

# PSY 131.14- Introduction to Psychology

Spring Semester, 2008 AB4 301

<b>Instructor</b>	Erika Canales	<b>Course Credits</b>	3
<b>Office</b>	LDB 154	<b>E-mail</b>	ejc003@shsu.edu
<b>Office Hours</b>	Wednesday 2-3 pm or by appt.	<b>Class Time</b>	M 600-8:50

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## Course Text (Required):

Nevid, J. (2006). *Psychology: Concepts and applications* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed). Houghton Mifflin  
ISBN: 0618799036

## 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 the field. Students will also be exposed to the scientific method and how human behavior and cognitive processes are investigated within the broad field of psychology.

## Goals:

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 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. Be respectful and turn off your cell phones and other technological devices.

## Evaluation:

**Quizzes:** During the course, **7 quizzes** will be administered at the beginning of class. One will be given about every 2 weeks. Each quiz will cover the assigned reading and material discussed in lecture immediately preceding the quiz. The format of the quizzes will be multiple-choice. Each quiz will comprise **10%** of your final grade.

**Final:** At the end of the semester, you will take a comprehensive final exam consisting of 50 multiple-choice questions. These questions will be selected from the Quizzes you have taken throughout the semester. It will comprise of **20%** of your final grade.

**Class Participation and Attendance:** Come to class prepared with questions and comments for class discussion. The material in the text should be done prior to the corresponding class meeting. Attendance is required and will comprise of **10%** of your final grade. You are responsible for signing the attendance sheet daily yourself. You are allowed up to 2 unexcused absences. Additional absences will require an acceptable, documented excuse. More than 2 unexcused absences will result in a diminished attendance portion of your grade. If you miss a quiz, you are responsible for contacting me to make arrangements for making up the quiz.

**Grading System:**

A 100%--89%

B 88%-79%

C 78 -69%

D 68%- 59%

F 58% or below

**Course Schedule** (Subject to Change)

<b>Day</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Required Reading</b>
Jan 28	Introduction to Psychology, Biological Foundations	1.1-1.4, 2.1-2.3
Feb 4	<b>Quiz 1</b> Biological Foundations Cont'd Sensation & Perception	2.4-2.8 3.1
Feb 11	Sensation and Perception	3.1-3.6
Feb 18	<b>Quiz 2</b> Consciousness	4.1-4.5
Feb 25	Learning and Memory, <b>Quiz 3</b>	5.1-5.4, 6.1-6.2
Mar 3	Memory Cont'd, Thinking, Language, & Intelligence	6.3-6.4, 7.1-7.4
Mar 10-Mar 14	Spring Break	
Mar 17	Motivation and Emotion, Child Development	8.1-8.4, 9.1-9.2
Mar 24	<b>Quiz 4</b> Child Development Cont'd, Adolescence & Adulthood	9.3-9.6, 10.1-10.2
Mar 31	Adolescence and Adult Cont'd, Gender & Sexuality	10.3-10.4, 11.1-11.4
Apr 7	<b>Quiz 5</b> Personality	12.1-12.6
Apr 14	Psychological Disorders	13.1-13.7,

Apr 21	<b>Quiz 6</b>	14.1-14.4
	Methods of Therapy	
Apr 28	Social Psychology	16.1-16.4
May 5	<b>Quiz 7</b>	
May 12	<b>Final Exam 8-10 pm</b>	

## **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 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 type of academic dishonesty.

### **Notice to Persons 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.

Sam Houston State University 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.

### **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 religious holy days as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code...." 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.

A student desiring to absent him or herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will provide the student with a reasonable timeframe in which to complete missed assignments and examinations.

**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.