Instructor: Dr. Richard E. La Fleur  
Phone: (678) 839-6510  
Email: rlafleur@westga.edu  
Office: Virtual office hours via email (Course Den)

Course Description  
This gateway course has four major parts:

1. Personal exploration and preparation  
2. Career exploration and preparation  
3. Professional reading and writing in Psychology  
4. Exploration of the major philosophical and methodological alternatives to psychology a natural science

This course will serve as preparation for more advanced study in the Psychology major

Course Objectives  
Students will:

• gain a firmer sense of career direction in Psychology  
• take concrete steps in preparing for a career in Psychology  
• learn more about self as it pertains to career, vocation, or other aspirations

Approaches to instruction  
Instruction in this course is delivered online (asynchronously) through Course Den, D2L learning system. Approaches can include online teaching format, online class discussions, discussion groups and postings, readings, videos/DVDs, podcasts, guest lecturers as well as student developmental research. Additionally, students will work independently to cover the material outlined in the syllabus to ensure understanding of concepts in the course.

Learning Outcomes  
You will:

• learn the major career areas in Psychology  
• learn more about yourself personally and professionally  
• articulate a career vision  
• articulate a further plan of study and a career development plan  
• learn concrete ways to gain field relevant experience as an undergraduate major  
• learn how to read, analyze, and critique empirical and theoretical work in Psychology  
• gain mastery of the history and theoretical underpinnings of psychology as a “human” science
Required Materials


You may find these resources at the UWG Bookstore: http://www.bookstore.westga.edu/

Grades
a. 6 quizzes 20 points each (120 points)
b. 5 discussion 20 points each (100 points)
c. Midterm Project 100 points
d. Final Project 100 points

Total points possible → 420 points

Grading Scale
Course grade is determined entirely by the total points a student earns:

90-100% → A
80-89% → B
70-79% → C
60-69% → D
Below 60% → F

Course Requirements:
This course is designed with four major grading points as listed above under grades. There are 6 quizzes based on the Sternberg text, which is required reading. Additionally, there are 5 discussions based on the Kapland and Palmer readings, which are posted in Course Den for you to respond to. Finally there is a midterm and final project which will be addressed as the course progresses.

Rounding up: As a general rule, I do not ‘round up’ grades. Please be certain that you will receive the grade you earned based on the percentage of points that you garner during the semester. So, for example, if you obtain 82.9% of the available points, then you will have earned a B. I understand that this may be counter to the prevailing zeitgeist, but with the prevalence of grade inflation and with the hope that you will want to put forth just that little bit more effort knowing the rules in advance, this is grading philosophy I believe in. Naturally, I reserve the right to raise students’ grades if
they consistently demonstrate their commitment to the course by volunteering thoughtful comments or questions in class. However, I will not “round up” grades as a routine procedure.

Policies

Communication & Engagement:
The best way to communicate with me is through email. On weekdays, I will attempt to respond to you within 24 hours and 48 hours on the weekends. If I am out of town or attending a conference, responding may take longer than normal. I would strongly suggest that you use the email system within Course Den to communicate with me. All course related communication will be done within Course Den. It is important that you log into Course Den regularly for any updates or additional information related to the course. It is also important to maintain a strong professional manner in communicating with me. Your emails should be structured as follows:

Subject: “Your Name” and “4884-Section #”
Body of email: (Dear/Hello) Professor/Dr. La Fleur
“The reason for your email” - Well constructed and professionally written!
“End with Thank you or an appropriate ending”.

If this format is not followed, this can/will affect your final grade!

One of the goals of this course is to get you ready for life ‘post grad’ and the way we communicate is an important of your transition. I urge you to me mindful of your email messages. I will not accept poor grammar and texting language in your emails to me. Being professional and having appropriate boundaries are critical to your engagement with the ‘real world”.

Academic Integrity
Cheating, plagiarism, and all other forms of academic dishonesty will NOT be tolerated. All incidents of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance to university regulations (please see your student handbook). Students caught engaged in any form of academic dishonesty will minimally be given a failing grade on the assignment or exam in question.

Accommodations
Students with special needs as determined by the Counseling and Career Development Center must submit a letter to the instructor within the first two weeks of class (or as soon as the needs have been determined) specifying the accommodations they require.

Equal Opportunity Statement
No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, religion, creed, national origin, age, or disability, be excluded from employment or participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity conducted by UWG.

Affirmative Action Statement
University of West Georgia adheres to affirmative action policies to promote diversity and equal opportunity for all faculty and students.

UWG Copyright Statement
See statement
Support
If you need technical assistance, please see ITS. For UWG ONLINE please seek help at the following link http://uwgonline.westga.edu/students.php If you are having academic difficulties, please seek assistance through Center for Academic Success. If you are having other difficulties, please seek assistance through UWG Cares or https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/assets/docs/faculty-resources/common_language_for_course_syllabi_v2.pdf

Plagiarism
See UWG policy

Student Rights and Responsibilities
See UWG policy

Work Due Policy
All assignments are due at the times specified. There is a 3-day window where assignments will be accepted with a 10pt penalty per 24 hours that they are late. After 3 days, if your assignment is still not turned in, you will receive an automatic zero.

Network Usage Policy
See policy

Important Dates
https://www.westga.edu/uwgonline/important-dates.php

Important Information
Please carefully review the following link: https://www.westga.edu/academics/assets/docs/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf
It contains important material pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. These statements are updated as federal, state, university and accreditation standards change, and you should review these standards every semester.
Stress and Well-Being
Taking a college course “should” be difficult, in the sense that it ought to challenge you to expand your way of thinking. However, stress can overwhelm students and reach an unhealthy level. For that reason, it is important to note that students’ ‘well-being’ has priority. This is not a convenient excuse for laziness or a lack of commitment to the difficult work involved in the course. Nevertheless, if you begin to feel overwhelmed, I ask that you please come see me as soon as possible. I can help connect you to resources that will aid you in establishing a healthy balance.

This syllabus is an evolutionary document; therefore, the dates of exams, projects, etc. may be revised as the semester progresses. Thus, the dates contained in this syllabus are NOT binding. Syllabus subject to change at professor’s discretion.
# Proposed Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1: January 5</td>
<td>Introductions and Syllabus Orientation</td>
<td>Please review course syllabus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2: January 14</td>
<td>Major Paradigms in Psychology</td>
<td>Psychoanalysis/Behaviorism</td>
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<td>Week 3: January 21 (Martin Luther King Holiday)</td>
<td>Major Paradigms in Psychology</td>
<td>Humanistic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4: February 4</td>
<td>Major Paradigms in Psychology</td>
<td>Cognitive/Neuroscience Discussion 1</td>
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<td>Week 5: February 11</td>
<td>Career Paths in Psychology Chapter 1</td>
<td>Read Chapter 1 and complete Quiz 1.</td>
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<td>Week 6: February 18</td>
<td>Career Paths in Psychology Chapter 3</td>
<td>Read Chapter 3 and complete Quiz 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7: February 25</td>
<td>What You’re Really Meant To Do Chapter 1</td>
<td>Read chapter 1 Discussion 2</td>
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<td><strong>Week 8: March 4</strong></td>
<td><strong>Midterm Project</strong></td>
<td><strong>Midterm Project</strong></td>
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<td>Week 9: March 11</td>
<td>What You’re Really Meant To Do Chapter 3</td>
<td>Read chapter 3 Discussion 3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 10: March 18 (Spring Break)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spring Break</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spring Break</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11: March 25</td>
<td>What You’re Really Meant To Do Chapter 4</td>
<td>Read Chapter 4 Discussion 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12: April 1</td>
<td>Career Paths in Psychology Chapter 8</td>
<td>Read Chapter 8 and complete Quiz 3</td>
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<td>Week 13: April 8</td>
<td>Career Paths in Psychology Chapter 12</td>
<td>Read chapter 12 and complete Quiz 4</td>
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<td>Week</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
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<td>Week 14: April 15</td>
<td>Let Your Life Speak</td>
<td>Read Chapters I, II &amp; V</td>
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<td>Chapters I, II, &amp; V</td>
<td>Discussion 5</td>
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<td>Week 15: April 22</td>
<td>Career Paths in Psychology</td>
<td>Read chapter 15 and complete Quiz 5</td>
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<td>Chapter 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 16: April 29</td>
<td>Career Paths in Psychology</td>
<td>Read chapter 16 and complete Quiz 6</td>
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<td>Chapter 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 17: May 1</td>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>Final Project</td>
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