

General Psychology (PSY 110)
SUNY Broome Community College
Professor Bill Altman, Ph.D.

Use Blackboard's *Course Messages* link to contact me directly during the semester. Be sure to check course *Course Messages* on a regular basis.

My outside contact information:

Website: <http://williamaltman.info>

Phone: 607-778-5216

Course Description:

Definition and description of psychology. Topics may include functions of the neural system, sensation and perception, learning, memory, motivation, emotion, conflict and frustration, personality, social psychology, research methods and statistical applications, history and fields of psychology.

Behavioral Objectives:

Through your work in this course, you will:

- show that you know the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings and historical trends in psychology;
- describe and explain behavioral phenomena and the theories that try to explain them;
- show that you understand basic psychological research methods and can approach and solve problems using them;
- think critically about science, especially popular reports of psychological research; and
- apply psychological concepts to a variety of real world settings.

Class Organization:

I've organized the class to promote your success. We all learn at different speeds, so I've set it up as an auto-tutorial. That way you can learn at your own pace (as long as you complete the course on time). When you complete a chapter module with a passing grade (at least 60%, which would be a "D"), the next one will open. You can retake tests as often as you like to raise your scores, even after you've completed later modules. I'll use your highest score for each test to calculate your final grade.

But remember, the semester limits our time together, so be sure to complete *all* of the course modules before the end of the term. I've placed suggested due dates for each module on the course calendar (linked from the course menu).

We have no regular meetings or discussion hours, so you may work at any time that's convenient for you. However, research shows that you'll do best in online courses by setting aside a particular time of day to work on them, and sticking to that schedule.

Textbook and other readings:

Our textbook is *Psychological Science* (7th Edition) by Elizabeth A. Phelps, Elliot T. Berkman, and Michael S. Gazzaniga, published by W.W. Norton in 2022. I may provide other readings in some modules. The book is critical for your success in class. If you have difficulty getting it, please contact me as soon as possible by using Blackboard's **Course Messages** link. I may be able to help.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Course grades are based on your accomplishments. There is no curve. Common expectations of collegiate level work will be applied to all evaluations. There will be one test per unit. Final grades will be based on the number of points accumulated from your test scores, using the best score you achieve for each of the tests.

Violations of academic integrity will not be tolerated, and will be treated harshly. You may want to review SUNY Broome Community College's Academic Honesty Policy at https://www.sunybroome.edu/c/document_library/get_file?p_l_id=142779&folderId=142906&name=DLFE-762.pdf

You can monitor your grades by looking at the **MY GRADES** link on the left side of the screen. If you have any questions about your progress, particular concepts, or any other concerns, please contact me by using Blackboard's **Course Messages** link. I'll be happy to help! You can get more information about your rights as a student at <https://www.sunybroome.edu/student-academic-appeals-procedure>

Online Class Etiquette:

In online classes, communication is primarily in writing. As a general rule, adhere to the same classroom conduct that you would in a face-to-face course. Please write in complete, grammatical sentences (rather than using the types of abbreviations used when texting) because that makes it easier to understand your message, and looks more professional. Please abide by the following guidelines from Florida Community College (via Pam Marek at Kennesaw State University) when writing:

- Don't write messages in all upper-case (capital) or boldface letters; it is considered shouting.
- Be careful what you put in writing. Even if you are writing an e-mail message to one person, assume that anyone could read it.
- Grammar and spelling matter. Online courses demand the same standard of academic communication and use of grammar as face-to-face courses.
- Never use profanity in any area of an online course. The transcripts of online course bulletin boards, e-mail, and chat sessions can be saved.
- When responding to messages, only use "Reply to All" when you really intend to reply to everyone on the original e-mail.
- Avoid unkindly public criticism and hurtful comments to others.

- Avoid sarcasm or use it very cautiously. In the absence of nonverbal cues such as facial expressions and voice inflections, the context for your sarcasm may be lost, and your message may be misinterpreted.

SUNY Broome Community College is committed to creating a civil learning environment. Find out more at:

<http://www3.sunybroome.edu/diversity/resources/civility-statement/>.

Other Resources:

SUNY Broome has a wide range of resources to help you understand of the course material, and enhance your skills in time management, studying, and writing.

- You may work with [tutors](#) at the [Learning Assistance Center](#) to improve your understanding of course concepts, or hone your test-taking skills. You may also find the folks at the [SUNY Broome Community College Library](#) helpful.
- And even though this class doesn't require any writing, many other classes do. So it's important to know where to find help with that:
 - The [Writing Tools](#) and the [Research Projects](#) sections of my website provide examples of good and bad papers, tools to help organize your thoughts, and links to other resources. (But don't worry about the assignments on the Research Projects page, because they're for a different class!)
- You may form your own study groups to provide peer review and study support on a more frequent basis. A major advantage of such a group is that by having a set meeting time every week you encourage each other to complete your work in a timely fashion and to higher standards of quality.
- SUNY Broome Community College is committed to learning environments that are inclusive of and accessible to students with disabilities. If you require reasonable academic accommodations or use of auxiliary aids in class, contact the [Accessibility Resources Office](#) by emailing them at ARO@sunybroome.edu or calling 607-778-5150.

Please note that in order to receive accommodations in this course, you must present a valid Campus Accessibility Plan and discuss individual needs with me in a timely manner.

Nota bene: I reserve the right to modify this syllabus at any time. Any changes will be announced via Blackboard's Announcements page, or through Course Messages.