and #8 in the textbook.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thought, Language, & Intelligence • Motivation & Emotion
July 4		College Closed (Independence Day Holiday)		
July 5.		Last day to withdraw from a class with a grade of "W".		
Week #7 from Tuesday, July 5, through Saturday, July 9.	Take both exams #3 & #4 at one of the RCC Testing Centers no later than July 9.	Exam #3 covers the material in chapters 5 & 6 and exam #4 covers the material in chapters 7 & 8. You can take exam		

		#3 and exam #4 on different dates as long as both exams are completed by the due date. Failure to take Exam #3 and Exam #4 by the due date will result in a deduction of 10 grade points from the score of each late exam.		
Week #8 from Monday, July 11, through Saturday, July 16.	Post your response to the Essay Question (EQ) #3 assignment in the Blackboard Assignment site no later than July 16.		Read and Study Chapters #11 & #12 in the textbook.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personality • Psychological Disorders
Week #9 from Monday, July 18, through Saturday, July 23.	1. Post the first of your two responses to the Discussion Board Topic (DBT) #3 no later than July 21. This will be your posting to the topic. 2. Post the second of your two responses no later than July 23. This will be your posting to another student's response.		Read and Study Chapters #13 & #14 in the textbook.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment of Psychological Disorders • Social Psychology
Date to be announced	Complete the Student opinion survey.			
Week #10 from Monday, July 25, through Saturday, July 30.	Take both exams #5 & #6 at one of the RCC Testing Centers no later than July 30.	Exam #5 covers the material in chapters 11 & 12 and exam #6 covers the material in chapters 13 & 14. You can take exam #5 and exam #6 on different		

		<p>dates as long as both exams are completed by the due date.</p> <p>No late exams will be accepted or graded after July 30, 2011.</p>		
<p>The Final Exam will be available from Saturday, July 30, until Monday, August 1, 2011.</p>	<p>Take the Final Exam at one of the RCC Testing Centers no later than August 1.</p>	<p>No Final Exams will be accepted or graded after August 1, 2011.</p>		

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH ASSIGNMENT

To post a **biographical sketch and photo** of yourself in the Discussion Board site:

1. Log on to the Blackboard course site and click on PSY 200 under My Courses
2. Click on the Discussion Board button on the left side of the Announcements page.
3. Click on Biographical Sketch.
4. Then click Add New Thread.
5. Type in a subject line, such as Jane Doe's Biographical Sketch.
6. Next type in your biographical comments in the message area. Include the following information:
 - Describe yourself, your family, your hobbies, adventures, etc.
 - List your educational goals and where you want to be 5 years from now.
 - Describe your expectations for this course.
 - Attach a picture of yourself.
7. After you have typed your biographical sketch, click Submit.
8. To read someone else's biographical sketch, click on the title, not the person's name. If you want to respond to someone else's biographical sketch, hit Reply and type in your response and click Submit.

ESSAY QUESTION (EQ) ASSIGNMENTS

All Essay Question assignments must be submitted to the Assignment site in the Blackboard course site (see directions below). Your Essay Question responses should be well thought out and demonstrate your understanding of the textbook material. Use quotation marks when you quote from the textbook or other sources. The length of your response to each Essay Question must be at least **500 words** and the maximum value of each EQ is 30 points. On each assignment, include your name, course #, assignment #, and word count (the number of words in your response). For example, Jean Skylar - PSY 230- EQ #1 - 532 words.

Use Microsoft **Word** when you are typing your assignment. If you do not have Word software, you'll need to save it as a rich text format (rtf) before submitting it to the Blackboard Assignment site.

To submit an assignment to the Blackboard Assignment site,

1. Click on the Assignment Site button.
2. Type in your name and the assignment name in the Submission box
3. Click on the Browse for local file button
4. Attach the assignment file that you have saved
5. Click on Submit (if you click on Save as draft, you still must click on Submit to forward the assignment to the instructor)

DISCUSSION BOARD TOPIC (DBT) ASSIGNMENTS

You have three DBT assignments and you are responsible for two posting to each of the three assignments. Your first posting will be a response to the DBT topic; your second posting will be a response to another student. There are different due dates for each of the two postings. All postings, whether to the topic or to another student, must be **200 words** or more (or you will earn no points for your posting). You can earn 15 points for each posting and a maximum of 30 points for each DBT assignment.

To participate in the Discussion Board:

1. Log on to the Blackboard course site and click on PSY 200 under My Courses.
2. Click on the Discussion Board button on the left side of the Announcements page.
3. Click on the DBT assignment.
4. Then click Add New Thread.
5. Type in a subject line related to the topic.
6. Next type in your comments (which must be at least 200 words in length) in the message area and click Submit.
7. To open someone else's message, click on the title, not the person's name. If you want to respond to someone else's posting, click Reply and type in your response and click Submit.

Here are some general rules to observe in the Discussion Board:

1. Be sure to write in complete sentences and use correct grammar. You can edit your messages after posting them if you see a mistake.
2. Do not use attachments in the Discussion Board.
3. Identify the person you are addressing your comment to ("John, I agree with your –") when you are responding to the posting of another student.
4. Be polite and courteous even if you disagree with another student.
5. Post your comments by the due date or you will fail to earn credit for the Discussion Board Topic assignment.

FINAL EXAM

Your proctored Final Exam consists of 100 multiple-choice questions that will come from the textbook chapters covered during the semester. The maximum value of the Final Exam is 200 grade points. You will take the final exam at one of the RCC Testing Centers no later than **August 1, 2011**. Final Exams that are submitted after the due date will not be accepted or graded.

Blackboard Course Site: All course and study materials are available in the Blackboard PSY 230 course site. Students can access their test and assignment grades by clicking the Grades button in the course site.

Attendance Policy

In this distance learning course, there are no class meetings. Students are required to complete each assignment and exam according to the schedule provided in the syllabus by the instructor. In the event of an extended illness or unavoidable emergency, a student needs to contact the instructor for permission to extend deadlines if needed.

Withdrawal Policy

A student who does not contact the instructor before or during the add/drop period will be dropped from their course by the instructor without the student's permission. Students who fail to complete the course requirements during the withdrawal period, should complete a withdrawal form to receive a grade of "W." Students will be withdrawn by the instructor without the student's permission for missing 20 percent or more of the assigned distance learning course work by the last date to withdraw.

Basis for Evaluation and Revision of Course

Students will be given a formal evaluation document near or at the time of their final exam. This evaluation instrument is completed anonymously and results are given to the faculty member in an anonymous summary format. The results of the evaluations are used to improve course delivery and course content.

Honor Code

It is the responsibility of the student to be aware of the rules regarding cheating, dishonesty, plagiarism, etc. as stated in the College Catalog and to monitor the activities of their peers with respect to Prescribed Conduct (as described on page 29 of the 2003-2005 College Catalog) and report any violations thereof.

Special Request

It is important to RCC that all students have a learning environment that is conducive to their needs. Therefore, any student who feels that they may need some type of accommodation in order to make this class a successful setting, should go to the Counseling Office on either campus for information about applying for services and accommodations. You will need to provide current documentation of your disability and recommended accommodation for that disability. For additional information refer to "Student Services" on the RCC website and look for "Students with Disabilities."

Emergency Evacuation Plan

In each classroom, laboratory, or other place where students are assembled for the purpose of instruction, a fire evacuation plan will be posted indicating the direction of travel from the room in the event it becomes necessary to evacuate the building as a result of fire or other emergency. This plan will be posted in a conspicuous place near the exit from the room.

At any time the fire alarm sounds, the building will be evacuated. The instructor is to ensure the fire door is closed upon leaving the area (doors with automatic closures on them). It is the responsibility of the instructor to assist disabled students in evacuating the building.

If a classroom does not have an evacuation plan, the student should notify the instructor or Campus Director.

College Closing Information: The College will be open unless an official closing is announced. If it is necessary to cancel or delay the openings of the college, the decision will be announced over radio and television stations serving the college area.

You are strongly advised to click on the RCC home page to register for the RCC Alert service that will deliver important emergency alerts, notifications and updates to you on all your devices, including:

- E-mail accounts (work, home, other)
- Cell phone
- Pager
- Smartphone/PDA (BlackBerry, Treo & other handhelds)