

Introduction to Psychology
Psy 131 Sec 04
Fall 2008

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Office Hours: TBA or by appointment

Class Time: MWF 3:00-3:50
Class Location: AB IV, Room 313

Course Description

Introduction to psychology is designed to give students a broad overview of the diverse field of psychology. We will examine theories, research, and the application of these to the practice of psychology.

Course Format

This course will consist mainly of lectures and group discussions.

Course Objectives

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

Required Textbook

Wood, Wood, & Boyd. (2008). *World of psychology* (6th ed.). Allyn & Bacon. ISBN: 0205499414

Attendance

Attendance is very important. All students are expected to be present and on time, staying until the dismissal of class. If you have more than three absences you will be dropped a letter grade. For example if you have a B in the class but with 4 absences, you will receive a B-. If you have 6 or more absences you will be dropped from the class. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences unless there is a documented emergency. You are responsible for any work missed during your absence; you may want to exchange e-mail addresses with other students in the class to find out what you missed.

Classroom Behavior

Students are expected to be respectful of their instructor and their peers. Absolutely no rude comments or disruptions will be tolerated. Students who cannot obey these rules will be asked to leave the classroom and additional punitive action may be taken. Disrupting class will negatively affect your grade. All phones and other electronic devices are to be turned off during class. Laptops can be used to take notes, but if a student is found using it for anything else during class time they will be asked to turn it off.

Class Participation

Each student is expected to participate in class discussions. If your grade is in between an A- and a B participation will help you get the A-. Not participating will not adversely affect your grade, but it may diminish your learning experience.

Readings

Each student will be expected to do the readings assigned for the day before coming to class, in order to be prepared to discuss the topics. Additional articles may be handed out in class if they are relevant.

Exams

There will be five exams, including a midterm and final. They will consist of multiple choice questions. There will be no make-ups, except for documented emergencies. The final will be comprehensive. Each student will be allowed to drop their lowest exam grade, except for the final. Everyone must take the final.

Research/Mock Therapy 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. There will be ample opportunity 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. 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/her plenty of notice prior to cancellation (at least 24 hours).

It is up to the student to choose the combination of research and/or mock therapy opportunities to complete the required three. It is recommended that you 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.

Extra Credit

Extra credit will be given at the student's request only if they have been attending class, participating, and making a good effort. Assignments will be determined. If a student feels they are not doing well in the class they should see me first for extra help.

Grading System

Exam 1	100 points
Exam 2	100 points
Midterm	100 points
Exam 4	100 points
Final	140 points
Research	60 points

Grading Scale

450-500 points= A
400-449 points= B
350-399 points= C
300-349 points= D
0-299 points= F

Since your lowest exam score will be dropped, this class is out of 500 points

Academic Honesty

The University expects all students 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, acting in accordance with Subsection 5.32, may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. If you cheat or plagiarize you will fail the class and be reported to the university for further disciplinary action.

Student Absences on 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. 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. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, United States Tax Code.

Each instructor will announce the provisions of this policy at the first or second class meeting of each regular semester or summer session. If the student and the instructor disagree about the nature of the absence being for the observance of a religious holy day or if there is disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable amount of time to complete any missed assignments or exams, either the student or the instructor may appeal following the guidelines set by the Coordinating Board's procedures and policies relating to student absences on religious holy days.

Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individuals shall, solely by reason of their disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic program or activity. Students may, but are not required to, avail themselves of assistance provided by the University or outside agencies for disabled students. Students also may request assistance from individual faculty members, school/department chairs, deans, and the Director of the Newton Gresham Library. The faculty member or administrator should refer disabled students, if the disability is unobservable and could affect academic performance, to the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students by having them contact the chair for that committee who is also the Director of Counseling Services (extension 4-1720). Faculty members shall make every reasonable effort to accommodate requests made on the behalf of disabled students.

Visitors in the Classroom

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor when permission is asked ahead of time. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance.

Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading
8/25-8/29	Introduction to Psychology	Chapter 1
9/1	Labor Day! No Class	
9/3-9/5	Biology and Behavior	Chapter 2
9/8-9/12	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 3
9/15-9/17	States of Consciousness	Chapter 4
9/19	Exam 1	Chapters 1-4
9/24-9/26	Learning	Chapter 5
9/29-10/3	Memory	Chapter 6
10/6-10/10	Cognition, Language, and Intelligence	Chapters 7
10/13	Exam 2	Chapters 5-7
10/15-10/17	Child Development	Chapter 8
10/20-10/24	Adolescence and Adulthood	Chapter 9
10/27-10/31	Motivation and Emotion	Chapter 10
11/3	Midterm	Chapters 8-10
11/5-11/10	Human Sexuality and Gender	Chapter 11
11/12-11/14	Health and Stress	Chapter 12
11/17-11/21	Personality Theory and Assessment	Chapter 13
11/24	Exam 4	Chapters 11-13
11/26-11/28	Thanksgiving Break! No Class	
12/1-12/5	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 14
12/8-12/10	Therapies	Chapter 15
	Social Psychology	Chapter 16
TBA	Final Exam	Chapters 1-16

The class schedule may be revised or updated by the instructor if we are ahead or behind on a topic. Notice will be given.