

**LAGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CUNY**  
**SOCIAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**  
**SSY 101 General Psychology 1890, Room # C-251**

Semester: Fall I 2015

Course time: Tuesday 1:00 -3:15 PM and Thursday 2:00-3:15

Instructor: Eduardo Vianna

Office: C-459 L

Office hours: Thursday 12-2 PM

Telephone: (718) 482-6103

e-mail: [evianna@lagcc.cuny.edu](mailto:evianna@lagcc.cuny.edu) (see note \* at the end of syllabus)

**Textbook:** Ettinger, R. H. (2011). *Psychology: Science of behavior*. Redding, CA: BVT Publishing.

See LaGuardia's bookstore website for purchasing options.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is an introduction to the science of psychology. We will cover major topics of psychological science, including research methods, the biological basis of behavior, human development, learning, memory, perception, intelligence, thinking, motivation, personality, and psychological disorders. Students will be introduced to different psychological perspectives and will be able to understand their historical roots and contemporary relevance.

**Blackboard:** The blackboard website of this class can be accessed by students who are enrolled in this section. Students are required to use the site weekly to check announcements and access important course documents, such as the syllabus (that may occasionally be modified), lecture notes, assignments, and links to additional reading materials, electronic reserve, and websites to help you with the term project.

**Reading Assignments:** Students are required to read the materials assigned in advance. Classes should not be used as the first entry-level or new knowledge, but rather will serve as clarification and consolidation tools. Participation in class discussions is extremely important and will be considered toward your final grade.

**Written Assignments:** Different written assignments will be given throughout the semester to help students master the covered topics. All assignments will be posted on blackboard, which students must consult for due dates. All assignments must be completed.

**Term Project:** Students will be required to write a 7-9 page term paper. This project will be posted on blackboard and will be completed through several steps that must be handed in on the date due (check blackboard).

**Exams:** There will be three essay questions exams and several short essay questions tests and quizzes throughout the semester (see syllabus). There will be no make-up exams. If a legitimate excuse is provided for absence on exam days, the student will be allowed to take a make-up exam at the end of the semester during the final exam week.

**Grading:** 50% percent of the final grade will be based on the average of the three exams. 20% will be based on the staged paper, 15% on quizzes, and 15% on written assignments.

**Attendance:** *The College's attendance policy reads as follows: "Attendance in class is a requirement and will be considered in the evaluation of student performance. Instructors are required to keep an official record of student attendance. The maximum number of unexcused absences is limited to 15% of the number of class hours [5.4 hours in a 3-credit course]. Note: Absences are counted from the first day of class even if they are a result of late registration or change of program." (2011-12 catalog, p. 114)*

**Excessive absences (5 classes)** will result in **WU** grade or will **lower the final grade** one letter grade down. Consistent tardiness may also lower the final grade (**three late appearances will be counted as one absence**).

**INCOMPLETE GRADES:** Incomplete grades are not automatically granted but must be agreed to through prior consultation with the instructor and the department chair, all of who must sign and submit the appropriate form before the end of the semester. Incomplete grades are only permissible where students have legitimate reasons for not completing all the work of the class, have furnished appropriate documentation, and have agreed to a deadline by which all unfinished work must be completed. Failure to submit all assigned course work or to appear for a final exam are NOT legitimate reasons for granting an incomplete grade. As the instructor I have little discretion in this matter and must act in accordance with college policies.

**CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR:** Appropriate classroom behavior is required at all times and disruptive behavior (such as talking, cell phone use, taking breaks, etc.) will not be tolerated. **Use of cell phones and text messaging devices in class is prohibited.** The college prohibits the consumption of food and beverages in the classroom and mothers are not allowed to bring small children with them into the classroom. Persons unregistered for the course are not permitted in the classroom

when class is in session. During exams students are not allowed to leave the classroom. Please remember to use restrooms before exams start.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

The college has established an academic integrity policy that describes procedures and penalties for students who are suspected of academic dishonesty, which includes cheating, plagiarism, academic fraud, and bribery. Copies of this policy are available in the office of the Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Office, the Student Government Office, and the Student Life and Development Office, Counseling Cluster Offices and the Library. There is a **zero tolerance policy** toward academic dishonesty in this course.

Please refer to the College Catalog (pg. 114).

Cheating and Plagiarism: All cases of cheating or plagiarism will be penalized by a failure on the examination or paper at a minimum and may result in failure in the course. All violations will be reported to the College.

Further information is available in the College Catalog or Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.

### **Student Support Information:**

Library Media Resources Center website:

<http://www.lagcc.cuny.edu/library/>

Writing Center (Rm. E111) website:

<http://www.lagcc.cuny.edu/english/writingcenter/>

Counseling Department, Division of Academic Affairs

Rm. C-239 (718) 482-5250

Website: <http://www.lagcc.cuny.edu/counseling/services.htm>

E-Mail Communication with the Instructor: The LaGuardia e-mail system screens out many communications from outside e-mail addresses like Hotmail and Yahoo. To receive communications from or send communications to the instructor, you must use your LaGuardia Netmail address. The College assigns a Netmail address to every enrolled student. Your Netmail address is `firstname.lastname@mail.laguardia.edu`. To send or transmit e-mail using your Netmail address, go to <http://www.lagcc.cuny.edu/netmail/> and enter your password (the first five digits of your Social Security or Student ID).

<b>Module 1 - Introduction</b>	
09/08	Introduction and Course Overview
<b>Module 2 – Psychoanalysis</b>	
09/10	Psychoanalytic Theory: structure and dynamics of mind: Chapter 14 pg. 585-597

09/17	Repression, anxiety, and defensive mechanisms (psychological disorders): Chapter 15 pg. 635-6, 651-2 (see also BB)
09/24	Method: Resistance and Transference (treatment): Chapter 16 pg. 684-8, Reading: The Technique of Psychoanalysis
<b>Module 3 - Humanist and Positive Psychology</b>	
09/29	Maslow's Theory of Human Motivation
10/01	Erikson's Theory of Identity Development
10/06	<b>Exam 1</b>
10/08	Research Methods: Experimental and Correlational approaches
10/13	Research Methods: Qualitative approaches
<b>Module 4 - Behaviorism</b>	
10/15	Classical and Operant Conditioning
10/20	Mental Processes in Learning
<b>Module 5 – Neuropsychology</b>	
10/22	Nervous System
10/27	Brain Plasticity Reading: The Brain that Changes Itself (See BB)
<b>Module 6 - Cognitive Psychology</b>	
10/29	Sensation & Perception- Chapter 4 5/2 - Last Day to Withdraw from a Course – A Grade of "W" will be issued
<b>11/03</b>	<b>Exam 2</b>
11/05	Cognitive Development: Piaget's theory: Chapter 11
11/10	Self-concept
<b>Module 7 - Social and Cultural Psychology</b>	
11/12*	Memory <i>November 13- Last Day to Officially Withdraw from a Course - A Grade of "W" will be issued</i>
11/17	Sociocultural Development
11/19	Self, Identity, and Personality
<b>Module 8 - Psychological Disorders</b>	
11/24	Psychological Disorders: Classification and Diagnosis: Chapter 15
12/01	Major Psychological Disorders I: Chapter 15
12/03	Therapeutic Approaches: Drug Therapies
12/08	Therapeutic Approaches: Psychotherapies

12/10	<b>Reading Day- No Class</b>
12/15	<b>Final Exam</b>