

**PSY 131.10: Introduction to Psychology**  
**3 credit hours**  
**Fall 2008**

**Instructor:** Holly Tabernik, M. A.

**Class Time:** Tuesday 6:00PM to 8:50PM

**Class Location:** Lee Drain Building; Room 216

**Instructor Contact Information:**

**Office:** Lee Drain Building 332M

**Phone Number:** (936) 294-3674

**Email Address:** [het002@shsu.edu](mailto:het002@shsu.edu) (preferred)

**Office Hours:** 8:00AM to 9:00AM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday or by appointment

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

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**Course Description:**

Introduction to Psychology is designed to provide students with exposure to the theory, research and application that make up the field of psychology. This course will provide broad coverage of many areas in psychology including research methods, the biological basis of behavior, sensation and perception, consciousness, learning, memory, emotion, personality, abnormal psychology, health psychology, and social psychology. If there are particular areas that you have interest in that you feel are not covered, please let me know either in class or during my office hours and I will see about adding them to the course curriculum.

**Course Format:**

Classes will consist of lectures, small-group discussions, and various media presentations. Blackboard will also be used as a teaching platform. Please let me know if you are uncertain how to access information on Blackboard.

**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.
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**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. If your phone rings in class, I will continue the class and **take your phone until class is over**. If I catch you texting in class, you will **get one warning**. After that, I will take the cell phone and ask you to leave the class. You can retrieve the phone when class has been let out. Lastly, **students are allowed to use their laptops to take notes** during class, but if you are caught doing non-class related activities (including things like surfing the web or instant messaging) during class you will be given a warning. After the initial warning, I will ask you not to

bring your laptop to class for the remainder of the semester, which means you will have to take notes the old fashion way.

### **Attendance Policy:**

Regular and punctual class attendance is expected. In order to reinforce the importance of attendance there are two different ways in which poor attendance can potentially impact your grade. First, although some of the material included on the exams and quizzes will come directly from the book the majority of the material will come from the information that is presented in class during lectures and group assignments. Second, students with perfect attendance will be given **9 extra credit points** at the end of the semester simply for having perfect attendance. If you miss one class, you will earn **6 extra credit points**, two classes you will earn **3 extra credit points**, if you miss three or more classes you will not earn any attendance related extra credit. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class period, so please be sure to walk up and sign the sheet before taking your seat. If you arrive in class after attendance has been taken you will be counted absent for that day.

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### **Course Requirements:**

**Exams:** There will be a total of **five exams** given throughout the semester. Each of the exams will be worth **one-hundred points**. The format of the exam will vary slightly depending on the subject area covered, but will include mostly **multiple choice questions** along with a few **short-answer** or **fill in the blank** questions. These tests will be comprised of information covered in class as well as information covered in the text.

There will be **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS** unless you provide me with a doctor's note explaining why you could not make it to the test. **If a student misses an exam it is his/her responsibility to contact the professor within 24 hours, failure to do so will result in an automatic zero on the test.** However, only four of the five scheduled exams will be included in your final grade, which means you can drop one exam grade.

**Quizzes:** There will be a total of **four** quizzes given throughout the semester. Each of the quizzes will be worth twenty-five points. The quizzes will be **multiple choice**. The purpose of these quizzes is to encourage regular attendance, so if you are in class and doing the out of class readings the quizzes should be a relatively easy way to earn points.

**Final "Project":** Each student will be required to complete a final project. This project can include either a **written paper** (between 3 and 5 pages long) or some form of **visual/creative project** related to a topic of interest. **Each student will be required to come up with a topic and have it approved by the professor prior to the due date.** More information and suggestions will follow.

**Research/Role Play 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. **Role Play/Mock Therapy.** Students will take part in half-hour role-play sessions with graduate students, each worth **10 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 five. Students may choose to participate in more than the required five research studies and/or role play sessions **for extra credit (up to 2 extra = 20 extra credit points)**. 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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**Grade Breakdown:**

Exams Total Points: 4 x 100 = 400 pts.

Quizzes Total Points: 4 x 25 = 100 pts.

“Project”: 100 pts.

Research/Role Play: 100 pts.

Attendance/Extra Credit: Possible 9 pts

Research/Extra Credit: Possible 20 pts

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Possible Total Points: 700 pts

**Course Letter Grade Calculation:**

<u>Total Points:</u>	<u>Final Grade:</u>
630 or greater	A
629 – 560	B
559 - 490	C
489 – 420	D
419 or lower	F

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All grades will be posted on Blackboard throughout the semester to help you keep up with how you are doing in the class. If you feel like you are not earning the grade you want, see me AS SOON AS POSSIBLE to talk about how you can improve your grade.

### *SHSU 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.

**\*\*\*I reserve the right to make any changes to this syllabus. However, if changes are made I will inform you in a sufficient amount of time.\*\*\*\*\***

Schedule for Fall 2008

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Readings/Assignments:</u>
August 26, 2008	Class Introduction & Syllabus Introduction to Psychology Research Methods	Chapter 1
September 2, 2008	QUIZ #1 (Ch 1) Biology & Behavior	Chapter 2
September 9, 2008	Sensation & Perception States of Consciousness Exam #1 Review	Chapter 3 Chapter 4
September 16, 2008	EXAM #1 (Ch 1-4) Learning	Chapter 5
September 23, 2008	Memory	Chapter 6
September 30, 2008	QUIZ #2 (Ch 5 & 6) Cognition, Language & Intelligence	Chapter 7
October 7, 2008	Child Development Exam #2 Review	Chapter 8
October 14, 2008	EXAM #2 (Ch 5-8) Adolescence & Adulthood	Chapter 9
October 21, 2008	Motivation & Emotion	Chapter 10
October 28, 2008	QUIZ #3 (Ch 9 & 10) Human Sexuality & Gender	Chapter 11
November 4, 2008	Health & Stress Exam #3 Review	Chapter 12
November 11, 2008	EXAM #3 (Ch 9-12) Personality Theory & Assessment	Chapter 13
November 18, 2008	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 14
November 25, 2008	QUIZ #4 (Ch 13 & 14) Therapies	Chapter 15
December 2, 2008	FINAL PROJECT DUE Social Psychology Exam #4 Review	Chapter 16
December 9, 2008	EXAM #4 (13-16)	
TBA	Comprehensive Final	