

**SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY**  
**Psychology Department**  
**Fall 2011**

**GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY II (PSYC 2)**

**Instructor:** Thomas G. Plante, Ph.D., ABPP, Professor of Psychology  
**Office:** Alumni Science 203  
**Telephone, Fax, E-Mail, web:** 408-554-4471 (Office), 408-554-5241 (Fax), [tplante@scu.edu](mailto:tplante@scu.edu) , [www.scu.edu/tplante](http://www.scu.edu/tplante)  
**Office Hours:** Before and after class or by appointment  
**Course Meeting Room:** Alumni Science 120  
**Course Meeting Times:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:45pm –3:30pm.

**Required Text:** Weiten, W. (2010). *Psychology: Themes and Variations* (Eighth Edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning

**Course Evaluation:**

Class Quizzes		100 points
Class Attendance & Behavior		100 points
Midterm Learning Adventure 1:	Oct 20th	100 points
Midterm Learning Adventure 2:	Nov 17th	100 points
Final Learning Adventure:	Dec 8 <sup>th</sup>	200 points
Research Participation Credits or term paper		^
Class Participation and Scholarly Enthusiasm:		+

^ you must complete research/clinical participation in accordance with department policy (or write a brief term paper).  
+ can improve your grade by a half letter grade.

**Course Description:**

Few things in life are as interesting, meaningful, and compelling as human behavior. This class is a general introductory course focusing on the field of psychology as a social science. Class topics include the history of psychology, research design and statistics, human development, motivation, emotion, stress, health psychology, personality, intelligence, psychological assessment, social psychology, psychological disorders and treatments, and ethics.

**Course Goals:** (1) To provide a basic and broad based overview of the field of psychology from a social science perspective.  
(2) To provide a framework for understanding the science and practice of psychology.  
(3) To provide the foundation for students taking additional and advanced undergraduate psychology courses.

**Sequence of Topics and Readings:**

Week 1 (Sep 20 & 22):	Introduction to Course & Definitions, History, Systems, Evolution, & Perspectives in Psychology	Chapter 1 & Appendix D (Career)*
Week 2 (Sep 27 & 29):	Psychological Research Methods & Statistics	Chapter 2 & Appendix B (Stats)
Week 3 (Oct 4 & 6):	Psychological Assessment & Intelligence	Chapter 9
Week 4 (Oct 11 & 13):	Developmental Psychology (Human Development)	Chapter 11
Week 5 (Oct 18 & 20):	Motivation & Emotion	Chapter 10
	<b>Midterm Learning Adventure 1: Thursday, Oct 20th</b>	
Week 6 (Oct 25 & 27):	Personality Psychology and Individual Differences	Chapter 12
Week 7 (Nov 1 & 3):	Health Psychology (Stress, Coping, & Health)	Chapter 13
Week 8 (Nov 8 & 10):	Psychological Disorders (Abnormal Psychology)	Chapter 14
Week 9 (Nov 15 & 17):	Psychological Treatment (Clinical Psychology)	Chapter 15
	<b>Midterm Learning Adventure 2: Thursday, Nov 17</b>	
Week 10 (Nov 29 & Dec 1):	Social Psychology, Ethics, Conclusions	Chapter 16 & Appendix C (IO Psy)

\* Please have readings completed for the week during the first class session of each week.

Final Learning Probe: **Dec 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm**

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**Additional Items:**

1. *Laptops and cell phones.* Laptops and cell phones are not allowed to be used in class (unless you have a documented learning disability that requires the use of these technologies). Students typically use them more to check their email, Facebook and other social networking sites, and surf the web more than they tend to use them for taking notes. They try to multitask (which doesn't work according to the cognitive science research) and then wonder why they didn't do well on class learning adventures or don't recall what was said or not said in class. Research demonstrates that the grade performance for those using laptops tends to approximate the performance of those who don't attend class. I think that says it all. Violations of this policy will result in being failed for the week (10 points, 1<sup>st</sup> offense), failed for the month (2<sup>nd</sup> offense, 50 points), failed for the course (3<sup>rd</sup> offense, all points).
2. *Class Quizzes* will occur weekly on the reading material. They will generally include 3 questions asked in class. You are expected to answer 2 of the 3 correctly to pass the quiz. Less than 2 correct answers will result in a fail for the week (10 points loss). Responses should be made on *index cards* and handed in to the professor. You should have 10 index cards available for the class. You cannot pass the quiz unless an appropriate index card is used.
3. *Attendance.* You'll be asked to sign in for each class period and attendance will be recorded. You are expected to be in class for at least 80% of the class sessions. Less than 80% (without doctor or coaches written statement) results in failing the class attendance and behavior portion of the grade (100 points).
4. *Expected classroom behavior.* Please note the following expectations regarding classroom behavior:
  - a. Arrive on time.
  - b. Don't pack up books and such before class is completed.
  - c. Turn off cell phones.
  - d. Use restrooms before and after class and during the mid-class break.
  - e. Don't leave class once started (if you do, please don't return that day).
  - f. If you miss class get notes from other students.
  - g. Read the textbook as required.
  - h. Participate in class discussions.
  - i. Cheating in any form won't be tolerated and will result in being failed from the class.
5. *Make-up learning adventures are not possible.* If you miss one of the learning adventures (note: an excused missed only. Unexcused missed adventures will result in a failing grade), the final learning adventure will count for 300 rather than 200 points (400 points if both midterms are missed). Missing the final will result in being failed from the course. *According to university policy, the final exam schedule cannot be altered. If you plan to leave town etc. before the final you should not enroll in this class.* Learning adventures will primarily be multiple choice and perhaps short essay and will be graded using a curve only if necessary. Learning adventures are meant to encourage critical thinking and will require that you stretch. They will hopefully challenge even the best students.
6. All students enrolled in this course are required to complete several units of research/clinical participation as required by the Psychology Department. This can be completed by participating in department sponsored research projects or writing a brief term paper. *If you choose to participate in department research projects, please do not wait until the end of the term to obtain your research credits. Note that there will be point reduction per credit if you obtain less than the required hours (1% of grade per credit).* Please review the Research Participation Requirement memo for details.
7. We will review learning adventures results immediately after the administration of each one. This will provide you with an opportunity to learn how you did and provide you with your chance to ask questions about the adventures.

8. If you would like to speak with me individually, please feel free to do so. Please make an appointment rather than an unscheduled visit.

9. 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 into class material where appropriate.

10. 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 Intro Psych" are offered for your consideration.

### **Top 10 Ways to do Well in Psych**

10. Use the study guide provided with the book. It greatly helps to focus and condense the material.
9. Get your research credits early. If you wait until the last minute you might be unable to get them. Remember, you must complete this requirement to complete the course.
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. Take care of your body. Don't cram or abuse caffeine (or other substances) and get enough sleep and food prior to learning probes.
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. Consider rewriting or highlighting your notes to help with reinforcing the material.
3. Keep up with the readings. Mass learning (i.e., cramming) just doesn't work. Reading and studying a little at a time works best 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, 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.

*Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*

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.