Psychology Grading Criteria  
List with Explanations of Terms

**Content** – Demonstrates understanding and includes supporting examples and details.

**Expectations:**
- Expresses thoughts, comments, and questions about ideas and information learned in the course.
- Accurately and thoroughly describes fundamental ideas and information.
- Demonstrates reflection on information and ideas.
- Maintains clear and obvious purpose with a focus on one significant main idea or topic throughout.
- Uses relevant, specific, and convincing supporting details.

**Content Checklist:**
- Did you convey an understanding of the lesson content?
- Did you use relevant and inclusive examples to demonstrate understanding of content?

**Analysis** – Organizes and synthesizes evidence to reveal insightful patterns, differences, or similarities related to the lesson content.

**Expectations:**
- Demonstrates the ability to solve problems using information and ideas learned in the course.
- Demonstrates an analytical understanding of fundamental ideas and information and can describe their key component elements.
- Recognizes the *big picture* and puts the pieces together.
- Relates and connects abstract concepts and theories by illustrating them with specific examples.
- Explains the abstract meaning behind specific facts.
- Draws generalizations from particular examples or samples of data/evidence (induction) and infers examples or implications from assumptions, beliefs, or generalizations (deduction).

**Analysis Checklist:**
- Did you explain why and how the concept is important?
- Do you explain what and why questions still need to be solved and/or answered?

**Personal Relevance** – Shows a connection between the concepts in the lesson(s) and the student’s personal life.

**Expectations:**
- Demonstrates how information and ideas have application and value to life.
- Can describe how information learned could influence personal behavior, goals, values, and ways of thinking, or help to solve problems or challenges in life (when the assignment calls for this activity).
- Demonstrates how information and ideas learned in the course are connected (or relevant) to pre-existing beliefs and ways of thinking, and how such new information and ideas could impact or change pre-existing beliefs and ways of thinking (when the assignment calls for this activity).
Demonstrates self-awareness through the ability to describe and critically evaluate their beliefs, values, biases, attitudes, and habits of thought and behavior (when the assignment calls for this activity).

**Personal Relevance Checklist:**
- Did you show how the concept is evident in your own life?
- Do you explain how something in your own life corresponds with things you have learned in the course?

**Comprehension** – Demonstrates an understanding of the subject matter and assignment instructions and requirements.

**Expectations:**
- Demonstrates comprehension and understanding of fundamental ideas and information learned in the course (or, if called for, ideas of their own).
- Maintains clear and obvious purpose.
- Focuses clearly on one significant main idea or topic throughout.
- Uses relevant, specific, and convincing supporting details.
- Demonstrates superior knowledge of resource documentation if required.

**Comprehension Checklist:**
- Are you incorporating what you learned into the assignment?
- Did you follow all directions?

**Sentence Structure and Mechanics** – Demonstrates college-level writing.

**Expectations:**
- Uses correct, varied sentences with few, if any, errors in mechanics, grammar, syntax or spelling.
- Uses language effectively (applies terms correctly), with a consistent and appropriate tone for the intended audience.
- Maintains clear and obvious organization.
- Demonstrates effective paragraphing using appropriate transitions, with emphasis upon conveying the relationship between ideas.

**Sentence Structure and Mechanics Checklist:**
- Are you writing in complete sentences?
- Do you vary sentence structure to increase understanding?
- Is your essay free of spelling and grammatical errors?