



COURSE OUTLINE

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| Course Number PSY 230 | Course Title Special Topics in Psychology | Credits 3.0 |
| Hours: lecture/Lab/Other Lecture/15 weeks | Co- or Pre-requisite ENG 101 and 102 PSY 101 Division permission | Implementation sem/year Fall 2013 |

Catalog description (2013-2014 Catalog):

A focus on special problems, current issues or trends. Consists of special courses in psychology which will serve to fill a need expressed by the student and the broader general community. The course, which will take advantage of particular faculty expertise, will be offered on occasion as specific demand requires. Course content and subject are variable.

Is course New, Revised, or Modified? [Modified courses are those which have a new prefix or course number]

Revised

Required texts/other materials:

Reference Liberal Arts Division booklist or materials selected by instructor.

Revision date:

Spring 2013

Course coordinator: (Name, telephone number, email address)

Dr. Heather Jennings (609-570-3450) Jenningh@mccc.edu

Information resources: (Describe the primary information resources that support the course, including books, videos, journals, electronic databases, websites, etc. To request new materials for your course, use the library request form at:

www.mccc.edu/student_library_course_form.shtml)

The library has an extensive collection of resources that students may use for additional reinforcement of the concepts being taught in this course.

Other learning resources: (Describe any other student learning resources that are specific to this course, including any special tutoring or study group support, learning system software, etc.)

Not Applicable

Course Competencies/Goals:

The student will be able to:

- I. Demonstrate an understanding of the historical and theoretical foundations that comprise the field related to the special topic and demonstrate an ability to explain how and why the topic emerged.
- II. Identify and discuss the role of psychological research and principles in contributing to an understanding of the special topic.
- III. Identify key theorists and researchers who have contributed to the special topic.
- IV. Acquire an understanding of how the special topic relates to and has deepened the knowledge base of psychology (or subspecialty of psychology).
- V. Demonstrate an understanding of how the special topic impacts or is impacted by gender, race, culture, and other important elements of the diverse human experience.
- VI. Apply research methods, psychological principles, and key research findings by preparing various course assessments that adhere to the formatting expectations of the American Psychological Association (APA).
- VII. Develop and utilize appropriate critical thinking and writing skills in the area related to the special topic in conjunction with the use of APA format.

Units of study in detail:

- Special topic will be selected and developed by individual instructor(s). A focus on special problems, current issues or trends. Course content and subject are variable.

Evaluation of student learning:

Exams:

- Students will be required to take a series of tests (at least two), each of which may consist of multiple choice, true-false, matching, completion, or essay type questions of any combination of the above.

Writing assignments:

- Students will be required to complete a series of writing assignments to assess specific knowledge, critical thinking skills, and the ability to apply psychological theory to everyday life. These writing assignments may consist of ongoing journaling, film critique, reflection or reaction papers, research or position papers, which may be presented. At least one assignment should incorporate information and computer literacy. In addition, students will be introduced to APA format and will be expected to incorporate this publication style into their writing assignments.

Academic Integrity Statement:

The issue of academic honesty is taken very seriously at Mercer County Community College and in this class. Cheating on assignments or exams and/or plagiarism is not to be tolerated. Students are expected to be responsible for their own work. In this course, cheating/plagiarism will result in, at minimum, a zero for that exam/assignment. Clear cases of intentional cheating will result in failure in the course. Please see the MCCC student handbook for a complete description of MCCC's academic integrity policy [<http://www.mccc.edu/pdf/handbook.pdf>].