PSY 101-F81 – Introduction to Psychology (3 credits)
6:00 p.m. – 7:50 p.m. Mondays & Wednesday, May 28th – August 16th (Summer 2013)
Ernest Gruening Building, University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Instructor: Dinghy Kristine B. Sharma, M.A./M.S.
Office: Gruening Bldg., Room 101-A
Office hours: By Appointment
Phone: (907) 474-5763
Email: dbsharma@alaska.edu (preferred method of contact)

Important Dates
Monday, June 03  Last day to drop classes for 100% refund
Friday, June 07  Last day to drop classes for 50% refund
Wednesday, July 17  Last day for faculty or student initiated withdrawal
Monday, Aug 12  Last Day of Instruction
Wednesday, Aug 14  Final Exam

Texts Required
ISBN-10: 0205035191

ISBN-10: 0534546536

Other readings as assigned

Recommended Reference (Writing)
ISBN: 9781433805615

Course Description and Objectives
This class is designed to provide students an overview of the principles of general psychology with emphasis on natural science and social science orientation. It will cover various topics such as motivation and emotion, heredity and psychological basis for integrated behavior; our senses (visual, auditory etc.) as well as the basic processes in learning, problem-solving and thinking. Time will be spent on understanding personality theories and how psychological disorders develop, including its prevention and treatment. Students will also discover how culture, environment, physiology, heredity and social setting intersect and influence integrated behavior. This class will also encourage critical thinking and will employ a multicultural approach that respects human diversity and individual differences. Because this serves as the foundation for all advanced psychology courses, it is important that students develop a thorough understanding of concepts covered in this class. Topics in this course are meant to help students develop a better understanding of themselves and others, and will help inform many of students’ life experiences (personal, professional and academic) as they apply their new knowledge to daily living.
Course Goals
1. Identify and compare the major theoretical perspectives in psychology, understand their historical influences, and recognize how each approach views human thought and behavior.
2. Provide an overview of the theoretical bases of the following topics: personality, human development across the lifespan, motivation, emotion, interpersonal behavior, consciousness, sensation, perception, and basic processes in learning, problem solving and thinking.
3. Learn psychological concepts, processes and theories, research methodology and the role of critical thinking as well as skills in using basic psychological terminology;
4. Appreciate the influences of culture, physiology, the nervous system, physical environment, and social situations on our thoughts, emotions, and behaviors;
5. Gain a solid understanding of psychological disorders, including development, prevention and therapeutic strategies;
6. Develop global and cross-cultural awareness, an appreciation of diversity, and an improved self-knowledge as students gain insight into one’s own personality and personal relationships by thinking critically about psychological theories and principles.
7. Discuss the ways that psychological theories are used to assess, predict, or change human behavior and how psychology is applied to influence and improve the lives of human beings.

Instructional Methods
The class will employ various instructional formats to facilitate learning such as: lectures (including by guest speakers), small group discussions and activities, group presentations, and use of films and/or other multi-media sources.

Course Evaluation
Attendance, short quizzes and tests, assignments, group activities and group presentations.

Grading
Grades are assigned on a letter (A-F) basis. Points will be assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework &amp; Exercises (3 x 10 pts)</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes (5 x 5 pts)</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tests (2 x 50 pts)</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>300</strong></td>
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A= 270-300pts   B= 240-269pts   C= 210-239pts   D= 180-209pts   F= 179 & below pts

Course Grading
In this class, you have the opportunity to earn extra credit through extended learning. The required course points that you will earn from participation, exams, assignments, presentation is your base grade. The final grade is determined by adding any extended learning or bonus course points to your (base grade) required course points.

1. Attendance (15 pts)
Students are expected to attend class on time regularly. Students are required to submit at least five (5) “2 minute quick write” (3-5 sentences long) of their critical reflection(s) on the class readings and discussions and/or classroom exercises. Each quick write and/or exercise is worth 3 points for a total of 15 points.
2. **In-class quizzes (25 pts)**
   There will be 5 announced short quizzes during the entire semester. Each quiz will be 5 pts each. Make-up for missed quizzes is NOT allowed.

3. **Homework (30 pts)**
   The students will be provided with homework and/or take-home activities to help enhance their learning. There will be 3 assignments and each will be worth 10 points.

4. **Group Presentation (30 pts)**
   The students will form groups of 4-5 members and choose a psychological disorder textbook that they will present in class. Students can use the book as their main source but are highly encouraged to look up other reference materials. Students can be creative in their presentations (use of visual aids, videos, classroom activities etc.). The instructor will be available for consultation to discuss ideas and develop their outline for their group presentations.

5. **Tests (100 pts)**
   There will be two tests during the semester and each is worth 50 points. The test format will be mainly multiple choice and True and False questions. There may also be short answer questions and fill-in the blank questions.

6. **Final Exam (100 points)**
   The final exam will cover the remaining topics and chapters that were not covered in the short tests. This is worth 100 points and the format will be similar to the short test format.

**Extended Learning**

You may gain up to a **maximum of 15** points extra credit through several means:

1. **Critique Paper (600 words) – 10 pts**
   Review a current article relevant to the class (article must be published within the last 6 months). The article may be from the newspaper, a magazine, the internet, a scientific journal, etc. The paper should include the concept discussed in the article, its relevance to the class and to you, and your critical analysis and reflection from reading the article. Submit a copy of the article (with reference & date) together with your paper.

2. **Attendance in one or two course-relevant seminars that are offered on or off campus throughout this semester - (5pts each)**
   Submit a reaction paper (300 words) on what you learned from the seminar, the concept(s) discussed and its application to your life.

* 6:00 PM of August 07, 2013 (Monday) is the last day to submit your work for extended learning credits.

**Incomplete Coursework**
An incomplete grade (I) will be assigned (as per UAF catalog) only if two conditions have been met:
- First, the student must have attended at least two thirds (75%) of the class meetings.
- Second, documented evidence must be submitted to substantiate the fact that course completion was prevented because of unanticipated and/or unavoidable circumstances such as medical or family emergency.
Failing to attend or to complete the course, whether due to negligence or indifference, will result in a grade of “F” unless there has been an official course withdrawal.

If an “I” is assigned, deadline for completion of all course work is on a case by case arrangement between the instructor and the student. The student is responsible for completing all the coursework and notifying the instructor each time that he or she submits an outstanding item that is required for the resolution of the incomplete. If coursework is not completed and a year has elapsed following the semester the “I” was given, the grade will be computed as an F.

Course Policies

Late Assignment Policy
Assignments should be turned in BEFORE the class starts. Homework turned in after 6:30 p.m. of the due date will have a 50% deduction of your final grade for that specific assignment.

Contact Email and Blackboard
Students are required to obtain a university-issued username for use with email and Blackboard.

Student Conduct
Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students caught cheating in an exam and/or plagiarizing others’ work will lose the full points for the work in question and could lead to being dropped from the class. Students must abide by academic integrity standards as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. The UAF Code of Conduct can be found online at http://www.uaf.edu/catalog/current/academics/regs3.html#Student_Conduct

Cell Phones and Laptops
Cell phones must be turned off or put to silent mode while the student is in class. Under no circumstance should a call be taken (including text messages) during class, during office hour appointments with the instructor, or during academic tasks (e.g., working with another student on course related activities).

Laptops may be used in class for note-taking. However, students should not be using their laptops to connect to the Internet, do email, or otherwise engage in non-class-related activities. Laptop usage in class is privilege, not a right. The practice of using laptops for any purpose (including note-taking) may be banned for all during the course of the semester if students are found to be violating the laptop policy.

Missing Tests and the Final Exam

Make-up for a missed test is NOT allowed. There will be 3 tests (50 pts each) and the lowest score will be automatically dropped.

Make-up for the final exam is NOT allowed EXCEPT for:
   1) Unavoidable circumstance such as personal illness, accidents, family emergency (death or illness of a close family member).
   2) Unavoidable conflict of exam date with student’s participation in a University-sponsored event or activity.

For the above reasons, students can take a make-up exam provided they do the following:
   1) See the instructor personally to request for a make-up test AND
2) Provide reasonable explanation & documentation (medical certificate, proof of conflict of schedule for a university-sponsored event and/or documentation of student's participation of said event.

Students who are granted permission to take a make-up exam are to take the test no later than 2 days after the original exam date unless a special arrangement has been made with the instructor. The instructor has the prerogative to change the test content and/or format for the make-up exam.

**Support Services**

**Disability Services**
The Office of Disability Services at UAF implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. I will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (203 Whitaker, 474-7043) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with documented disabilities. Please make arrangements with me within the first few weeks of classes. If you have any questions about the services available for individuals with documented disabilities, I would be happy to answer them.

**Support Services**
Writing support services are available on the UAF Campus in the Writing Center, located in 801 Gruening, 474-5314. You are encouraged to use this resource to meet writing expectations. In addition, Student Support Services are available at UAF. Services include: 1) free tutorial services; 2) small study groups; 3) academic advising, mentoring, and personal support; 4) direct financial assistance to qualified Pell Grant recipients; 5) use of laptop computers, labs, and other technology resources; and 6) cultural and social engagement. The office is located at 508 Gruening Building, and the phone number is 474-6844. You may also obtain additional information about support services at: [http://www.uaf.edu/sssp/index.html](http://www.uaf.edu/sssp/index.html)