Course Syllabus

Suzanne W. Smith, M.Ed.
Fall Semester 2015
Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30 – 10:45
Bowen 213

Contact hours: 11:00 – 11:30 am Tues and Thurs
In Bowen 215A

Office phone: 391-5080
Email: ssmith@abac.edu (please do not use email on D2L)

<table>
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<th>Course Name: Introduction to General Psychology</th>
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<td>Course Number: PYSC 1101</td>
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<td>Course Description: A broad survey of the major topics in psychology including, but not limited to, research methodology, biological and social factors influencing behavior, development, learning, memory, personality, and abnormal behavior/therapy.</td>
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<td>General Education Student Learning Outcome for Core Curriculum Area E Social Sciences: Students will describe how historical, economic, political, social, and spatial relationships develop, persist, and change as well as how they are impacted by the complexity and diversity of individual and group behavior.</td>
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<td>Course Learning Outcomes: A student who successfully completes the Introduction to Psychology (PSYC 1101) will be able to:</td>
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<td>I. Demonstrate knowledge of 6 major perspectives in psychology (Behavioral, Biological, Cognitive, Positive/Humanistic, Social, and Psychodynamic) by:</td>
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<td>A. Identifying key figures</td>
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<td>B. Identifying key concepts</td>
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<td>C. Identifying major theories</td>
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<td>D. Identifying applications of major perspectives to every day living</td>
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<td>II. Demonstrate knowledge of the scientific process in Psychology by</td>
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<td>A. Identifying the basic steps of the scientific method</td>
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<td>B. Identifying the following research methods</td>
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<td>1. Experiment</td>
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<td>2. Correlation</td>
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<td>3. Data collection methods</td>
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III. Identify applications of the 6 major perspectives to
A. Development  
B. Personality  
C. Mental health  
D. Learning

Required Text:  

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<th>College Policy on Course Attendance:</th>
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<td>Courses at ABAC are provided for the intellectual growth and development of students. The interaction with instructors and other students is an important element of the learning process, and a high correlation exists between class attendance and course grades. Therefore, to attain maximum success, students should attend all their classes, be on time, and attend all scheduled course activities. Absence from class does not excuse students from full responsibility for class work or assignments missed. Students must accept this responsibility.</td>
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<td>Individual instructors will establish attendance policies for each class, will publish the policy in the course syllabus, and keep attendance records. The penalty for absences is at the discretion of the instructor and may include failure of the course. Students who stop attending class without officially withdrawing will receive a grade for the course. A student penalized for excessive absences may appeal through the grade appeal process as stated in this catalog and the Student Handbook.</td>
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<th>Institutional Absence</th>
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<td>A student who serves as an official representative of the college is defined as one who:</td>
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| 1. is authorized to use the college name in public relationships outside the institution;  
2. regularly interacts with non-college individuals and groups over an extended period of time (at least one semester);  
3. represents the college as a part of a group and not as an individual;  
4. represents the college under the direct supervision of a college faculty or staff member; and  
5. is authorized in writing, in advance, by the President of the college. |

Such a student is in no way released from the obligations and responsibilities of all students, but will not be penalized with unexcused absences when absences result from regularly scheduled activities in which he/she represents the college.

Further, it is the responsibility of each student to contact instructors prior to the absence and to make arrangements to make up any work that will be missed, in a manner acceptable to the instructor. Advisors of activities will schedule off-campus activities in a manner that does not unduly disrupt the learning process for a student.

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<th>College Policy on Academic Dishonesty:</th>
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<td>Academic irregularities include, but are not limited to, giving or receiving unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any academic assignment; taking or attempting to take, stealing, or otherwise obtaining in an unauthorized manner any material pertaining to the education process; selling, giving, lending, or otherwise furnishing to any person any</td>
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question and/or answers to any examination known to be scheduled at any subsequent date; fabricating, forging, or falsifying lab or clinical results; plagiarism in any form related to themes, essays, term papers, tests, and other assignments; breaching any confidentiality regarding patient information.

For more information on Disciplinary Procedures associated with Academic Dishonesty, please refer to the Academic Code of Conduct in the Student Handbook.

If there is a student in this class who has specific needs because of learning disabilities or any other disability, please feel free to contact the instructor.

Weather Hotline: (229) 391-5225 OR check ABAC homepage

Classroom behavior:

- Because this class will rely heavily on group discussion of the topics presented it is imperative that students exhibit respect towards each other at all times, despite differences of opinion.

- Cell phones should be turned off upon entering the classroom and should not be used to either text or talk until you leave. **If I see you on your cell phone during a lecture, class discussion, or video, you will be required to come to the front of the class to teach the material that is being covered.** If you are expecting an EMERGENCY call, you must let me know prior to class the nature of the expected call; you will be allowed to leave your phone on vibrate and can leave the room to answer that call. **If you have a cell phone out during an exam, this will result in an automatic zero, and this grade cannot be dropped. This is the same for students taking tests at the AAC ~ they have cameras there now!**

- I know that some students would like to use laptops/tablets etc. in class to take notes and view power points; I don’t forbid it, but I would let you know that you should be diligent in making sure that it doesn’t distract others. You should also be willing to show me at any point what you have on there, so make sure you don’t “stray” to anything else during class.

- It is my expectation that you will read the assigned chapter to be discussed BEFORE class so that you will be prepared to discuss what you’ve read.

- All writing assignments should be neat and employ good grammar and spelling; if this is not your strong suit, get someone to proof it for you before you turn it in. The ability to effectively communicate your ideas in writing is a life skill that will often determine your ability to flourish in a professional setting. **It IS important!**

- Getting up and leaving in the middle of the class is extremely distracting to everyone else. Please make sure you heed any and all calls from nature prior
to class. Students who make a habit of this should expect to see a reduction of participation points as well as some pointed questions in the moment from me as to the reason for these continuing disruptions. Fun!!

- As delightfully interesting as my lectures invariably are, sometimes students feel the need to nap in class, no doubt due to choices made the night before. Don't do this, as it is rude and makes you look ridiculous. This will also be cause for deduction of participation points and possibly more pointed questions, so please factor this in to your decision about an appropriate bedtime the night before.

RE: in-class behavior: Talking with other students during class will cause you to lose participation points, and may result in either 1. the entire class having to take a pop quiz that will count as part of their participation grade *(Think how popular you’ll be!)* OR 2. the chatterboxes coming up and lecturing on the topic of my choice.

**Attendance/Participation:**
My expectation is that you will attend every class, prepared to discuss and learn. There will be a number of in-class assignments that CANNOT be made up (group projects count for 10 points), as well as a penalty for your attendance/participation grade for each absence. This penalty will increase with each absence in the following manner:

1 absence = loss of **1 point**
2 absences = loss of 1+2= **3 points**
3 absences = loss of 1+2+3= **6 points**
4 absences = loss of 1+2+3+4= **10 points**
5 absences = loss of 1+2+3+4+5= **15 points**…. and so on.

I do not differentiate between excused and unexcused unless the absence meets the criteria of Institutional Absence (see guidelines above) ~ this is to insure that athletes, ambassadors, club members etc. who are on ABAC business are not penalized for representing our school. I must have something in writing from your coach/sponsor stating that your absence was necessary in order for this to qualify. All other absences will be considered unexcused. Do not bring me doctor's excuses, etc. ~ I don’t need them.

Many students are “surprised” by how much their absences hurt their final grade ~ don’t let that be you! *My experience has been that a person’s attendance record in school or at a job has far more to do with personal priorities than with life circumstances.* As a courtesy, you should inform the instructor of any planned absences. This lets me know that you aren’t just blowing off class.

**Tardiness:** If you come in after I have called roll, you will be counted absent in my grade book. You may do, and get credit for, any in-class assignments we may do that day, but I won’t change the absence.
Textbooks: In my first few years of teaching I was stunned to see students who attend class but have never purchased the textbook. Acquiring the proper materials and bringing them with you is a part of your student responsibilities and indicates a commitment to learning and achieving ~ those who do not have a textbook tend to struggle to pass my tests as they are from the test bank that accompanies the textbook. Sometimes students will say that other teachers barely use the book ~ I assure you I am not one of those teachers. Each student is required to purchase the textbook(s) for the course – that’s why they are listed as “REQUIRED.”

It is therefore my policy to require each student to have purchased the required texts, bring them to class, and utilize them in class on specified days after the drop add period has ended, starting the third week of class instruction. Students who do not have their textbook in class on group project days after that date will be excused to retrieve their book, marked as absent, and will be required to bring the appropriate textbook with them before returning to class.

Group projects: These will be done in the latter portion of the class on each day before the next exam (see schedule for exam dates). They are to be done in small groups, and will count for 10 points of your overall participation grades. These are the days in which you will be required to have your textbook with you in class.

Exams: Tests are multiple-choice, and you are expected to bring your own scantron.

Make-up for missed exams: Since you will be allowed to drop one test grade, there will be no make-up for a missed test ~ the only exception is for certified Institutional Absences, and the student must schedule this with me ahead of time. There have been other occasions when a student knew ahead of time that they would be out on an exam day for personal reasons and we were able to schedule a time for them to take their test a little early. This will be your responsibility to set up and is in no way guaranteed. Any student who just doesn’t show up on a test day will not be able to make up a test, period.

Late Assignments: Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Anything not ready to be turned in at that time will be considered late, and, if accepted, will incur a 5-10 point penalty per day late. Keep in mind that I am not here every day, so there will be many days I will not check my box.

Syllabus Sign-off Sheets: These must be completed and turned in by the 3rd class period or student will begin losing participation points.
**Extra Credit:** I allow students to turn in papers early (on the specified "early turn in day") for extra credit. I do not create extra credit assignment opportunities at the end of the semester, so factor that into your thinking about your final grade.

**Engaged Student Learning Requirements:** The ABAC Credit Hour Policy, in accordance with the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and federal regulations that are reflected in SACSCOC’s Credit Hours Policy Statement, require 6750 minutes of engaged student learning for a 3 semester hour course. Engaged Student Learning occurs both in and outside of the classroom at the ratio of 1:2, Two hours of independent student learning for each hour of classroom learning. 15 weeks of 50 minutes of class instruction for 1 credit hour = 750 minutes. For a 3 Hr course, engaged classroom instruction will equal 2250 minutes, the remaining 4500 minutes of engaged learning will be the responsibility of each individual student.

**Grading policy:**
- 5 tests (100 points each, lowest test dropped) 400
- Participation/attendance 50
- Personality/Mult. Intelligence response paper 50
- Extended Student Learning 50

  550

A= 495-550 B=440-494 C= 385-439 D= 330-384 F= 329 and below

**Important Dates:**
- This class begins Thursday, August 13.
- Drop/Add ends at 4:30 on August 19.
- Monday, Oct 5th at 4:30 is the last day to withdraw.
- Fall Break is Oct. 19th and 20th, Thanksgiving break is Nov.25th – 27th.
- Last regular class day is Tuesday, Dec.1.

This is a partial syllabus. More detailed information relating to the class and Instructor will be made available to each student.

Revised July 15, 2015