Course Expectations Letter

Subject: Psychology 101

E-Mail Contact Information:
jhenderson@riohondo.edu

Catalog Course Description:

This course is designed as a general introduction to psychology for psychology majors, those with an interest in psychology, or anyone with a desire to further their understanding of human behavior. It provides an overview of the field of psychology, introducing students to the research methods used to advance the science of psychology and the various areas that comprise this diverse discipline. Research and theories are presented, discussed, and evaluated. Topics covered include biological psychology, sensation and perception, lifespan development, learning, memory, motivation and emotion, cognition, personality, psychopathology and social psychology.

Student Learning Outcomes:

These are the outcomes your psychology faculty members believe will result from your successful participation in any of our introductory psychology classes. They represent measurable changes in your knowledge of psychology. Therefore, our assignments and activities in this course will focus on these outcomes. Look for them as we progress through the course.

1. Students will identify and describe the assumptions and central ideas of the psychodynamic, biological, behaviorist, humanistic and cognitive perspectives in psychology.

2. Students will compare and contrast the experimental method to other types of inquiry.

3. Students provided with research findings and theories on a variety of behaviors from major areas of research such as learning and memory, cognition, neuroscience, development, motivation and emotion, psychological disorders and social psychology, will describe and/or evaluate the role that both genetics and environment (nature and nurture) play in the development of different behaviors.

By logging into Blackboard you affirm that you are the student who enrolled in the course(s) and are the person who will complete the assigned work. Furthermore, you agree to follow the regulations regarding academic integrity, personal identification and the use of student information as described in BP 5500 (Standards of Conduct) and AP 5520 (Student Conduct Procedures) which are the Rio Hondo College student conduct codes that govern student rights and responsibilities. You acknowledge that failure to abide by the regulations set forth in BP 5500 and AP 5520 may result in disciplinary action, including expulsion from the college.

This is NOT a self-paced course. There are firm deadlines in this class. There are assignments due on a regular basis. Please plan your time carefully!

Textbook: Please consult the Bookstore for information at (562) 463-7345 or go to Rio Hondo College Online Bookstore
This course will include regular instructor student contact. Methods of regular instructor student contact include:

**Timeline for the course:**

Our objective in this course is to learn all we can about psychology. The assumption is that this is a new experience for everyone. Psychology is a big field, so this is a big job. To make it more manageable, we’ll break the job up into smaller, more bite-sized pieces, and call each piece a “learning unit.” We will have 15 learning units, organized into 5 sections. Learning units within a section are related to each other. Each learning unit contains all the materials and activities you need to complete to get maximum credit for the unit.

Within each unit, you will find materials to help you and activities to complete. Materials include a reading assignment, a unit outline of the key ideas from the unit, and one or more lectures, delivered as PowerPoint presentations.

Each week there will be a short quiz on the learning unit materials (10-15 minutes) and a discussion forum. New activities will be available each Sunday. Quizzes need to be completed by the following Saturday. Your discussion posts are due on Wednesdays; your responses to other students are due on Saturdays. There will be 4 exams spaced throughout the class (1-1/2 hours). There will also be three projects spaced throughout the class that ask you to conduct short experiments and report your findings.

*The instructor may drop you for non-participation.*

There will be a one to three business day delay after an add code is used before a student may be able to log on to Blackboard.

For students new to online classes, it is highly recommended that you take the Online Orientation through our Virtual College website. This will help explain what online classes are like and familiarize you with how the class is laid out. The orientations can be found at: [http://www.riohondo.edu/vc-orientation/](http://www.riohondo.edu/vc-orientation/)

Email Responses: Instructors will make every attempt to respond to students in a timely fashion. Responses can take up to 48 hours before a response is received, excluding weekends and holidays.

Disability: A Student with a verified disability may be entitled to appropriate academic accommodations. Please contact your instructor and/or the [Disabled Students & Programs](mailto:disability@riohondo.edu) office at 562-908-3420 for more information.

*Modifications and Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to modify the content of the course or any course procedure. It is the responsibility of the student to keep apprised of all changes. If the student wishes to drop the class he/she is responsible for initiating the drop. Do not take it for granted that you will be dropped. If you stop working and do not drop the course, you may get an undesirable grade.*