

**INTRODUCTORY HONORS PSYCHOLOGY**  
**PSY 131H (3 Credit Hours)**  
**Fall, 2008**  
**AB4 205 Monday 6-9:00 P.M.**

INSTRUCTORS:     John de Castro                             Richard Eglsaer  
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OFFICE HOURS:     Monday 5-6 and by appointment

TEXTBOOK:             Custom Edition of Wood, S. E., Wood, E.G., & Boyd, D. (2008) *World of Psychology* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.) Pearson Custom Publishing

**CLASS DESCRIPTION AND FORMAT:**

This course is designed to be a broad survey of the field of psychology covering such topics as learning, personality, development, psychopathology, therapy, etc. It covers both the theoretical basis and the empirical content of these areas. We will attempt to cover most of the book during the semester. Class time will be devoted to discussions, films, presentations, etc.. Students will be responsible for all assigned material in the book, even if the material is not covered in the class. If you do not understand something in your text, it is your responsibility to ask questions.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

1. Be able to understand the goals of science and the scientific method as it applies to the study of psychology.
2. Be able to explain how the anatomy and physiology of the brain influences behavior.
3. Be able to explain how our environment influences behavior.
4. Be able to explain the differences between maturation, learning, and development.
5. Be able to explain the ways in which our behaviors change when we have an audience.
6. Be able to differentiate between the various types of abnormal behaviors and the various approaches to treatment.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Students are expected to attend class and participate. Students who will be absent from class so as to observe a religious holy day will need to let the professor know in advance of the holy day.

**STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY**

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.

## **DISABLED STUDENT POLICY**

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.

**EXAMS:**

Including the final, there will be four exams during the semester. Exams will consist of both a multiple choice and essay format. The final exam will be comprehensive in nature. Students will be allowed to drop their lowest test score. These exams will constitute 75% of your final grade

**PAPER:**

Students are to select a topic of interest from one of the areas covered in class. Within this area, develop a specific question and answer this question. Each topic will need to be approved by your instructor. The paper should be written in APA style. We recommend that you consult with the Writing Center as you write your paper. Although you are encouraged to pick an area of interest, see below for examples of some possible topics:

- Write a paper on a historical figure in the field of psychology
- Analyze a famous experiment in psychology
- How can the study of psychology improve your life
- Identify one misconception that you had about a psychological issue. Briefly describe the problem area and state the nature of your misconception.
- Describe how the study of psychology has changed the way in which you will prepare for your chosen profession.
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Be sure to use primary sources in scientific journals. . You must select your topic by October 6, 2008. This paper will constitute 25% of your grade. You must submit your paper by November 24, 2008.

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:**

In order for a seminar class to be successful, students must come to class prepared to discuss the assigned material.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete 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.

**RULES OF CONDUCT:**

All students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students will treat their classmates with respect. Students will turn off their cell phones upon entering the classroom.

**VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM:**

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

**CLASS OUTLINE:**

<b>TOPICS</b>	<b>CHAPTERS</b>	<b>TEST</b>	<b>TEST DATE</b>
Introduction to Psychology	1		
Biological and Behavior	2		
Sensation and Perception	3		
		<b>Test 1</b>	<b><i>Sept. 22</i></b>
Learning	5		
Child Development	8		
Adolescence and Adulthood	9		
		<b>Test 2</b>	<b><i>Oct. 20</i></b>
States of Consciousness	4		
Memory	6		
Motivation and Emotion	10		
		<b>Test 3</b>	<b><i>Nov. 17</i></b>
Psychological Disorders	14		
Therapies	15		
		<b>Test 4</b>	<b><i>Dec. 8</i></b>
Social Psychology	16		
<b>Comprehensive Final</b>			<b><i>Dec. 15</i></b>

1. Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)
2. Learning fundamental principals, generalizations, or theories
3. Learning to apply course material ( to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)
4. Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to the course.
5. Acquiring skills in working with others as a member of a team
6. Developing creative capacities (writing, inventing, designing, performing in art, music, drama, etc.)
7. Gaining a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual/cultural activity (music, science, literature, etc)
8. Developing skill in expressing myself orally or in writing.
9. Learning how to find and use resources for answering questions or solving problems
10. Developing a clearer understanding of, and commitment to , personal values
11. Learning how to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.
12. Acquiring an interest in learning more by asking my own questions and seeking answers.

### **STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME YOU WOULD  
LIKE TO BE CALLED: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

MAJOR; \_\_\_\_\_ MINOR: \_\_\_\_\_

HOMETOWN: \_\_\_\_\_

CLASSIFICATION: FR SO JR SR

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12