Welcome to Psychology 2: Biological Psychology at LAVC!

This welcome letter is intended for students enrolled in section 7009. This welcome letter contains more detailed information that the one posted on Virtual Valley web page.

Please read below for important information you will need prior to logging in online to the ETUDES system.

FAQs
I am trying to add the class for Summer 2010, but I get the message that the class is full. What can I do?
Enrollment for Summer Session Psychology 2 is limited. Unfortunately there is no wait list. Please check back with the registration system periodically, and if prior to start of the intersession a student drops the course, you can add on. Please do not call or email the instructor requesting add permit.

Do we have any on campus class meetings?
There are no in-person class meetings. The class is 100% online.

Is there a perquisite for this course?
Yes, Psychology 1, with a grade of “C” or better is a prerequisite for this class. Concurrent enrollment in Psychology 1 and Psychology 2 is not permitted.

Is online Psychology 2 transferable to UC and/or CSU?
Yes, this course is UC/CSU transferable.

Is Psychology 2 a more difficult and demanding course in comparison to Psychology 1?
In short, the answer is yes. My experience has been that for Psychology 2 most students, at least initially, underestimate the amount of additional study time required to get a comparable grade to Psychology 1. It is important to keep in mind that Psychology 2 is heavily based on biology.

What textbook do I need?
The textbook is required: Brain and Behavior: An introduction to Biological Psychology – Second Edition by Bob Garrett. This textbook may be purchased from the LAVC Bookstore in person or the LAVC Bookstore online (shipped to your address). The website for the LAVC bookstore online purchasing is http://www.lavcbookstore.com.

The textbook will be used, starting first day of the intersession, for weekly discussions. Quizzes will be heavily based on textbook readings in addition to material discussed and presented online. Your chance of passing this course is minimal without having access to the textbook on a daily basis. It is your responsibility to purchase your textbook in time for the class.
I have never had an online class. Is it a good idea to take my first online class during the short intersession?

As long as you are willing and able to spend a fairly good amount of time the first week learning ETUDES you should be fine. You may need 5 hours above and beyond normal course work in the first week to become familiar with the system. Students with prior experience taking an online class are more likely to be able to get on with the work quickly. However, you must keep in mind that deadlines will be enforced strictly, regardless of familiarity with ETUDES.

What if I encounter technical difficulties with my computer or internet during the intersession?

Technical difficulties, such as disruption in internet service or hard-drive crash, would never accepted as excuses for missing exams or deadline for submission of assignments. You must have a back up plan at all times just in case. One advice: never wait until the last possible moment to start a test or work on an assignment, since technical difficulties could happen at anytime.

Is this a self-pace course?

Although this is a fast paced course, we cover topics in order. Quizzes, assignments and discussion topics are scheduled, and you cannot take quizzes, submit assignments, or post your responses to discussion topics ahead of time. There will be penalty for missing deadlines (even if due to technical difficulties). Also, this is not a week-end-only course. Your participation is required throughout the week.

How do I set up my computer prior to the start of class?

Go the LAVC Virtual Valley website at http://www.lavc.edu/virtualvalley/index.htm and explore the page. In particular, you should 1) click on the “System Requirements” link on the left to configure your browser and add the plug-ins according to the instructions. This is especially important if you are using a Mac. 2) click on the link to take the “Online tutorials”, 3) click on the link and read the FAQ’s, 4) click on the “student resources” dropdown menu, and then click on the “Getting Started” to take the student skills quiz.

What about my email address?

Be sure that you have your most up-to-date email account listed with our LAVC Admissions and Records office so that you will receive important class announcements and information.

What if I cannot login or I have technical issues?

Visit the Virtual Valley “Student Resources” “Help Desk” page where you can call, email, use the student users group, or walk in to get help. Technical problems will not be an excuse for missed deadlines or any other issues. Not having access to the Internet is the online equivalent of “the dog ate my homework.”

Where do I login to come to class?
On the Virtual Valley website (http://www.lavc.edu/virtualvalley/index.htm), click on Class Login.

**When will the course be opened?**
The course will open a day before start of the Intersession.

**What is the main activity of the first week of the semester?**
Similar to all short-term courses you must hit the ground running from day one. It is important that you participate actively in the first week, since students who do not post by the end of the first week will be excluded.