Introduction to Psychology 1101-07  
CRN: 81922  
Fall Semester 2014  
Tuesday, Thursday 9:30-10:50am  
Callaway Bldg Annex 146

Instructor: Angela M. Kurle, M.A.  
Office: Melson 219  
Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 8:30am-9:25am and 11:00am-12:00. By appointment only.  
( Please schedule your appointment via email & I reserve the right to change these hours. )  
Phone: (678) 839-0620  
Email: akurle@westga.edu (best way to get a hold of me)

Introduction:  
Welcome to Introduction to Psychology! The fundamental focus of this class is to provide a basic understanding and overview of Psychology. In addition, the classroom environment will provide students with resources to think critically and explore the discipline in a fundamental way. While the student must take responsibility to learn, I will assist in overcoming any difficulty students may encounter learning this material during the semester. If you have any questions or comments at any point throughout the semester, I would greatly encourage you to talk with your peers as well as myself. This course is designed to stretch your thinking, cultivate new ideas, and help you on your life’s journey wherein together we may learn and grow. In keeping with the spirit of the Psychology department at UWG, we will also explore a humanistic-existential orientation to Psychology by reading Viktor Frankl’s “Man’s Search for Meaning”. Obtain a copy, read it, and write a paper based on the requirements listed below.

Course Objectives:  
1. To provide students with a deeper understanding about Psychology.  
2. To help students develop their critical thinking process.  
3. To analyze information and express their thoughts about topics discussed.  
4. To understand the historical context of Psychology.  
5. To understand your own place, personally and professionally, in society and globally.  
6. To understand the way in which psychology impacts lives locally and globally.
Learning Outcomes:
1. Students will demonstrate an understanding about Psychology.
2. Students will critically evaluate psychology from a local and global perspective.
3. Students will identify and express their own thoughts and ideas about topics presented during the semester, and begin to discover how Psychology impacts their daily lives.

Required Texts:

Expectation, evaluation and grading policy:
Each student is expected to attend class, be prepared to discuss the assigned reading and complete all assignments. The grading scale explained below outlines points awarded for class attendance and participation as well as assignment. Likewise, students are expected to turn in assignments and journals by the deadline. For each day an assignment is turned in late, 10 points will be deducted. After 3 days, an F will be given for that assignment. All tests are to be completed on the assigned day. I will only accept documented emergencies as an excuse to take tests, Mid-term or final on another day. No exceptions!

Grades will be awarded based on the following:

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<th>Activity</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<td>Attendance</td>
<td>Your participation and presence in this class is essential to the success of your individual learning and our collective learning. Please come to each class prepared with a note card question to hand in for attendance points. <strong>I will choose ten days to count for attendance using the note card questions you hand in.</strong> So please be in class! Make sure you do the assigned readings for the day and that you have critically reflected on and made personal connections to the topic of the day in terms of both the assigned reading and or films.</td>
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I would like you to keep a journal and write in it two times per week throughout the semester. In your journal please do the following:

1. Provide a reflection on class discussions, text read, or videos shown.
2. Learn to analyze, reflect, and integrate information learned into daily living.
3. Discuss what holds meaning for you.

Journal entries should be ½ to 1 page in length and single spaced. Journals will be due the week before Thanksgiving. Journals may be handwritten or typed. Be creative and thoughtful. The work you put forth in your journal is truly for you. I will be handing out a grading template in the coming week so you know what is expected and how your journals will be graded.

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<th>Journals</th>
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<td>Typed, two pages, double spaced paper based on the Viktor Frankl’s “Man’s Search For Meaning.” Note: this paper is more than a book report! <strong>Please illustrate in your paper how this book has taught, impacted, and or changed your life after reading it.</strong> I encourage you to make this a personal paper wherein you may draw parallels between the message and lesson learned in the book and your own life.</td>
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Total 1000
Grading Scale:
A= 900-1000
B= 800-899
C= 700-799
D= 600-699
F= Below 600

Academic Integrity:
All individual written work is expected to be your own, and plagiarism is highly unacceptable. Proper documentation and citation is required when attributing ideas/information. Please see the honor code in the student handbook if you have questions, or come see me. If you are caught cheating in any way, you will receive zero points for that assignment and it will be reported to the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs for possible probation or suspension from the University.

Accommodations for disabilities:
Accommodations and modifications can be made for all assignments for those with specific learning disabilities (university documentation required).

Prejudice/Discrimination:
I expect everyone in this class to practice tolerance, respect, and acceptance. This includes fostering a “safe” classroom space for the open expression of ideas. It also means striving to avoid all forms of discriminatory language and attitudes. I really want everyone to feel accepted and valued.

http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

Schedule:
Week 1
Aug 26: Syllabus and classroom management
Aug 28: History and Critical Thinking of Psychology (Prologue/Chapter 1)
(Note: Sept 2 is last day for add/drop with refund)
Week 2
Sept 2: Neuroscience/Biology (Chapter 2)
Sept 4: Neuroscience/Biology (Chapter 2)

Week 3
Sept 9: Emotions/Stress/Health (Chapter 12)
Sept 11: States of Consciousness (Chapter 3)

Week 4
Sept 16: Test 1
Sept 18: Nature/Nurture (Chapter 4)

Week 5
Sept 23: Lifespan Development (Chapter 5)
Sept 25: Sensation and Perception (Chapter 6)

Week 6
Sept 30: Sensation and Perception (Chapter 6)
Oct 2: Test 2

Week 7
Oct 7: Learning (Chapter 7)
Oct 9: Memory (Chapter 8)

Week 8
Oct 14: Thinking and Language (Chapter 9)
Oct 16: Intelligence (Chapter 10)
(Note: Oct 17 is the last day to drop with a grade of a “W”)

Week 9
Oct 21: Test 3
Oct 23: Motivation and Work (Chapter 11)

Week 10
Oct 28: Social Psychology (Chapter 14)
Oct 30: Social Psychology (Chapter 14)
Week 11
Nov 4: Personality (Chapter 13)
Nov 6: Personality (Chapter 13)

Week 12
Nov 11: Test 4
Nov 13: Psychological Disorders (Chapter 15)

Week 13
Nov 18: Psychological Disorders (Chapter 15)
Nov 20: Therapy (Chapter 16)

Week 14
Nov 25: Thanksgiving break- no class
Nov 27: Thanksgiving break- no class

Week 15
Dec 2: Wrap Up/ Frankl Presentation
Dec 4: Study Day- no class

FINAL EXAM (Test 5): Thursday, December 11, 8:00am-10:30am
Note: No final exams will be given in advance or after the date scheduled. This is a university rule and cannot be changed.

Extra Credit:
Extra credit is available, and will be communicated to you at a later date.

*Note: This syllabus is subject to change at any given time and will be communicated to you when such changes are made.