

SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY
Psychology Department
Fall 2008

HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY (PSYC 117)

Instructor: Thomas G. Plante, Ph.D., ABPP
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Office Hours: Before and after class or by appointment
Course Meeting Room: Daly Science 106
Course Meeting Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:55am – 11:40pm.

Required Texts: Sanderson, C. A. (2004). *Health Psychology*. New York, NY: Wiley.

Plante, T. G., & Thoresen, C. E. (Eds.) (2007). *Spirit, Science and Health: How the Spiritual Mind Fuels Physical Wellness*. Westport, CT: Praeger/Greenwood.

Course Evaluation:

Midterm Learning Adventure 1:	Oct 23, 2008	100 points
Midterm Learning Adventure 2:	Nov 20, 2008	100 points
Final Learning Adventure:	Dec 9, 2008	200 points
Self-Change Project or Paper:	Dec 4, 2008 (9:55am)	100 points
Class Participation, Scholarly Enthusiasm, and Attendance:		+
+ can improve your course grade.		

Course Description: Health psychology involves the discipline and principles of psychology and human behavior in understanding how the mind, body, and behavior interact in health and disease. Class topics include health promotion and primary prevention of illness, health enhancing and health damaging behaviors, psychosomatic illness, stress and coping, faith and health, pain management, and a variety of specific behavior-related medical illnesses (e.g., heart disease, eating disorders, cancer, AIDS). Prerequisites include PSYC 1, 2, 40, 43. The course is primarily designed for psychology majors.

Course Goals: (1) to provide a basic and broad based overview of the field of health psychology from a biopsychosocial perspective.
(2) To provide a practical and experiential understanding of the challenges involved in health behavior change.
(3) To provide the foundation for students taking additional courses and advanced training in health psychology.

Sequence of Topics and Readings:

Week 1 (Sep 22 & 25):	Introduction to Health Psychology and the Biopsychosocial Model	Sanderson 1 & 2*
Week 2 (Sep 30 & Oct 2):	Theories of Health Behavior	Sanderson 3; P&T 1-4
Week 3 (Oct 7 & 9):	Stress and Coping	Sanderson 4; P&T 5-7
Week 4 (Oct 14 & 16):	Personality & Social Support	Sanderson 5 & 6; P&T 8
Week 5 (Oct 21 & 23):	Smoking and Drinking	Sanderson 7
Week 6 (Oct 28 & 30):	Midterm Learning Adventure 1 (Thur Oct 23) S&D continued, Eating Problems	Sanderson 8; P&T 10
Week 7 (Nov 4 & 6):	Pain & Terminal Illness (Guest speaker: Dr. Dale Larson on Nov 6 based on Chapter 11 material)	Sanderson 9 & 11; P&T 11-12
Week 8 (Nov 11 & 13):	Chronic Illness & Use of Health Services	Sanderson 10 & 12; P&T 13
Week 9 (Nov 18 & 20):	Interventions	Sanderson 13; P&T 9
Week 10 (Dec 2 & 4):	Midterm Learning Adventure 2 (Thur Nov 20) Future Directions, Ethics, Career Issues and Conclusions	Sanderson 14; P&T 14
	<u>Self-Change Project/Term Paper Due: Thursday, Dec 4th at 9:55 a.m.</u>	

* Please have readings completed during the first class session of each week.
Final Learning Adventure: Tues, Dec 9 at 1:30pm.

Additional Items:

1. Please note that make-up examinations are not possible. If you miss one of the midterm learning adventures (note: excused miss only, an unexcused miss will result in a failing grade), the final learning adventure will count for 300 rather than 200 points. Missing both midterm learning adventures will result in the final being worth 400 points. Missing the final or failing to submit the term paper will result in being failed from the course. According to university policy, the final exam schedule cannot be altered. You should not enroll in this class if you plan to leave town before the exam. Learning adventures will primarily be multiple choice and short essay and graded using a curve if necessary. Learning adventures are meant to encourage critical thinking and will require that you stretch. They will hopefully challenge even the best students.
2. The self-change project or paper may be one of the following three types of projects. First, you may choose to do a "self-change project" (written in APA style) to enhance an adaptive health behavior for yourself or for someone else. For example, appropriate topics may include increasing the use of seat belts, practicing safe sex, decreasing alcohol, cigarette, or high fat food consumption, increasing aerobic exercise or utilizing relaxation techniques, or increasing dental care such as flossing. How to design such a project will be discussed in class. You may also choose to write a 10-15 page (text pages, not including title page, abstract, and references) paper in APA style on a health psychology topic of your choice. Your topic should be discussed with me prior to your work on the paper. Finally, you can participate in an Arrupe Partnership placement and write a brief 5 page reflection paper on the experience. The Arrupe placement should be a health focus one. Grades for late papers will reflect a 10 point per day reduction. Please refer to the class handout on how to write a paper in APA style and helpful principles in developing a self-change project. Note that the paper is due at the beginning of the last class.
3. We will review learning adventure results immediately after the administration of each in-class exam. This will provide you with an opportunity to learn how you did and provide you with your chance to ask questions about the adventures.
4. Please be prompt to class. We will make every effort to begin and end each class on time. It is very disruptive to everyone and not appreciated when students come to class late.
5. If you would like to speak with me individually, please feel free to do so. Please make an appointment rather than an unscheduled visit if you can.
6. In keeping with the mission of the university, relating the material to the "glory of God and to the common good" as well as helping to educate leaders with *competence, compassion, and conscience* will be integrated, where appropriate, in class discussions.
7. In order to make the most of this course (and your tuition dollar) please attend each class session, keep up with the assigned reading, and participate in class activities and discussions with scholarly vigor. To help you further in this noble endeavor, the following list of "Top 10 Ways to do Well in Health Psych" are offered for your consideration.

Top 10 Ways to do Well in Health Psych

10. Start your paper early! Choose a topic/self change project that interests you and that you can get excited about. Remember, the project must be written in APA style.
9. Try to apply the material to your life and the lives of your loved ones. Make it come alive.
8. Review the book chapters and your notes on a regular basis. Even 5 - 10 minutes each day to keep the material fresh is very helpful and minimizes stressful studying right before learning adventures.
7. Be a practicing health psychologist and take care of your body. Don't cram or abuse caffeine (or other substances) and get enough sleep and food prior to learning adventures.
6. Don't even think of cheating (especially at a fine Jesuit university). Academic honesty and integrity is fundamental to our mission. Cheating (including plagiarism) will result in being dropped or failed from the course and will be referred to the university at large for disciplinary action.
5. For each topic, concept, highlighted issue, etc. ask yourself the questions, "What's the bottom line? Why is this important? What's the big picture here? If I were the professor, why would I want students to know this?"
4. Write organized, readable notes in class highlighting the major points and concepts.
3. Keep up with the readings. Mass learning (i.e., cramming) just doesn't work (remember the memory chapter in Intro Psych?). Reading and studying a little at a time works in the long run. Besides, you'll be way ahead of the game if you have done the assigned reading before class.
2. Be an active learner. It pays off. Participate in class discussions, ask questions freely, and engage in the process. There is no such thing as a "dumb question."
1. Attend class! Don't be tempted to skip class and just photocopy someone's notes. There is no substitute for being there.

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DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION POLICY: To request academic accommodations for a disability, students must contact Disabilities Resources located on the second floor of Benson. Phone numbers are (408) 554-4111; TTY (408)554-5445. Students must register and provide documentation of a disability to Disabilities Resources prior to receiving academic accommodations.

