

GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY [PY 102. 20583]

Humanities/Social Science/Education Division

Germantown Campus

Spring 2014

Instructor: Joseph Swope

Office Hours:

Tuesdays 3:00 - 3:30 pm. *Additional office hours available upon request. Please contact instructor to schedule an alternative time.*

Class Meetings:

Tuesdays and Thursdays – 3:30 PM – 5:10 PM
Humanities & Social Sciences (HS) Building, Room 214

Required Text:

We use Schacter, Gilbert, and Wegner's (2010) text in this course (see reference below). It comes with a study guide and additional resources that are *not* required. Depending on where you buy your text, these 'extras' may come with the book. I always recommend students purchase the study guide to help them out; however, it is up to you. Additionally, there will always be a copy of the text (not the study guide) in the Germantown library reserves. Just show up here and you can view the book in the library but will not be able to take it out.

Many times students ask me if the previous edition is suitable. I always say something like "kind-of-sort-of-maybe". The majority of the content is the same, however, just a warning that some of the material in the 1st edition is not in the 2nd and similarly, there are a number of chapters that are revised in the 2nd edition. So if you decide to buy the earlier edition, just make sure you know that there are differences.

Schacter, D.L., Gilbert, D.T., & Wegner, D.M. (2010). *Psychology* (2nd ed.). New York: Worth Publishers.

ISBN-13: **978-1429237192**

NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED – IF YOUR QUIZ IS NOT SUBMITTED BY THE DEADLINE - YOU WILL NOT GET CREDIT

Course Goals:

General psychology is an introduction to the observations, influences and analyses of human behavior, emotion, and thought processes. This course will cover a wide range of topics including mental illness, memory, learning, research, brain functioning, personality, dreams, and motivation. Our goal is to see how we can relate textbook and classroom material to the outside world and our everyday lives. Additionally, apart from learning new concepts and theorists, our goal is to *think critically* and develop a *healthy skepticism* of the material.

Course Objectives:

1. To understand the various historical and contemporary contributions to the foundation of the field of psychology
2. To understand research methods within the field of psychology and how it applies to our lives.
3. To become familiar with *biopsychosocial* influences of human behavior.
4. To understand the influence of diversity (i.e., gender, race, ethnicity) as it relates to the interpersonal and intrapersonal behavior.
5. To become familiar with issues of development, personality formation, and the various theoretical orientations associated with these approaches.
6. To develop a general knowledge of issues within the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of psychological disorders.

Course Structure:

Class will follow a lecture format with class participation/discussion. It is also possible that guest lecturers may speak with us about certain topics. Students should come to class with the assigned material read. The “*Tentative Course Outline*” is provided (see below) to allow you to read material before each class. If we are unable to finish a given topic in a particular class, we will finish it at the beginning of the next class period.

Since the majority of the class is lecture, students are advised to take thorough notes. Also, there are times when we will discuss specific information not found in your textbook. Your notes will be valuable when studying for exams. Please see me if you are having difficulties keeping up or taking efficient notes in class. Feel free to bring recording devices and/or laptops to make note-taking easier.

In order to gain a full understanding of in-class lectures and text material, attendance is necessary. Please consult Montgomery College’s official policy on attendance found in the College handbook (p. 59). While attending class, please be respectful of those around you. Please turn off your phones, organizers, remote control cars, and boom-boxes. Please do not sit in class texting – it is distracting for you and me. If you must text your friends please do it outside of the classroom.

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School Closings:

In the case of inclement weather or additional reasons resulting in possible school closings, check the Montgomery College's main website (<http://montgomerycollege.edu/>) for instruction. Additionally, the College has now implemented an *Alert* system where students and faculty can receive an email or text informing them of school delays, closings, and emergencies. Please visit the website to find out more (<http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/emergency/>).

Student Email:

Student email (montgomery.edu) is an official means of communication for the College. It is expected that you check your student email regularly and frequently, as you are responsible for information and announcements that will be sent to you from the College. For this class, student email will be used only for situations where timing is essential. Most information is discussed in class and all assignments will be turned in as hard copy during regular class times. If you contact me through email your must use your student email account (rather than a yahoo account) so that I can recognize you as a student. Realize that if you use other email accounts other than your MC account, I may not get your message!

Academic Honesty:

Out of concern for the College and the academic community, each student at Montgomery College must maintain the highest standards of academic honesty. All students are expected to understand the meaning of the Honor Code (see "*Student Code of Conduct*": <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/secondary5.aspx?urlid=55>). Ignorance of the code is not a valid reason for committing an act of academic dishonesty. Please refer to the College catalogue and student handbook for an explanation of the Honor Code. Any student found cheating on an examination or assignment, or having plagiarized material in this course, will receive an automatic "F" in this course. For help in learning about plagiarism, please check this site: <http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/library/plagiarismintro.htm>
Reminder: every time you cheat, a kitten's whisker falls out.

Student Disabilities:

Any student who may need accommodations due to a documented disability, please make an appointment to see me following our first class. A letter from Disability Support Services (R-CB122; G-SA175; or TP-ST120) authorizing your accommodations will be needed. Any student who may need assistance in the event of an emergency evacuation must identify to the Disability Support Services Office; guidelines for emergency evacuations for individuals with disabilities are found at:

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www.montgomerycollege.edu/dss/evacprocedures.htm. Please visit the Disability Support Services website (see below) or contact the Germantown representatives for assistance: Harry Zarin (240) 567-7767 located in SA 181 or Richard Berglund (240) 567-1992 located in SA 113.

<http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/Departments/dispsvc/dss-svcs.htm>

Combat to College:

If you are a veteran or on active or reserve status and you are interested in information regarding opportunities, programs and/or services, please visit the Combat2College website at: www.montgomerycollege.edu/combat2college.

Course Grading:

Quizzes: There will be 10 quizzes throughout the course. The quizzes will be completed by students online at home. The quizzes should be completed before the class lecture for that topic. For instance, the quiz for chapter 2 must be completed before class meets on September 13. Each quiz is worth 10 points.

Final Exam: There will be one final exam. Please check the course schedule for the time and date. The exam will cover material from the assigned readings and lectures. Exams will be multiple choice in format. You are responsible for material in the book, even if it is not fully covered in class, unless you are instructed otherwise. There are **no make-ups** for exams unless *prior* communication of a legitimate reason (e.g., medical documentation, court appearance) is given to the instructor. The final exam will be cumulative. The Exam will be worth 25% of your total grade.

Grading Summary

| | | | |
|--------------|---|---|-----------|
| quizzes= 75% | A | = | 225 - 250 |
| | B | = | 200 - 225 |
| Exam = 25% | C | = | 175 - 199 |
| | D | = | 150 - 174 |
| | F | = | < 149 |

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Tentative Course Outline:

| DATE | TOPIC | DUE | POINTS |
|------|---|---|--------|
| | Introduction; Syllabus review; Overview of Course; History & Approaches of Psychology | | |
| | Approaches of Psychology & Research Methods | Register for swopepsych.com | |
| | Research Methods | swopepsych.com | |
| | Neuroscience & Behavior | Quiz on Chapter 2 | 20 |
| | Neuroscience & Behavior | | |
| | Consciousness | Quiz on Chapter 3 | |
| | Consciousness | | |
| | Memory | Quiz on Chapter 5 | 20 |
| | SPRING BREAK | Quiz on Chapter 6 | |
| | SPRING BREAK | | 20 |
| | Learning | | 20 |
| | Learning | | |
| | Emotion and Motivation | Quiz on Chapter 7 | 20 |
| | Emotion and Motivation | | |
| | Intelligence | Quiz on Chapter 8 | 20 |
| | Intelligence | | |
| | Social Psychology | Quiz on Chapter 10 | 20 |
| | Social Psychology | | |
| | Social Psychology | | |
| | Mental Illness | Quiz on Chapter 13 | 20 |
| | Mental Illness | | |
| | Mental Illness | | |
| | Illness & Therapies | Quiz on Chapter 14 | 20 |
| | Illness & Therapies | Quiz on Chapter 15 | 20 |
| | FINAL EXAM 2:45 – 4:45 | | 50 |

1. Go to swopepsych.com

2. On the student page, click: [Create an account](#)

3. You must have your username begin with **MC_**

4. Example: **"MC_swope"**

**Please consult the College's academic calendar for other important dates - found here: <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/departments2.aspx?id=28524>

**Double check your final exam schedule here: <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/EDU/Department2.aspx?id=26046>

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