

Welcome to Psychology 1: General Psychology Online at LAVC

The information below is provided to answer your questions and to help you prepare *before* the start of the semester.

Course Description: This course is an introduction to the scientific study of behavior and mental processes, psychological perspectives, theories, concepts, and research. The main topics include: history of psychology, physiological psychology, sensation and perception, consciousness, life span development, learning, memory, cognition, social psychology, motivation and emotion, health psychology, personality, psychological disorders and therapy, gender and sexuality.

What are the prerequisites for this class? Per the college catalog, it is *recommended* that you take either: English 28, English as a Second Language 8, English as a Second Language 363, or placement into English 101 prior to taking this class. College level writing skills are essential for this class.

Does this class transfer to the UC/CSU system? As per the college catalog, this class transfers to the UC/CSU systems.

Do we have any in-person class meetings on campus? No, this class is 100% online using Canvas, an online class management system.

How often do I need to login to class to pass the class? The educational code requires that online classes have the same contact hours as face-to-face classes; frequent login each week is necessary for your success in this class. Like a face-to-face class, expect to spend 9 hours a week working on class work (3 hours in class, plus classwork).

What are some of the requirements and expectations for this course? While you can come to class anytime you want 24/7, you will need to stay on top of your work. This is not a self-paced class and there are deadlines to adhere to.

This class includes 15 weekly in-depth written *interactive* online discussions, several quizzes and a final. The detailed syllabus will be available once the class site opens on the first day of classes.

Per the Psychology Departmental policy, there are no make-ups, late work, extensions, etc. for any reason, including "technical problems."

To participate in the weekly engaging discussions you will need a class photo of only you. Check out my photo at the bottom of this letter as an example. Start looking for a photo you like, or take a new photo of you, and only you, for class!

What textbook do I need for this class? The textbook or ebook is required for this class. The required textbook or ebook is: *Psychology in Everyday Life* by David G. Myers and C. Nathan DeWall 3rd Edition only; ISBN: 978-1464109362. It is important to have this current edition as the information is always changing. The textbook will be used often in this class. Class discussions and quizzes are based on information from the textbook. **You will need to purchase the textbook or ebook in time for the first day of classes.**

This textbook may be purchased (or sometimes rented) from the LAVC Bookstore in-person or the LAVC Bookstore online. Visit: <http://www.lavcbookstore.com> Select the term and click "go", then select the department, course number, and your section.

Or, you may rent or buy the textbook from other vendors.

Or, you may buy access to the ebook from a vendor such as the following:

<https://www.vitalsource.com/products/psychology-in-everyday-life-david-g-myers-v9781464147128>

Can I use any web browser with Canvas? Please go to the Canvas guide to learn how to set up your computer and browser for class. You will need to update all browsers to the levels show on the Canvas

site. Additionally, you will need to add some plug-ins. See more here:
<https://guides.instructure.com/m/4214/c/34074>

Is there a Canvas app for the phone? Yes, but it should not be used to take the quizzes.

How do I login to class? Go the LAVC online classes link and then to Virtual Valley to obtain login information for Canvas. Here is the link to the student resources where you can obtain more information, login information, and help desk information: <http://lavc.edu/virtualvalley/studentResources.html>

Do I need an email address? Yes, important class announcements are first sent to your LACCD email and posted on the class site. Announcements contain upcoming due dates, reminders, information in the quizzes, and other important class information. To check the email address you have listed with the college, go to the online student registration system –go to www.lavc.edu and click on the “register” link to login to the student system and view your email address. Once you login to Canvas you can also change or verify your email address again in the account/profile area.

What if I need HELP, cannot login, or I have technical issues? We have lots of help for you! The LAVC Virtual Valley website has information and documents to help you be successful in your online class. You can also contact the LAVC Virtual Valley Help Desk for technical or login issues. Here is the link so you can email or call the help desk at LAVC: <http://lavc.edu/virtualvalley/help.html>

There is also a Canvas Phone Help Hotline: (844) 303-5595.

If you are unable to login to the Canvas class site on the first day of classes, please contact the LAVC help desk immediately, and send me an email to tromblcm@lavc.edu

What technical skills do I need for this class? For online classes, the department expects you to know how to use a computer, the internet, and a word processing program. It is highly recommended that you have a backup computer plan such as a second computer at home or work, a computer at a friend/family’s house, a Fedex Office store location (usually open 24 hours), Internet café, public library, the college computer labs, etc. Technical problems will not be accepted as a reason for missed deadlines or any other issues. Plan ahead and do not procrastinate.

Is an online class easier than a face-to-face class? No, most students who have taken an online class will tell you that most online classes can be more difficult than face-to-face classes. You need to be self-motivated and self-disciplined to succeed in an online class. There will be a lot of reading and writing involved in an online class. Online classes are not for everyone. Take the online tutorial on the Virtual Valley website to see if online classes are for you (link is above).

Will I be dropped if I do not participate in class? Yes. If you do not participate in class you are considered a “no show” and will be dropped from the class. Please login to class and participate within the first few days of the start of the semester. If you do not complete the first week’s discussion and/or assignment, you will unfortunately be dropped from the class.

What if I still have questions before the semester begins? Hopefully this welcome letter has addressed all your questions; however, if you have additional questions, please send me an email at my email address listed below my photo.

I look forward to seeing you online this semester! **The class site will open early on the first day of classes. Make sure to check your LACCD student email for class announcements.**



Cherine M. Trombley, Ph.D
Professor, Psychology Department
Email: tromblcm@lavc.edu