**PSY 203**
**GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY**
**FALL 2020 SYLLABUS**

Read this syllabus carefully - it tells you everything you need to know about how this course operates. It includes links to many study aids and assessments to help you to succeed in this and other courses. For a wealth of other study tools visit: Sites to Promote Academic Success

**Instructor**: Shannon Lyle
**Online Hours**: I will periodically check Moodle and my email for any questions you may have pertaining to this class and will answer your questions as soon as possible. I encourage you to contact me at any time with any questions or concerns you may have about this class. I am available by appointment for individual conferences.
**Email**: slyle@uarichmountain.edu
**Cell phone**: 479-216-3673

**Prerequisites**: Curiosity is the only prerequisite for this class.

**Required Materials**:

- Textbook: Morris & Maisto. (2013). *Understanding Psychology (10th ed.).* Boston, MA: Pearson Publishing.
- Student email: In order to access this class, you must have an active UA Rich Mountain student email account, which is available through the UA Rich Mountain Intranet. If you have difficulties setting up your student email, contact Student Support Services. You may access your account from any computer. Even if you have another email account, part of your first assignment is to set up your student email account; your UA Rich Mountain student account is the email account that I will use to communicate with you.
- Emailing Instructor: I get numerous emails each day. To prevent my overlooking and possibly deleting an important class email, your emails must have the following in the subject line: PSY: your last name and name of assignment. For example: PSY: Lyle Syllabus Quiz. Bonus Point submissions: PSY: Lyle Bonus Chap. #
- Computer Skills: College courses require adequate computer skills. You should be able to navigate websites, open and download files, use a scanner, use a word processor and be able to convert files into rich text format, and submit files to Moodle. All work must be completed and submitted in Microsoft Word.
- Technical Requirements: You are responsible for ensuring that you have the technology necessary to participate in and complete this class. Adequate technology includes, but is not limited to, a computer with Microsoft Word and reliable internet (trying to complete assignments and exams on your cell phone IS NOT RECOMMENDED). Technical

difficulties are uncommon, but they do occur. If the difficulties are the result of issues originating from the College, I will make the appropriate accommodations; however, technical difficulties that do not originate from the College (computer crashes, cell phones freezing up, viruses, loss of internet, etc) are not my responsibility and do not have a guarantee of special accommodations.

**Course Description**: This is an introductory course in the study of human behavior with an emphasis on heredity, environment, life-span development from infancy to the end of life, intelligence, personality, learning, motivation, and emotions.

**Program Outcomes**:
1. Comprehend the basic principles, philosophy, and methodology of psychology as a science and its influence on society.
2. Apply both rational and empirical methods of inquiry to the ways in which the environment influences individuals, organizations, and societies as well as personal and societal goals.
3. Possess basic technological skills to identify, locate, and process information.

**Rationale**: General Psychology offers students a greater understanding of the human mind and human behavior. Additionally, General Psychology is approved for inclusion in the Associate of Arts, Associate of General Studies, and Associate of Applied Science in General Technology; it is listed on ACTS as a course guaranteed to transfer to any institution in the state of Arkansas.

**Course Objectives**: Upon successful completion of this class, the student should be able to discuss

- The history and science of psychology
- The biological basis of behavior
- The learning process
- The biology of memory and various memory processes
- The theories of intelligence, intelligence testing, extremes of intelligence, and the influence of environment on intelligence
- The issues in life-span development from prenatal development through late adulthood
- Psychological disorders

Additionally, upon successful completion of the class, the student should be able to

- use technology effectively,
- employ research and critical thinking skills,
- communicate effectively through writing and speaking.

The successful student will demonstrate these competencies through discussion posts, homework assignments, exams and a media portfolio at a 70% success level.

**Topical Outline/Course Schedule**: A topical outline and schedule for the course is posted in the "Introduction" section of the class and titled "Fall 2020 Course Schedule."

**Course Conduct**: Information for this online course is delivered through the course textbook, which is supplemented with lecture notes and various internet sources.

**UA Rich Mountain Credit Hour Calculator/Student Commitment**: For every course credit hour, the typical student should expect to spend at least three clock hours per week of concentrated attention on course-related work, including but not limited to time online, as well as out-of-class time spent reading, reviewing and organizing notes, preparing for upcoming quizzes/exams, problem solving, developing and completing projects, and other activities that enhance learning. Thus, for a three-hour course, a typical student should expect to spend at least nine hours per week dedicated to the course. This includes the time spent in class.

In addition to attending lecture and taking/reading the lecture notes, you will need to carefully read textbook chapters, explore various web links and watch brief online videos *, participate in online discussions, submit a media portfolio (description attached), and complete exams.

*Be aware that your exams may include questions from information found on these links and in the videos; it is to your advantage to access the links and watch the videos.

***Self-discipline, attention to details, and skills in reading and writing are critical for succeeding in class.***

**Class Procedures/Student Requirements**: Your grade will be a composite of exams, assignments, media portfolio, and discussion posts. Due dates for assignments and tests are posted online in Moodle and in the class schedule. You must check in regularly to see what assignments have been given and what assignments are due. It is not my practice to contact students about missing assignments.

- Exams: An exam worth 100 points will be given at the completion of each chapter. Consult your course schedule for the exam dates. Make-Up Test Policy: There will be no make-up tests; however, you may exercise the following option for one test only: if you miss a test, the next test will count double. If circumstances arise that may cause you to miss a test, you may make arrangements to take the test early.
- Homework: There will be occasional homework assignments that are expected to be completed and submitted on time. Late submissions will be accepted if submitted within one week of the original due date; 5% will be deducted for each day it is late. For example: If a 30-point assignment that is due on a Friday is not submitted until the following Monday, 15% will be deducted from the final grade; therefore, an assignment that would normally receive 100% will receive 85% after the point deduction.

- Writing Assignments: Refer to the Paragraph Topics and Guidelines handout.
- Media Portfolio: The capstone project for this class is a media portfolio and is worth 600 points. A description of this project with due dates is found on the main page under important documents. If your UA Rich Mountain student email is not able to handle a file of this size, you will need to submit your portfolio using your private email account. DO NOT submit through Google Docs as I am unable to open it; you must submit as a Word document.

**Important Note**: I use the faculty portal as my grade book; even though Moodle automatically records some of your grades, I do not use the Moodle grade book. To keep track of your progress, use your student portal.

I DO NOT ASSIGN EXTRA CREDIT WORK.

**Grading Scale**: A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F = Below 60%

**SSS**: SSS is located in the Johnson Learning Commons and offers free academic support in almost all subject areas. This program is an excellent source for supplemental instruction and tutoring. I strongly encourage you to make use of its services. If you are having extreme difficulties, please make an appointment with me to discuss your difficulties.

**Academic Dishonesty**: I encourage you to familiarize yourself with UA Rich Mountain policies regarding academic dishonesty. These policies are found in the UA Rich Mountain Catalog under Code of Student Conduct; Prohibited Conduct; Dishonesty.

I have two additional requirements. **First**, you must do your own work. All papers, quizzes, and exams must be completed by you without assistance beyond what is specifically authorized by me. I expect each student to do his/her own work on assignments and exams. Cheating on an assignment or test will result in a zero (0) for that work. Additionally, all instances of cheating/plagiarism will be reported to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. **Second**, when completing your written assignments, you are expected to properly document any borrowed material. Failure to do so will be considered plagiarism, and the assignment will receive a zero.

**Disability Policy**: It is the policy of UA Rich Mountain to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal law, state law, and the college's commitment to equal educational opportunities. Any student with a disability who needs accommodations should inform the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at the beginning of the semester. The student and the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs will contact the faculty member as to the accommodations needed for the course. To contact the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, call 479.394.7622 ext. 1400.

**Arkansas Clean Air Act**: In compliance with the Arkansas Clean Air Act, UA Rich Mountain is a smoke and tobacco free facility. Students and guests are to refrain from the use of all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, while on campus.

**Student Misconduct**: Students committing misconduct are subject to disciplinary sanction(s) and or restrictions. Misconduct or prohibited behavior includes, but is not limited to, endangerment, harassment, disruption, sexual misconduct, dishonesty, illegal drugs and/or alcohol, fire or safety issues, gambling, property violation, computer violations or other violations as listed in detail in the UA Rich Mountain catalog.

**Face Mask Policy**: As per the Executive Order from the governor of Arkansas, all students are required to wear a proper face covering that completely covers the nose and mouth while on campus and in class. Masks with holes or masks that do not completely cover the nose and mouth are not acceptable. Any student that does not have a proper mask will leave class and be referred to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs for possible disciplinary action.

**Food and Drink**: Food and drinks, including water are not allowed in the classroom at any time.

**UA Rich Mountain Mission**: UA Rich Mountain provides transformative education to all learners.

Crime Statistics Link: UARM's crime statistics are available at
http://www.uarichmountain.edu/at-a-glance/disclosures

*See Something ... Hear Something ... Say Something*

Suspicious behavior should be reported to Deputy Sheriff Raul Toribio at (479)394-6811 OR through the anonymous email link found on the UA Rich Mountain webpage, bottom right hand corner. Deputy Toribio's office is located in the Spencer Building across from the Johnson Learning Commons.