

Introduction to Specialty (in English)

Fall 2009

Instructor: Dr. Elena Molchanova, MD
Course ID Psy 120.
Office: AUCA; Psychology Department
Office hours: Mon. 14.30 – 17.30
Pre-requisites: none
Meeting times: Wed 9.25
Credit hours: 1,5
E-mail: molchanova_e@mail.auca.kg
Phone: 663309 (238)

Required textbook:

John W. Santrock (2000). *Psychology* . McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. 6th addition.

Additional sources:

1. N. R. Carlson (1990). *Psychology: the Science of Behavior*. – 3rd addition.

You will find all necessary materials via on-line (www.e-course.auca.kg)

Course Description

This introductory course will help you to understand what does it mean to be a psychologist. There are different motivations of choosing our profession and sometimes our expectations are different from the reality. This course will also help you to be well-prepared for the advanced Psychology courses.

Course evaluation criteria:

Attendance-	16 points
Discussions	16 points
presentations	20 points
Final project -	50 points
Total	102 points

Grading system

A	95-100%	C	74-77 %
A-	90-94 %	C-	70-73 %
B+	88-89 %	D+	68 - 69 %
B	84-87 %	D	64 - 67 %
B-	80-83 %	D-	60- 63 %
C+	78-79 %	F	0-59 %

1. Attendance

Attendance for this class is mandatory. I do not like when students go back and forth during the class. It distracts my attention. Please, do not do that. Try to solve all your problems before the class. I am not going to regard a person as being present in class if she/he left the classroom for more than 15 minutes.

2. Discussions

We will have a lot of discussions during our Wednesday classes. You are expected not only to present in the class, but to take in active part in class activities, clearly formulating your ideas and arguing your opinion.

3. Presentations

Every student will have to prepare two presentations in class. You have to choose the topic of your presentations from the class schedule. Your final exam will cover all the topics of students' presentations, so, please be attentive while listening to your colleagues.

3. Review paper.

For a review paper you are to review the literature in a well-defined area covered in this course. Reviews are usually written in an argumentative style. That is, try to persuade the reader that a particular point of view on your topic is correct. However, expository term papers are also acceptable. You should choose a topic that you find interesting. Most students have trouble narrowing their topic to a reasonable size, so choose a very focused area. Read 2-4 research articles on this topic, review the findings, and discuss the implications of the research you read. You should briefly describe the research hypotheses, the methods, and the results, and evaluate the conclusions of the studies. Be critical in your review, noting any problems in the methodology or conclusions in the reports. If there are inconsistent results reported in the several papers you review, try to resolve these inconsistencies.

Paper Topic Approval Before you spend a lot of time on your research paper, we would like to give you feedback on your choice of topic, and your choice of research articles. To gain approval for your paper, please fill in the following and return this form to us **before 5th week of studying.**

1. Paper title
2. Write two to three sentences describing the main topic or argument of your paper.
3. A list of 2-3 references that you plan to use in your paper. Please give complete specific references (i.e., Author, Date, Title, Journal, pages.)

Class Schedule

(Also available in: www.e-course.auca.kg)

week	Topic
1	Motivation of choosing Psychology as a field of study.
2	Main spheres of modern psychology. Tracks in psychology
3	How to conduct research in psychology. Theoretical and applied research.
4	Examples of psychological experiments. Dependent and independent variables.
5	Normal distribution. Correlation analysis.
6	Research results and discussion
7	Discussion: chosen topics of your review papers
8	Presentations: Sensations
9	Presentations: Sleep and dreams
10	Presentations: emotions. Verbal and non-verbal communications
11	Presentations: Memory
12	Presentations: Examples of Ego-defense functioning.
13	Presentations: Intelligence
14	Presentations of review papers.
15	Presentations of review papers