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## Course Syllabus – Fall 2019 Hybrid

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**Course Number: General Psychology**

**3 Credit Hours**

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### Contact Information:

**Instructor:** Mr. Robert McWilliams  
**Phone:** (251) 405-7144  
**Email:** rmcwilliams@bishop.edu  
**Office Location:** MTECH Building

### Course Description:

This course is a survey of behavior with an emphasis upon psychological processes. This course includes the biological basis of behavior, thinking, emotion, motivation, and the nature and development of personality.

**Prerequisites/Co-requisites:** None

### Textbook:

Spielman, R.M. (2014). *Psychology*. Openstax.com. ISBN# 9781938168352

View Online – <https://cnx.org/contents/Sr8Ev5Og@9.33:6HoLG-TA@9/Introduction>

Downloaded for free - [https://d3bxy9euw4e147.cloudfront.net/oscms-prodcms/media/documents/Psychology-OP\\_cNrqlqM.pdf](https://d3bxy9euw4e147.cloudfront.net/oscms-prodcms/media/documents/Psychology-OP_cNrqlqM.pdf)

**Required Materials:** None

### Instructional Core Competencies:

After completing courses at Bishop State, all students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate proficiency in written and oral communication;
2. Demonstrate proficiency in problem solving utilizing critical thinking skills; and
3. Demonstrate proficiency in quantitative reasoning.

### Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

1. Students will be able to analyze a research study and identify the major components.
2. Students will be able to use psychological principles to solve a behavioral problem.

Specific objectives related to other course content will be provided within the course.

## Evaluations and Assessments:

Final grades will be determined by combining the following grades:

Test 1 50 points

Test 2 50 points

Test 3 50 points

Final Exam 160 points

Quizzes (11 at 10 points each – *two grades dropped*) 110 points

2 SLO quizzes (20 points each) 40 points

Threaded Discussions/Assignments (lowest 2 dropped) 140 points

Journal Article Summary 50 points

Students will take 4 online tests during this course. Together these tests will account for a very large percentage of the final grade - so it is extremely important that you **READ ALL OF THE ASSIGNED READINGS AT LEAST 2 TIMES!!!** These 4 tests will each cover several weeks worth of material.

**The final exam, which must be taken on campus (or in an approved "proctored" environment), will cover the "core concepts".** Each test will be directly related to material covered by the objectives found on each week's instructions page. Objectives will be posted at the beginning of each chapter that should help students prepare for the tests. Information on the tests may be taken from the textbook, lecture notes, links that have been provided to outside web sites, or from any of the discussions that take place throughout the semester. No make-up tests will be given. More information related to the on-campus final exam will be provided within the first few weeks of the term.

All tests, quizzes, threaded discussions, the Journal Article Summary, and all assignments will have due dates that must be met. No exceptions will be made. No make-up work will be provided. Grades of 0 will be assigned to students who miss a due date for any assigned work.

Threaded discussion responses should be well thought out answers that don't just say "I agree..." with someone else's idea. Three responses will be required within each discussion area (an initial response, then at least 2 responses to other students). Up to 10 points may be earned for discussion responses each week. All posts are worth 3 points – an additional point may be awarded if a student provides additional quality posts or if the three that are provided are extraordinary. Threaded discussion responses must add to the content of the discussion (e.g., discussing related examples, asking questions, providing a link to an interesting website). Responses that say no more than "Great job" will not receive any credit. One point will automatically be deducted from initial discussion responses that are posted late, while no credit will be given to any responses that are posted after the class moves on to the next unit.

Assignments will be graded on a similar 10-point scale, based on the content of the answer. More details related to the Journal Article Summary will be provided within the course.

Quizzes will be assigned during 9 of the weeks in the course - each quiz will be very short, containing only 10 questions. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the term, so only 8 quiz grades will count toward the final grade. Quizzes may not be taken after the due date - no exceptions will be made.

Final course grades will be computed using the following scale:

- A 90-100%
- B 80-89%
- C 70-79%
- D 60-69%
- F Below 60%

### **Academic Alert:**

A student whose grade falls below a "C" at the end of week four will be notified in writing by the instructor. This notification will indicate that the student is being warned that his/her academic performance is unsatisfactory. The student will be required to have a mandatory conference with the instructor. Faculty will encourage students to seek help to improve his/her academic performance and provide various sources of educational help available to students at Bishop State.

### **Other Course Specific Information:**

#### **Guidelines for Participation**

In online courses, students seek interaction with other students and with the instructor. Since there is no face to face meeting, this interaction becomes very important to effective learning online. As such, good class participation is essential and will account for a significant part of your grade. **Plan to contribute to every discussion topic with a "quality" contribution -- i.e. a response that expresses clear thinking, and that is relevant to the discussion. This always involves more than just "I agree."**

In order to manage the amount of email I will receive from students, I am asking you to email questions to me only once or twice a week. To help me out, you may have to think about grouping some questions together before sending them. I won't be on call for your class 24 hours a day, but will be checking in often. I expect to briefly check your class email early (around 7:30AM) every day, and I will respond to questions as soon as possible after my classes on campus are over. So, plan accordingly. Students are free to use the "email the class" feature on the course web site. Please keep the messages sent to the whole class related to course content. Also, when emailing the class, generally it is best NOT to email phone numbers or addresses unless it is being emailed directly to a specific individual or to the instructor. This helps maintain privacy. Please note that most of the communication that the instructor will have with students on a one-on-one basis will be via email. It is recognized that email is not a secure mode of communication.

#### **Online Conduct**

I believe that the following is probably not very necessary. Nevertheless, for the sake of clarity, please realize that the College and I cannot and will not be responsible for the content of any personal messages which are sent from one student directly to another student using the online email delivery system. It is expected that all students will adhere to accepted codes of ethical, personal, and civil conduct when conversing online, using email, or engaging in any real time online chat sessions. Failure to abide by such codes of conduct and etiquette may result in withdrawal from the course and a failing grade. If you ever

receive any harassing messages from other students in the course, please don't hesitate to contact me immediately.

### **Quality of Work**

Grammar and spelling is very important to me. I'm not a fanatic, but I would appreciate your composing threaded discussion responses or email messages in a word processing program where you can check spelling, edit, and revise your writing. Then you can cut and paste the work into the threaded discussion or email message. This is also a good idea to help prevent you from losing any work. At times, you may lose your Internet connection in the middle of composing a threaded discussion answer. When this happens, you will lose your work - unless you are composing it in a word processing document.

### **Technical Problems and Assignment Delivery**

Let me encourage you to make hard copies of your assignments and communications with me. Computer crashes and disasters are bound to happen. Keep in mind that I do not view ISP problems as an excuse for turning work in late. At the first sign of problems with email, contact your ISP immediately. If your problems are not cleared up within 12 hours, please call me immediately. *It is your responsibility to access the course on another computer in the event of hardware or software problems.*

### **Access to Course**

Access to each new unit will begin on Sunday of each week and end on the next Sunday (so each unit will be available for 8 days - with an overlap each Sunday). All past weeks will remain open for review. If I were to ever make any last minute changes, I will send a message to the entire class to inform everyone of these changes. Assignments and threaded discussion responses are to be completed and turned in by midnight on the assigned due dates.

### **Personal Involvement and Time**

Students often have the misperception that taking an online/hybrid course is easier since they do not have to physically go to a classroom. When taking an online/hybrid course there are some things that become easier for students. For example, it becomes easier NOT to go to class. It also becomes easier to fall behind. While this medium gives students flexibility in attending class, remember that taking a course online is just more convenient, not easier! In a regular course on campus, we spend about 2.5 hours in class a week (more than 4 in the summer). In this online course, you will be participating in activities that will occupy a similar amount of time, in order to approximate what you might learn in a regular classroom. **DO NOT FALL BEHIND!** I have taken an online course, and it is very easy to fall behind (especially in the beginning). Please call me or send an e-mail to me at any time if you are having trouble.

### **BSCC Attendance Policy:**

Class attendance is strongly encouraged. Excessive absences may affect your final grade. Students are expected to attend all classes as scheduled and exercise regularity and punctuality in attendance. Absences will be recorded for each class, and no absences will be considered excused. Absences are counted from the first day of the student's registration in the course.

The attendance policy for classes on special schedules, such as the Health Related Programs, will be announced during the first class meeting by the respective departments. These attendance policies take precedence over any other policy.

Students are responsible for all coursework from the first scheduled day of class.

Students must abide by coursework and test makeup policy indicated in the course syllabus.

Exceptions to any attendance policy will be made only for persons required to fulfill military duty, jury duty, or court witness obligations. Students must request approval for these exceptions in advance and provide documentation to the Admissions Office on the appropriate campus prior to the scheduled dates of absence. Exceptions must be approved by the Dean of Students/Assistant to the Dean of Students.

### **Statement of Discrimination/Harassment:**

The official policy of Bishop State Community College is that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, disability, sex, religion, creed, national origin, or age, be excluded from participating in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any program, activity, or employment.

Bishop State complies with non-discriminatory regulations under Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and ADA regulations as revised in 1992.

### **Americans with Disability Act:**

The Office of Disabled Student Services assists students with disabilities to ensure that they are not discriminated against based on disability. The department ensures that these students are allowed reasonable accommodations based upon Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Registering with Disabled Student Services is completely optional; however, students must register with the Office of Disabled Student Services in order to receive services. For more information, students should contact Mr. Wilbur Bryant at (251) 405-7285.

### **BSCC Academic Integrity Policy:**

Bishop State Community College enthusiastically promotes academic integrity and professional ethics among all members of the Bishop State academic community. Violations of this policy are considered as serious misconduct and may result in disciplinary action and severe penalties.

### **BSCC Plagiarism Policy:**

Plagiarism is the act of taking and/or using the ideas, work, and/or writings of another person as one's own.

1. To avoid plagiarism give written credit and acknowledgment to the source of thoughts, ideas, and/or words, whether you have used direct quotation, paraphrasing, or just a reference to a general idea.
2. If you directly quote works written by someone else, enclose the quotation with quotation marks and provide an appropriate citation (e.g. footnote, endnote, bibliographical reference).

3. Research, as well as the complete written paper, must be the work of the person seeking academic credit for the course. (Papers, book reports, projects, and/or other class assignments).

**DISCIPLINE: FACULTY MEMBERS MAY RESPOND TO CASES OF PLAGIARISM IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING WAYS:**

1. Return the paper or other item for rewriting; the grade may be lowered.
2. Give a failing grade on the paper or other item - "F" if a letter grade is used or zero if a numerical grade is used.
3. Give the student who plagiarized a failing grade in the course.
  1. Recommend sanctions, including disciplinary expulsion from the College.

## Course Outline:

<b><u>Date:</u></b>	<b><u>Class #</u></b>	<b><u>Outline</u></b>
September 12	01	Syllabus, Chapter 1 & 2
September 19 <sup>th</sup>	02	Chapter 3
September 26 <sup>th</sup>	03	Test 1, Chapter 4 & 5
October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	04	Chapter 6
October 10 <sup>th</sup>	05	Test 2, Chapter 7 & 8
October 17 <sup>th</sup>	06	Chapter 10
October 24 <sup>th</sup>	07	Test 3, Chapter 9
October 31 <sup>st</sup>	08	Chapter 11
November 7 <sup>th</sup>	09	Chapter 14 & 15, Test 4
November 14 <sup>th</sup>	10	Final Exam