

Huntingdon College Adult Degree Completion Program

COURSE NUMBER: PSYC 325
COURSE NAME: Psychology of Change
Spring 2009, Session I, Enterprise

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: George Baum

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course examines change from personal and organizational perspectives. It explores principles of change and sources of, and strategies for, overcoming resistance.

PREREQUISITE: none

TEXT REQUIRED: Santrock, John W., *Human Adjustment*, McGraw Hill Publishing, (**see Huntingdon College booklist for Edition and ISBN**)

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Define and understand the influence of context and culture on behavior
- Appreciate and practice ethical sensitivity and civility towards others.
- Engage in self-reflections that enhance self-knowledge.
- Understand the psychoanalytic perspective on personality.
- Explain and understand the nature of humanism.
- Identify the Sociocultural Perspective on personality development.
- Describe and understand the dimensions of the self.
- Explain the nature of eating disorders.
- Understand the biological, emotional and environmental factors involved in the development of stress.
- Define and understand social cognition.
- Discuss interpersonal social influence.
- Delineate differences between minority and majority influences.
- Describe the components of interpersonal communication.
- Understand the nature of attraction.
- Discuss and understand the history, nature and psychological research on gender.
- Define the concepts of family life cycle, career development, divorce and remarriage.
- Discuss the impact of work.
- Define and understand the nature and the dimensions of human abnormality.
- Understand the natures and outcome research on the effectiveness of psychotherapy and biomedical therapy.
- Understand the history of the psychology of religion and the perspectives on religious beliefs.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING CRITERIA: Your final course grade will be based on five writing assignments. These assignments will be evaluated on APA or MLA format, grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Use outside sources including books, articles in scholarly

publications; articles or references from popular press magazines or from the internet. Use of popular press and internet should be kept to a minimum. All papers must be typed, double-spaced, with one inch margins and 12 point fonts. Assignments are due by the end of the class on the date and in the manner, specified in the syllabus. An assignment is one day late if it is submitted after 12:00 midnight, the night of class. If an assignment is one (1) class day late, the maximum possible grade value will decrease by 15% of original value; if two (2) class days late, the maximum possible grade value will decrease by 25% of original value; if three (3) class days late, the maximum possible grade value will decrease by 35% of original value; if more than (3) class days late, the maximum possible value will decrease 50% of original value. You will be given a break on late assignments due to circumstances that are beyond your control. A computer crash or printer failure is not an acceptable excuse for a late assignment.

Grading Elements	Percentage:
Week One	15%
Week Two	15%
Week Three	15%
Week Four	15%
Week Five	25%
Class Participation	15%
Total Points	100%

GRADE POINT EQUIVALENTS - Describe the point range for each letter grade.

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = 59-below

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Absences and Tardiness – All students are required to attend the first session. Those who do not attend the first session will be automatically dropped from the course. Students with more than one absence will receive an "F" for the course. Since this class meets only five times, missing a single class meeting is equivalent to missing three weeks of a regular term. If you cannot attend a class you must let the instructor know via email as soon as possible. In case of absences you are responsible for obtaining all handouts and assignments. Tardiness may result in a deduction in your class participation grade. Excessive tardiness may count as an absence.

Participation –Participation is not the same as attendance. Participation requires students to come to class prepared to actively participate, which makes the classroom experience more meaningful. However, participation is not just speaking out in class. The contributions made by the student should be related to the course content and meaningful to the class discussion.

Late Assignments – Explain whether late assignments will be accepted and what penalty might be imposed if the assignment is late. Also specify what assignments can be turned in late. This will allow the student to make informed decisions.

Accommodation of Special Needs- Huntingdon College makes every reasonable accommodation for disabilities that have been processed and approved through our Disability

Services Committee in accord with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. In order to request disability-related services at Huntingdon College, students must self-identify to the Disabilities Intake Coordinator, Camilla Irvin, and provide appropriate and up-to-date documentation to verify their disability or special needs. After the accommodations have been approved by the Disability Services Committee, the 504 Coordinator, Dr. Lisa Olenik Dorman, will notify your professor(s) of the committee's decision. If you have any questions regarding reasonable accommodation or need to request disability-related services, please contact Disability Services at (334) 833-4432 or e-mail at disabilityservices@huntingdon.edu.

Academic Honesty –Plagiarism is literary theft. Failure to cite the author of any language or of any ideas *which are not your own creation* is plagiarism. This includes any text you might paraphrase, as well. Anyone is capable of searching the Internet or any printed media; your research paper is intended to broaden your knowledge, stimulate your creativity, and make you think, analyze, and learn. It is not consistent with the College Honor Code, nor with scholarly expectations to submit work which is not the product of your own thinking and research. Severe penalties will result upon the submission of any work found to be plagiarized, including potential failure of the entire course. It is easy and simple to properly cite all sources used in your paper. Take no risks – cite your sources.

First Night Assignment -

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Week 1:

Read Chapters 1-3 in the course text.

Prepare a four to five page typed, double-spaced paper on the nature of change in your own life. Since high school, what changes have you seen in your career and work life, in your relationship to yourself and your beliefs about the nature of reality, and in your interpersonal relationships?

Week 2:

Read Chapters 4-6 in the course text.

Prepare a four to five page typed, double-spaced paper on the impact of stress in the workplace and what strategies organizations use to deal with this phenomenon.

Week 3:

Read Chapters 7-9 in the course text.

We now live in a global society and are likely to interact with someone from a different culture than ours. Prepare a four to five page typed, double-spaced paper on adjustment strategies for improving communication with someone from a different culture. Use real examples from your personal experiences and outside research or references in the popular media to support your positions.

Week 4:

Read Chapter 10-13

With the large number of sexual minorities “coming out” in the workplace and in general, how does this impact the family and corporations? Discuss this issue in a four to five page typed, double-spaced paper. Use real examples from your personal experiences and outside research or references in the popular media to support your positions.

Week 5:

Read Chapter 14-16

Choose a contemporary movie related to one of the topics in the course. Come prepared to make a 5 -7 minute presentation of your movie review. The format for the movie review is attached to the syllabus.

MOVIE REVIEW FORMAT

The student will select a contemporary movie to view and review. Using the characters and plot as a case study, the student will apply his/her knowledge of human adjustment to the characters and relationships in their chosen movie.

The movie review should include:

1. An Introductory Section: listing the title, date of release, director, writer, and principal actors.
2. Plot summary: The basic storyline stated in a paragraph or two.
3. Analysis: In this section relate the issues that have been addressed in class to the movie. What have you learned about human adjustment, personality, identity? stress and coping and interpersonal communication that can be applied to the understanding of the movie? Include a minimum of three relevant research citations. The body of the paper should be at least 4 pages in length.
4. Conclusion: How has this movie expanded your understanding of human? adjustment of others and/or yourself?

Suggested Movies*

A Beautiful Mind	The Color Purple
Traffic	In the Bedroom
Ordinary People	Touching the Void
Running on Empty	War of the Roses
Terms of Endearment	Lone Star
Say Anything	One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
The Crying Game	Forrest Gump
Shine	Secrets & Lies
The Cider House Rules	American Beauty
Good Will Hunting	As Good As It Gets
The Ice Storm	Girl Interrupted
Office and a Gentleman	Norma Rae
Pursuit of Happiness	Why Did I Get Married
Wall Street	The Godfather