PSYCHOLOGY I

Section Moderator: Dr. Linda Jones
Room: Beaman Student Life Center – A
Time: 7:00 – 9:00 PM

7:00 – 7:15
"Does Math and Test Anxiety Affect Testing Performance?"

Lacey Ann Bowles
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Michael Sullivan

According to the 2003 International Education Report, the United States ranked 29th out of 34 nations based on the test scores from the OECD International Math Examination. Consistent with this finding, most students claim to suffer from math anxiety prior to an examination. Ashcraft and others (2003) say that, "while students who are anxious about math sometimes are equally apprehensive about other subjects," which suggests that math anxiety may not be a unique situation. Participants completed questionnaires measuring anxiety regarding Mathematics and English, and then completed ACT Mathematics or English practice tests. It is predicted that participants that reported high levels of anxiety in Mathematics and English will have low test scores in the corresponding ACT practice tests.

7:15 – 7:30
"Religiosity and Academic Dishonesty in a Sample of College Students"

Meredith Graves
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Michael Sullivan

This study is seeking to find if a relationship exists between internal religiosity and attitudes toward academically dishonest behavior. Of the studies that have been done, there have been some conflicting results. A study done by Melissa Huelsman and others showed that there was no relationship found (2006). Whereas a study done by James Bloodgood and others found that a person's state of internal religiosity greatly affected whether or not a student would engage in academically dishonest behavior (2008). Internal religiosity is defined in this study as having positive religious behavior, such as prayer before meals and bed, being involved in youth groups, and regularly attending church services. College students at Belmont University completed surveys measuring their internal religious values, self control, social desirability, and attitudes toward cheating. It was hypothesized that religiosity will be negatively correlated with attitudes of academic dishonesty

7:30 – 7:45
"Stress in Relation to Self Efficacy and Coping Strategies"

Hope Griffin
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Michael Sullivan

Stress plays a significant role in every college student's life. The student's ability to cope with this stress may depend on his or her perceived self-efficacy. Self-efficacy refers to personal beliefs about one's capabilities to learn or perform skills at designated levels (Bandura, 1986). This study examined whether one's self efficacy is related to an individual's coping strategy in response to stress. College students completed three questionnaires: The COPE scale (Carver, C. S., Scheier, M. F., & Weintraub, J. K. 1989), Academic Self-Efficacy Scale (Chemers, Hu, & Garcia, 1991), and Efficacy for Self-Regulated Learning (Zimmerman, Bandura, & Martinez-Pons, 1992.) It was hypothesized that people exhibiting high self-efficacy will report using active, problem solving coping styles whereas students who report low self-efficacy will report using avoidant and emotion-focused coping styles.

7:45 – 8:00
"The Perception of Tattoos: A Study of Content and Location"

Benjamin Simmie McGlothlin
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Michael Sullivan

Tattoos are more prevalent in society than ever before (Guttman, 2006). Roesehoeft, Villa, & Wiseman (2008) demonstrated that the content of tattoos can affect perceptions of the people with tattoos. Hawkes, Senn, & Thorn (2004) demonstrated that the location of tattoos can affect the perceptions of the people with those tattoos. The purpose of this study is to research the effects of location and content of a tattoo on the perception of a person using grouped photos and a personal characteristics rating system. It is expected that people with extreme tattoos that are readily visible will be perceived more negatively than people with less extreme, less visible tattoos. The findings of this study will be relevant for students considering being tattooed and students who are already tattooed.

8:00 – 8:15
"Music and Spatial Reasoning"

Catherine Hendrick
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Michael Sullivan

Studies have found that listening to music can temporarily increase performance on spatial-temporal tasks, particularly the mental rotation of 3-D structures (Hetland, 2000). With major pieces only, there are trends for males to score higher on spatial tasks (Sutton & Lowis, 2008). If listening to certain music shortly before an exam improves performance on quantitative tasks, this music could benefit test takers. This study examined whether listening to Mozart sonatas in major and minor modes before taking short geometry quizzes affected students' performances. It was hypothesized that the major mode would improve students' performances whereas the minor mode would not.

8:15 – 8:30
"The History of Dreams"

Alyssa Hennig, Sammie Rogers-Brown, & Jamie Vickstrom
Faculty Advisor: Dr. William Bailey

Previous research has shown that most people only remember approximately five percent of their dreams. This prompts the question, "why do we dream?" Many studies have been conducted on this topic and numerous hypotheses have been formed in order to pose an answer to this question. In ancient times, many civilizations considered dreams to be messages from the gods while others believed dreams to be a portal through which the sleeper could leave his or her body. Greek philosophers often times theorized about this mysterious state of mind.

The theories ranged from believing dreams to be creations of imagery gathered throughout the day and reflected during sleep to believing dreams reflected internal psychic sensations which were meant to be revealed through the dreaming process. Sigmund Freud is one of the better known historical figures contributing to dream research. His book, *The Interpretation of Dreams,* greatly impacted thought on dream analysis. Current research reflects that dreams are biological cognitive processes which suggest that dreams may not necessarily possess any significant unconscious, psychodynamic thought or symbolic meaning.

8:30 – 8:45 PM
"The Effects of Illegal Drugs on the Human Body and Mind"

Melissa K. Lachiver
Faculty Advisor: Dr. William Bailey

The use of illegal drugs has led to devastating effects on the human body and mind. By specifically looking at two of the most widespread narcotics, cocaine and methamphetamine, one is able to get a picture of exactly how these drugs give "high," seemingly positive effects that in all actuality are devastating to the central nervous system. Cocaine blocks the reuptake of the neurotransmitters dopamine, norepinephrine and serotonin in the brain, therefore allowing it to stay in the brain longer, creating feelings of euphoria and strength. Similarly, methamphetamine releases high levels of dopamine in the brain. With both narcotics, feelings of euphoria and rushes of energy turn into depression and anxiety.

One of the most challenging things about these narcotics is the dependence or addiction that users may have to them. Users often encounter two kinds of dependence. A physical dependence is characterized by withdrawal symptoms after the cessation of using a drug. Psychological dependence is the desperate and uncontrollable need for the drug. Often both withdrawal symptoms and psychological additions lead users to begin their usage again, and the cycle repeats, leading to further damage to the user, potentially leading to coma, brain damage, or death.

By observing firstly how the narcotics methamphetamine and cocaine work to create the "high", and secondly examining how they become addicting, it is easy to see how these two narcotics are extremely debilitating to the mind and the body.

8:45 – 9:00
"Franz Josef Gall and Phrenology: A Look Back"

John Beach, Luke Lancaster, Alicia Simpson
Faculty Advisor: Dr. William Bailey

Almost all current scientific disciplines have their black sheep or closet skeletons. For example, Hippocrates believed that a woman's uterus could "wonder" around her body, causing hysteria. Psychology is no different in this regard in its history of development. In the early part of the nineteenth century Franz Josef Gall developed his ideas and theory of "cranioscopy." Gall's original notion was that more pronounced personality traits will be associated with and identified by more pronounced areas on the surface of the skull. The explanation and rational behind this is similar to the assumption we all have when exercising; the more you work a muscle, the larger it will become. This presentation will review not only the life of Gall, but also his legacy though the pseudoscience of Phrenology. Modern research on localization of brain structures and functions will also be reviewed. Some consideration and speculation will be given to the possibility of what our children's children will think of our current form of science as compared to their science of the future.