

Introduction to Psychology

Psy 131 Sec 11

Fall 2008

Room: LDB 216

Instructor: Vivian A. Lotts

Class Times: T/TH 12:30 pm – 1:50 pm

E-mail: val001@shsu.edu

Office Hours: T/ TH 9:30 – 10:30 am

Phone: 936-294-3395

(or by appointment)

Office: LDB 332H

Course Description: Psychology 131 is designed to be a broad survey of the field of psychology.. Students will acquire a global understanding of the major theories, contributors, historical developments, sub-disciplines, and current controversies in psychology. The course will cover both the theoretical basis and the empirical content of these areas.

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

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: 0536996253

Classroom Behavior: You are expected to arrive on time and behave appropriately in class. Respect will be shown to your peers, as well as your instructor, by turning off all cell phones and other technological devices that could potentially be disruptive to the class. If any of these devices should ring or interrupt the class, I may ask the student to leave the classroom at that time and mark them as absent for the day. If a student is found to be texting during class I reserve the right to ask that student to leave class and mark them as absent for that day. If you

believe there is an emergency please take the phone and leave the classroom because you are allowed up to three unexcused absences this semester.

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. If you have to miss one of the four exams this will be the make- up exam. There will be no other make- up exams this semester. If you choose to take all five exams I will drop the lowest of the five grades.

Class Participation and Attendance: Come to class prepared with questions and/or comments about the material in the text. Chapters should be read prior to class time in order to have a more productive class period and to help you retain the information presented. There will only be one make-up exam for the semester, it will be the final exam and will be in the same format as the other exams except it will be a comprehensive exam made up of information presented throughout the entire semester.

Attendance is mandatory for all students. A role sheet will be passed out in each class and is to be signed by the student only. Signing in for others will not be acceptable and may result in an absence for both the student signing and the student missing. If you were not present when the role sheet was passed around you will be considered absent for that class. If you leave the class early you will be counted absent for that class period. You are allowed up to 3 unexcused absences without penalty. Your attendance will account for 50 points toward your overall grade. For each absence over the allotted amount, five points will be deducted from your overall grade if you do not bring in a doctor's note, police report from accidents, or a death certificate

Research/Mock Therapy Participation: You are required to participate in *five* of the following opportunities as part of your grade.

1. *Research Participation:* Students will take part in up to five one-hour research studies, each worth 10 points. There will be ample opportunities to sign up for research projects throughout the semester.
2. *Mock Therapy:* Students will take part in half-hour mock therapy sessions with graduate students, each worth 10 points. This is not actual therapy and should not be considered as

such. 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 mock therapy opportunities they choose to complete the required five. You must sign up for an account on www.shsu.sona-systems.com so that you may have access to current research and mock therapy opportunities. It is recommended that you do not wait until the end of the semester to complete this portion of the course.

Grading System: The final grade for the course will be based on your performance on the exams, the comprehensive final, your participation in five research and/or mock therapy activities, and attendance.

Grading Scale

	<u>Total Points</u>	<u>Final Grade</u>
Exam1	100	450 – 500 = A
Exam2	100	400 – 449 = B
Exam3	100	350 – 399 = C
Exam4	100	300 – 349 = D
Attendance	50	0 – 299 = F
<u>Research</u>	<u>50</u>	
Total Course	500	

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

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

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.

Tentative Class Schedule

This schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

August 26 -	Review syllabus and class expectations
August 28 -	Chapter 1 Introduction to Psychology
September 2 -	Chapter 2 Biology and Behavior
September 4 -	Chapter 2 Cont.
September 9 -	Chapter 3 Sensation and Perception
September 11 -	Chapter 3 Cont.
September 16 -	Chapter 4 States of Consciousness
September 18 -	<u>Exam 1</u>
September 23	Chapter 5 Learning
September 25	Chapter 6 Memory
September 30	Chapter 6 Cont.
October 2	Chapter 7 Cognition, Language, & Intelligence
October 7	Chapter 7 Cont.
October 9	<u>Exam 2</u>
October 14	Chapter 8 Child Development
October 16	Chapter 8 Cont.
October 21	Chapter 9 Adolescence and Adulthood
October 23	Chapter 9 Cont.
October 28	Chapter 10 Motivation and Emotion
October 30	<u>Exam 3</u>
November 4	Chapter 11 Human Sexuality and Gender
November 6	Chapter 11 Cont.
November 11	Chapter 13 Personality Theory and Assessment
November 13	Chapter 13 Cont.
November 18	Chapter 14 Psychological Disorders
November 21	Chapter 14 Cont.
November 25	<u>Exam 4</u>
November 27	Thanksgiving Day Holiday (No Classes)
December 2	Chapter 15 Therapies
December 4	Chapter 16 Social Psychology
December 9	Chapter 17 Psychology in the Workplace
December 11	Open for any reschedules
TBA	<u>Final Exam</u>