Information Session
for Potential Online Students

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Online Learning

• What is online learning?
• What does an online course look like?
• How students can be better prepared for learning online?
WHAT IS ONLINE LEARNING?

• 24x7 access
• Anywhere with Internet Connection
• Cover the same materials as those in an on-campus class.
• Scheduled on a semester basis with a beginning date and ending date.
• Within a time block (week/unit), there are reading, homework, project, or exams. You are required to submit course work by a certain date.
• Guided by your professor, you read textbook or supplemental materials, do homework, and submit your work by a certain time.
Two Most Frequently Asked Questions About Online Learning

- **How much time does it take?**
  - You may spend more time working on your online classes due to intensive self-driven course work and technological troubleshooting.

- **How often do I go online?**
  - Your professor will tell you how often they expect you to log-in.
  - Plan on visiting your online class several times a week to check for new emails or new announcements and participate in new discussions.
  - You may read textbook or complete your assignments offline but need to submit assignments online by a deadline.
WHAT DOES AN ONLINE COURSE LOOK LIKE?

- Course Menu
- Links
  - Syllabus
  - Discussions
  - Tests
  - Journal Review
  - Mail
  - Announcement
  - My Grades
- Content
  - Lecture Notes
An Online Course - Syllabus

- Contact Information
- Objectives
- Outlines/Schedule
- Evaluation
- Grading Range
- Assignments

Syllabus

- Middlesex Community College
- Course Syllabus

- Semester: Fall 2013
- Course Number: PSY 111
- Course Title: General Psychology I
- CRN: 3298
- Course Duration: Wednesday, August 28, 
- Credit Hours: 3 credits
An Online Course – Course Content

- For each chapter
  - PowerPoint Note
  - Instruction
An Online Course – Weekly Assignments

- Learning Modules
- Week (Unit)
  - Instruction
  - Discussion
  - Exam
  - Project
  - Notes
  - Web Sites

Week 1: Assignments

1. Purchase textbook, MxCC bookstore (860-346-4490).


ISBN: 9780078035258


2. Orientation

- Get familiar with Blackboard interface: Click Welcome Menu, read the Welcome Message.
- For first time online students, you may attend a session in Middletown or Meriden. [Click here](http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0078035252/information_center_view0/) for the schedule.
An Online Course - Discussions

- Discussions
- Forums
- Answer questions
- Respond to students

Week 1: Assignments

1. Purchase textbook, MxCC bookstore (860-346-4490).


   ISBN: 9780073035258

   Online Textbook Companion Web Site: http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0078035252/information_center_view0/

2. Orientation

   - Get familiar with Blackboard interface: Click Welcome from Menu, read the Welcome Message.
An Online Course - Discussions

Forum: Week 1 - Introductions

Organize Forum Threads on this page and apply settings to The Threads can be sorted by clicking the column title or the

Create Thread    Grading Information

Thread Actions Collect

Date Thread

- 9/16/13 9:13 PM Introduction
- 9/11/13 6:56 PM Introduction
- 9/9/13 9:16 PM Introduction
- 9/6/13 3:22 PM Week 1 Introduction
An Online Course - Assignment

- Submit files – project, paper, etc.
An Online Course - Exams

Sample Exam - Not Graded

Exam 1 (Chapters 1-4) - Available 9/30 - 10/6

There are 46 multiple choice questions and 4 essay questions. Although you may log out and log back in, you will be given "unlimited" duration to complete the test. This means that you can log out and come back on to take the test before its due, midnight of Sunday. For an essay question, be sure to wait until you see the answer "Saved". Please submit the exam.

For an essay question, type your answer in a MS Word file and then copy/paste to the exam.

Please do not complete this test using a mobile device. The test should be completed on a laptop.
An Online Course – Exams

Question 1

A relatively permanent change in behavior brought about by experience is called

- maturation.
- learning.
- development.
- instinct.

Question 2

1.5 points

Save Answer
An Online Course – Mail

- Private communication with your instructor
An Online Course – Announcement

- Reminders and updates.

- Week 9 Assignments and Week 8 Grading
  Posted on: Monday, October 21, 2013

- Discussion questions for Chapter 8 - Click on Discussions in Course
- Bi-Weekly Summary for Chapters 7&8 - Click on Discussions Course
- Start thinking about Journal Article Review. The requirement for the syllabus and Week 12 learning module (click on Weekly Assignments) learning module, there is instruction on how to search for a journal in MyCommNet

Week 8 grading should be completed by midnight of Wednesday,
An Online Course – My Grades

- Check your grades often to be informed of your performance.

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Welcome to this class. Should you need help, please let me know.

Clearly answered the questions by citing textbook discussion. Your response to Jennifer is quite brief. -1
HOW CAN STUDENTS BE BETTER PREPARED FOR LEARNING ONLINE?

- Registration – self assessment
  - Take a SmarterMeasure test
  - Access to computer and Internet
- Decision making
  - Whether to take an online course
  - The number of courses to take
- Getting ready
  - Go through an online orientation
  - Attend a campus orientation
Registration – Self Assessment

- Take a Smartermeasure test to assess your readiness
  - http://mxcc.edu/distance/take-a-smartermeasure-test
  - (mxcc.edu/distance, click on Take a SmarterMeasure Test.)
- Personal Attributes
  - Self-motivation, self-discipline, time management, study strategies.
  - Availability of time
- Technology
  - Internet navigation
  - File management – organize files, upload/download files.
  - Word processor – create/type/save a file.
- Reading Comprehension
- Typing speed and accuracy
- Learning style
- Access to a computer/Internet
  - A reliable computer (PC-less than 3 years old)
  - High speed connection
Decision Making

- Whether to take an online course?
- How many online courses to take?
  - Self-check
    - A relatively new computer
    - High speed Internet connection
    - Self-motivated and self disciplined
    - A good reader
  - Availability of time
    - Spring/Fall
      - 10-15 hours/Week - 3-credit course
    - Summer - 5 weeks session
      - 20-30 hours/Week - 3 credit course
    - Winter - 3 weeks session
      - 6 hours/day - 3 credit courses
Getting Ready

- After registration
  - Go through the online orientation
  - [http://mxcc.edu/distance](http://mxcc.edu/distance).
    - Click on “Online Orientation”.
      - In Blackboard, you will be able to view your course site 7 days before the first day of a semester.
      - You may go through some parts of the orientation before 7 days in advance.
      - Class materials may not be available until the first day of course.

- Attend a campus orientation
  - If you feel that you need personal assistance in how to navigate your online course and use tools, you may attend a session of campus orientation.
  - [http://mxcc.edu/distance](http://mxcc.edu/distance)
    - Click on “Campus Orientation”.

Key to Success

- Take a self-assessment test to help you make a wise decision about the number of online courses you will be taking.
- Get prepared before the start of a semester.
- Carefully read all class documents and follow the instructions closely.
- Keep pace with the class reading and assignments.
- Report and resolve technical problems promptly.