Psychology 110, General Psychology, Summer, 2012

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Office Hours: Before or after class and by appointment
Class Days/Time: T, R 9:00 - 12:45
Classroom: Clark Building 216
Prerequisites: None
GE/SJSU Studies Category: D1

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging
Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found on Desire 2 Learn (D2L) (http://sjsu.desire2lean.com). You can get there directly or through my faculty web page accessible through the SJSU home page (search my last name) or http://www.sjsu.edu/people/glenn.callaghan.

Course Description
This course is designed to provide you with an overview of the range of content studied in psychology. We will discuss the definitions of the field, the theories that underlie it, research methods used to investigate psychological phenomena, and a variety of topics investigated by psychologists. Because this is a survey course of an enormously large field, we will not be able to cover every topic, nor will the topics covered always offer as much depth as the student may be seeking in that area. However, other psychology courses are offered that specialize in both the areas covered and those that we will not have a chance to discuss.

The two primary goals of the course are to provide students with a broad understanding of psychology and develop critical thinking skills applicable to the study of human behavior. In particular, my goal for this semester is to foster students’ critical thinking about the application of psychological principles and their use in our everyday lives.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives
Course Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

CLO1 – To develop an overall understanding of the field of psychology
CLO2 – To develop critical thinking skills about psychology and its applications
CLO3 – To understand contemporary developments in the context of cultural, historic, and environmental events
CLO4 – To identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural, gender, sexual, age-based, class, regional, national, transnational, and global factors that shape the identities of individuals
CLO5 – To recognize the interaction among social institutions, culture, environment, and the behavior of individuals
CLO6 – Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues.

GE/SJSU Studies Learning Outcomes (LO), if applicable

Upon successful completion of this course, and consistent with the requirements of General Education, students will be able to:

CLO7 – Identify and analyze the social dimension of society as a context for human life, the processes of social change and social continuity, the role of human agency in those social processes, and the forces that engender social cohesion and fragmentation.
CLO8 – Issues of culture, social class and mobility, race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and diversity are essential to the material covered in this course. The course will include many discussions of diversity including:
1. The importance of culture with respect to both time and location on the development of psychological theory
2. Gender differences with both biological and cultural origins
3. The role of cultural difference in individual and social development
4. Different approaches to consciousness engaged in by other cultures
5. The development of sex roles and sexual identity