

Martin Community College  
Course Syllabus  
Spring 2011

**COURSE NUMBER: PSY 150 (52)**

**INSTRUCTOR: Rhonda Breed**

**COURSE TITLE: General Psychology**

**OFFICE NO: Building 4, Room 5**

**CREDIT HOURS: 3**

**OFFICE HOURS: MW, 12:00-4:50  
TTH, 12:00-12:50  
TTH, 2:30-4:30  
F, 12:00-2:15**

**CONTACT HRS/WK: 3 (Internet)**

**PREREQUISITES: None**

**COREQUISITES: None**

**PHONE NO: 252-789-0264**

**FAX: (252) 792-0826**

**E-MAIL: rbreed@martincc.edu**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course provides an overview of the scientific study of human behavior. Topics include history, methodology, biopsychology, sensation, perception, learning, motivation, cognition, abnormal behavior, personality theory, social psychology, and other relevant topics. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of the science of psychology. *This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement general education core requirement in social/behavioral sciences.*

**PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Apply critical thinking skills to problem-solving.
2. Demonstrate appropriate use of related technology.
3. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Apply major research methods in psychology.
2. Recognize, understand, and respect the complexity of sociocultural and international diversity as it relates to human behavior.
3. Demonstrate psychological knowledge, skills and values in various personal and occupational settings.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:** Rathus, S. (2008). *Psychology: Concepts & connections*, (9th ed.). New York: Thomson. ISBN 0-495-09800-0

**SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES:** As directed throughout the semester.

**LEARNING/TEACHING METHODS:** It is your responsibility to read the text and other assigned material. Class lectures will follow along with the text but will not cover it completely. To do well on exams, you need to read the text and **outside reading assignments**, attend lectures, watch assigned videos, and take notes. (Check your email and Blackboard often for supplementary material, announcements, and special instructions.)

**ASSESSMENTS/METHODS OF EVALUATION:** There will be three exams during the semester and one final, comprehensive exam at the end of the semester. The exams may be comprised of multiple-choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, and short essay questions. Since this is an online course, there will be no make-up exams. Throughout the semester, there may be quizzes on material from the text. There will be no make-

up quizzes. In addition to quizzes, I will have you write brief reflections of the videos you are assigned to watch; these will count the same as a quiz grade.

**Research Paper:** You are required to write a 3-5 page research paper on a topic of your choice that is relevant to this class. The paper requires the use of at least **three** reliable sources for information, including at least one **outside reading source** (academically based books, published research articles, etc.). You may also use government data (i.e. Census reports), reputable media sources (i.e. MSNBC), interviews (please discuss anonymity with me before using this type of source), and other preapproved sources. Your text book or Wikipedia **cannot** be used as one of the three sources. The proper referencing for sources is required. I will accept MLA, APA, or ASA format; however, APA is preferred. Detailed expectations for the paper will be discussed as the semester progresses and I will post more detailed specifications. Please select a paper topic and submit it via email by January 28, 2011. The paper is due Friday, March 25, 2011. (Although this is not a class in expository writing, I expect college level work.)

**Class participation:** All students are expected to participate in class discussions. I will give everyone the opportunity to offer relevant opinions, share information, and ask relevant questions regarding the subjects we cover. Student input is a vital part of the learning process and is a must for online instruction. Regular participation is considered attendance so active involvement in class discussions is required. (Please respect other students, even if you disagree with their ideas or opinions during discussion.)

**Academic integrity:** Commitment to academic excellence through honesty and integrity is expected of everyone. As such, verified cheating and/or plagiarism will likely result in failure (see MCC policies). I expect each student to do his/her own work unless specifically stated otherwise (e.g. group assignments).

**GRADING POLICY:** Grading is based upon the following ten-point scale:

A = 90-100                      B = 80-89                      C = 70-79                      D = 60-69                      F = 59 or below

Each of the four exams counts as 10% of your final grade. 40%

The average of your quiz/reflection grades equals 15% of your final grade. 15%

The research paper, with the **outside reading assignment**, equals 15% of your final grade. 15%

Participation in discussions will count as 30% of your grade. 30%

Total possible score ..... 100%

*(I will not give you a grade; you will earn a grade. If you receive an A, you earned an A. Likewise, if you receive an F, you earned an F. Keep in mind that I do not want to assign anyone a failing grade. Please, try to do your best.)*

**COURSE OUTLINE (Tentative):**

Week 1: Introductions and Chapter One  
Week 2: Chapter Two  
Week 3: Chapter Three  
Week 4: Chapter Four/Exam One  
Week 5: Chapter Five  
Week 6: Chapter Six  
Week 7: Chapter Seven  
Week 8: Chapter Eight/Exam Two

Week 9: Chapter Nine  
Week 10: Chapter Ten  
Week 11: Chapter Eleven  
Week 12: Chapter Twelve/Exam Three  
Week 13: Chapter Thirteen  
Week 14: Chapters Fourteen and Fifteen  
Week 15: Chapter Sixteen  
Week 16: Semester Review/Final Exam

**STUDENT ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Students must be present in order to be considered enrolled in the class. Present means that you have (1) completed the technology assessment located on Blackboard and (2) posted the required introduction under the discussion board within seven days from the start of class. If a student has not completed the requirements by the census date, the instructor will notify the registrar that the student never attended. Once students start the class, they must participate to remain in the class. Students failing to participate online for fourteen consecutive days may be administratively withdrawn from the class by the instructor and given a grade of "AW." The "AW" will be equivalent to an "F" when calculating your GPA. **NON PARTICIPATION MAY BE EXCUSED IF THE STUDENT CAN PROVIDE WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION FOR EXTENDED HOSPITALIZATION OF SELF OR THE DEATH OF AN IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER** (father/stepfather, mother/stepmother, sibling/step-sibling, or child/stepchild/grandchild). *These situations will be handled on a case by case basis and considered at my discretion, including the allowance to make up missed work.*

To enter section 50 (Internet) courses, students must do two things:

- (1) First, students must complete a technology assessment located on the Blackboard or Moodle login page.
- (2) Second, students must login into Blackboard or Moodle and complete the first assignment within seven (7) school days.

Both the technology assessment and the first assignment must be completed for students to remain in the course. If students are taking more than one online course, the student **ONLY** takes the technology assessment **ONE** time.

**REQUEST FOR EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES:** In compliance with G.S. 115D-5, MCC policy permits a student to be excused, with the opportunity to make-up any test or other missed work, a minimum of two excused absences per academic year for religious observances required by the student's faith. The policy limits the excused absences to a maximum of two days per academic year.

Students who wish to be excused for a Religious Observance required by their faith must complete and submit a request form to the instructor(s) prior to the census date of each class. The ***Request for Excused Absences for Religious Observances*** form can be picked up from Student Services. This does not supersede the college-wide attendance policy as outlined in the college catalog or syllabus, with the exception of a reasonable accommodation for the make-up of missed course work.

**CONTACT:** If you cannot reach your instructor, you may contact Dr. Phyllis Broughton, Dean of Academic Affairs and Student Services by phone at (252) 789-0246 or (252) 789-0247, or by email at [pbroughton@martincc.edu](mailto:pbroughton@martincc.edu), or in person in her office in Building 2, Room 33.

To access the Martin Community College Career Catalog for policies and curriculum requirements, please go online to [www.martincc.edu](http://www.martincc.edu).

*If you need disability related accommodations, please notify the Student Services counselor at (252) 789-0293.*