

# GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY [ONLINE]

Humanities/Social Science/Education Division

Spring 2016

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## Instructor:

Joseph Swope

[joseph.swope@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:joseph.swope@montgomerycollege.edu)

## Required Text:

We use Schacter, Gilbert, and Wegner's (2014) 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* (3rd ed.). New York: Worth Publishers.**

ISBN-13: **978-4641-5949-7**

## 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. Read, analyze, demonstrate an understanding, and think critically about research design, which includes, the scientific method, differences between research methods,

developing independent and dependent variables, statistical significance, and application of results to the population.

3. Demonstrate and understanding and apply the concepts of the biological theory relating to communication and human behavior within the body; such as the neuron and neuronal communication, the nervous system, and genetic inheritance.
4. To understand the influence of diversity (i.e., gender, race, ethnicity) as it relates to the interpersonal and intrapersonal behavior.
6. Demonstrate and understanding and apply concepts of learning theory, such as classical and operant conditioning, social learning theory to human behavior.
7. To become familiar with issues of development, personality formation, and the various theoretical orientations associated with these approaches.
8. To develop a general knowledge of issues within the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of psychological disorders.

### Course Structure:

An online course, like a traditional course has a certain structure. While there will be a certain amount of independent work, the core of this course is the **Discussions**. Each week there will be:

1. Discussion #1 – a lengthy assignment designed to introduce student to the content – **DUE ON THURSDAY**
2. Discussion responses – students are reply to 2 other students' posts. As with the discussion posts, the replies are to engage in and continue in a high level, collegiate discussion - **DUE ON SUNDAY**
3. Weekly Quiz – this is to assess student's understanding of the material they read during the week - **DUE ON SUNDAY**

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### Communication:

While Student email (montgomery.edu) is an official means of communication for the College. The online course has a messaging and communication system. Students are expected to log in and check the discussion board, class announcements, and messages everyday.

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### 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:

[www.montgomerycollege.edu/dss/evacprocedures.htm](http://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>

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*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/combattocollege](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/combattocollege) and/or contact Joanna Starling at 240-567-7103 or [Joanna.starling@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:Joanna.starling@montgomerycollege.edu).

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*Course Grading:*

As mentioned in the course structure section of this syllabus, there are 4 items per week that students will be graded on:

1. First discussion – **10 points**, 2-3 paragraphs, collegiate writing,
2. Reply to other students – **5 points** each, 1 -2 sentences each
3. Weekly Quiz – **10 points**, 10 multiple choice questions
4. 300 total points for all assignments

The rubric for each of the assignments is posted within the course. Please refer to it, so that you can earn all of the available points.

**Final Exam:** There will be one final exam. It will be given during the week of December 14. Because this is an online course, you will take the final exam at home. It will be an 80 question multiple choice. It will be a timed test (like the weekly quizzes). You will have 72 hours to do the test once you start it. 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 20% of your total grade.

<b>Week/ Date</b>	<b>Readings / Topics</b>	<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Deadlines</b>
2/8	CHAPTER 1 (introduction)	1.Discussion (10pts) 2.Reply to two other students (5pts) 3.Quiz (10pts)	2/11 2/14 2/14
2/15	CHAPTER 2 (Research)	1.Discussion (10pts) 2.Reply to two other students (5pts) 3.Quiz (10pts)	2/18 2/21 2/21
2/22	CHAPTER 3 (neurons)	1.Discussion (10pts) 2.Reply to two other students (5pts) 3.Quiz (10pts)	2/25 2/28 2/28
2/29	CHAPTER 3 (brains)	1.Discussion (10pts) 2.Reply to two other students (5pts) 3.Quiz (10pts)	3/3 3/6 3/6
3/7	CHAPTER 5 (consciousness)	1.Discussion (10pts) 2.Reply to two other students (5pts) 3.Quiz (10pts)	3/10 3/13 3/13
<b>3/14</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	<b>DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN'T READ</b>	
3/21	CHAPTER 6 (memory)	1.Discussion (10pts) 2.Reply to two other students (5pts) 3.Quiz (10pts)	3/24 3/27 10/27
3/28	CHAPTER 7 (learning)	1.Discussion (10pts) 2.Reply to two other students (5pts) 3.Quiz (10pts)	3/31 4/3 4/3
4/4	CHAPTER 8 (motivation)	1.Discussion (10pts) 2.Reply to two other students (5pts) 3.Quiz (10pts)	4/7 4/10 4/10
4/11	CHAPTER 10 (intelligence)	1.Discussion (10pts) 2.Reply to two other students (5pts) 3.Quiz (10pts)	4/14 4/17 4/17
4/18	CHAPTER 13 (social psychology)	1.Discussion (10pts) 2.Reply to two other students (5pts) 3.Quiz (10pts)	4/21 4/24 4/24
4/25	CHAPTER 15 (illness)	1.Discussion (10pts) 2.Reply to two other students (5pts) 3.Quiz (10pts)	4/28 5/1 5/1
5/2	CHAPTER 16 (therapies)	1.Discussion (10pts) 2.Reply to two other students (5pts) 3.Quiz (10pts)	5/5 5/8 5/8
5/9	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>20% of Final Grade</b>	

\*\*Please consult the College's academic calendar for other important dates - found here: <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/department2.aspx?id=28524>

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