

## **Introduction to Psychology**

Psy 131 Sec 12

Fall 2008

**Room:** LDB 216

**Instructor:** Erika J. Canales, MA  
**E-mail:** [ejc003@shsu.edu](mailto:ejc003@shsu.edu) (preferred)  
**Phone:** 936-294-3390  
**Office:** LDB 332G

**Class Times:** W 6:00 – 8:50 pm  
**Office Hours:** T 12:00 – 1:00 pm  
(or by appointment)

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**Course Description:** Psychology 131 provides a basic overview of the field of psychology as a scientific and professional discipline. Students will acquire a global understanding of the major theories, contributors, historical developments, sub-disciplines, and current controversies in psychology. Students will be exposed to the scientific method and how human behavior and cognitive processes are investigated within the broad field of psychology.

### **Course Objectives:**

By the end of the semester, the students will be able to do the following:

1. To become familiar with major contributors to psychology and their related theories.
2. To learn about the various sub-disciplines of psychology and related conceptual material.
3. To acquire an understanding of the scientific study of cognitive processes and behavior.
4. To understand and appreciate the diverse areas of study within the field of psychology.

**Course Text (Required):** Wood, Wood & Boyd (2008). *World of Psychology* (6th ed). Allyn & Bacon.  
ISBN: 0205499414

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**Course Format:** Classes will consist of lectures, group discussions, and various media presentations

**Classroom Behavior:** You are expected to arrive on time and behave appropriately in class. You will show respect to your peers, as well as your instructor, by turning off all cell phones and other technological devices that could potentially be disruptive to your peers prior to the commencement of class.

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### **Grades**

**Examinations:** During the course, four exams will be administered covering the set of chapters covered immediately preceding the exam. All materials discussed in lectures

and group discussion, as well as information contained in the text will be covered by the exam. Exams will be multiple-choice format. Each exam is worth 100 points.

**Final:** The course will conclude with a comprehensive final exam in multiple-choice format. The final is worth 100 points. The final is optional and may be used to replace any *one* of the four examinations. If you are satisfied with your examination grades you may opt not to take the final exam.

**Class Participation and Attendance:** Come to class prepared with questions and/or comments about the material in the text. If you foresee an absence on an exam day, you are responsible for making prior arrangements for that test. Emergency absences during a test day must be reported within 48 hours. Without an acceptable, documented excuse, make-up examinations will *not* be administered.

**Grading System:** The final grade for the course will be based on your performance on the exams, the comprehensive final, a presentation, 6 index cards, and your participation in three research and/or role-play activities. Any extra participation beyond the required three will count as extra credit toward your final grade.

Exam1	100	<b><u>Total Points</u></b>	<b><u>Final Grade</u></b>
Exam2	100	585 or greater	A
Exam3	100	520 - 584	B
Exam4	100	455 - 519	C
Presentation	100	390 - 454	D
Index Cards	90	389 or less	F
<u>Research</u>	<u>60</u>		
<b>Total Course</b>	<b>650</b>		

**Presentation:** You are required to give a presentation to the class on a topic that interests you. These presentations can be conducted alone or in a group. You and/or your group can decide what information to discuss as long as it relates to the topic you are assigned. More information TBA.

**Index Cards:** At various times during the semester I will ask that you to submit an index card in which you are to write in your own words what we discussed in class that day. You are only required to submit 6 index cards and I will give you 9 opportunities to submit an index card.

**Research/Role-Play Participation:** You are required to participate in *three* of the following opportunities as part of your grade.

1. *Research Participation:* Students will take part in up to three one-hour research studies, each worth 20 points. There will be ample opportunities to sign up for research projects throughout the semester.

2. *Role Play*: Students will take part in half-hour role-play sessions with graduate students, each worth 20 points. If you make an appointment with a graduate student, you must keep the appointment or allow him or her plenty of notice prior to cancellation.

It is up to the student to choose the combination of research and/or role play opportunities they choose to complete the required three. Students may choose to participate in more than the required three research studies and/or role play sessions for extra credit. It is suggested that you sign up for an account on [www.shsu.sona-systems.com](http://www.shsu.sona-systems.com) so that you may have access to current research and role-play opportunities. It is recommended that you do not wait until the end of the semester to complete this portion of the course.

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### ***Policies***

**Academic Dishonesty:** All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

**Student Absences of Religious Holidays:** Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20...” A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

[http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf\\_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf)

**Students with Disabilities:** It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination.

Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

[http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf\\_www/aps/811006.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.pdf)

**Visitors in the Classroom:** Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

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*This syllabus constitutes a contract between the instructor and the student. The instructor reserves the right to make changes as needed to the syllabus throughout the semester; however, the student will be notified with ample time of any changes.*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Required Reading</b>
27-Aug	Introduction to Psychology and Methods of Research	Chapter 1
3-Sep	Biology and Behavior	Chapter 2
10-Sep	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 3
10-Sep	States of Consciousness	Chapter 4
17-Sep	<b>Exam 1</b>	
17-Sep	Learning	Chapter 5
24-Sep	Memory	Chapter 6
1-Oct	Cognition, Language, and Intelligence	Chapter 7
8-Oct	Child Development	Chapter 8
15-Oct	<b>Exam 2</b>	
15-Oct	Adolescence and Adulthood	Chapter 9
22-Oct	Motivation and Emotion	Chapter 10
29-Oct	Human Sexuality and Gender	Chapter 11
5-Nov	Personality Theory	Chapter 13
12-Nov	<b>Exam 3</b>	
12-Nov	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 14
19-Nov	Methods of Therapy	Chapter 15
3-Dec	Social Psychology	Chapter 16
10-Dec	<b>Exam 4</b>	
	<b>Final Exam TBA</b>	

