Body and soul are not two different things, but only two different ways of perceiving the same thing.

Similarly, physics and psychology are only different attempts to link our perceptions together by way of systematic thought.”

- Albert Einstein

Texts

Learning to Think Critically: The Case of Close Relationships - Available on our Canvas site.
Readings on E-Reserve – See Oxford College’s Course Reserves

Class Organization

My goals for you:
1) You will gain a better understanding of the science of psychology. I think this will be an advantage to you no matter what your chosen occupation. Psychological information is often critical in understanding the many experiences and feelings you will have throughout your life.
2) Your ability to analyze and evaluate scientific information will grow enabling you to utilize this information in your everyday life.
3) Finally, I hope you have a great time in this course. Learning about the brain, nervous system, and why people behave the way they do, is a lot of fun. So, relax, (but not too much), get ready to question all those “truths” you hold so dear, and have a good semester.

My expectations:
1) I expect you to be polite and considerate of your peers and me (e.g., arrive on time, turn off cell phones, use laptops and tablets for note taking only since other uses can be distracting to you as well as to those around you; any other use during class and your device will be banned.)
2) I expect you to be an independent learner. It is impossible to cover all of the course material in class so you will need to read and learn on your own.

Attendance: The class will meet 2 times a week and although attendance is not required, it is strongly recommended. It is rare for a student to earn an “A” in my class without attending class regularly because the exams will include items based on information found only in my lectures and I will often give you hints as to what might appear on the exam. I will take attendance so that I can learn everyone’s names and to possibly help you earn a higher grade (See Calculating your grade). In addition, from time to time, there will be some fun and interesting class exercises you can participate in which will help you understand some of the basic concepts in psychology.

Canvas: Please make sure that you visit our class Canvas site (for your section) because I will post your syllabus, review sheets, handouts, and any changes in assignments, test dates, and office hours on this conference. In addition, I have a number of illustrations and fun links on Canvas.
Calculating your grade: The final grade will be based on 3 exams, none of which will be comprehensive and each worth 100 points for a possible total of 300 points. I give make-up tests (which are typically all essays) only for officially excused absences. I will assign a letter grade to the total points accumulated during the semester so I won’t compute an average grade. See “Calculating Your Grade” on our Canvas site for more information.

An “A” for the class, requires 90% of 300 pts. or a minimum of 270 points, a “B” 80% of 300 pts. or 240 pts., a “C” 70% of 300 pts. or 210 pts., a “D” 60% of 300 pts. or 180 pts., and anything below 180 points is an “F”. If your total puts you a few points (3 or less) below a higher grade, I will take into consideration your attendance and participation when assigning your grade. Please make sure that you are familiar with the College’s Honor Code.

Knowledge fills a large brain; it merely inflates a small one.
Sydney J. Harris

The mind is like a parachute - it works best when it is open.
Unknown

Reading Assignments (Make sure that you download the review list for each section before reading the assigned chapters. See Modules/Review Lists on our Canvas site.)

Section I (9 lecture days)
Chapter 1. What is Psychology
Chapter 2. How Psychologists Do Research
Chapter 3. Genes, Evolution, and Environment
Chapter 4. The Brain and Nervous System
- The CEO Has Left the Building: Control and the Frontal Lobes. (pp. 95-114).
- The Amazing Woman: Half a Brain Will Do the Job. (pp. 227-250).
- Just a Few Knocks on the Head: The Concussion Conundrum. (pp. 251-273).
- The Far Side of Severe Brain Injury (Info. on Severe Traumatic Brain Injury) (pp. 286-291).

Exam I – Tuesday, October 1

Section II (8 lecture days)
Chapter 5. Body Rhythms and Mental States
On E-Reserve – Taken from: Annual Editions: Drugs, Society and Behavior, 30th Ed. McGraw-Hill
Chapter 6. Sensation and Perception
Handbook. “Learning to Think Critically; The Case of Close Relationships” – On Canvas – See Modules/Course Documents
Chapter 12. Motivation
Chapter 11. Emotion, Stress, and Health (Read from pg. 379 to 395)

Exam II – Tuesday, November 5

Section III (8 lecture days)
Chapter 7. Learning and Conditioning
Chapter 10. Memory
Chapter 9. Thinking and Intelligence
Chapter 11. Emotion, Stress, and Health - Read only pgs. 395 - 416 (Section on Stress)
Chapter 15. Psychological Disorders

Exam III – (Final Exam)* - 10:00 Section – Tues, Dec 17, 7:00-8:30pm
11:30 Section – Fri, Dec 13, 10:00-11:30am

*Students must have the permission of the Dean of Academic Affairs to take an exam earlier or later than scheduled. Permission is normally granted for medical reasons or for participating in educational programs.