

# Introduction to Psychology

PSY 131 (3 credit hours)

Fall, 2007

Class Meeting Time: MWF 2:00 pm -2:50 pm

Location: LDB 208

**Instructor:** Katherine Castillo

Office Hours: LDB 332A Tuesday and Thursday 11 am – 12 pm and by appointment

Phone: 936-294-3376

Email: [KDC015@shsu.edu](mailto:KDC015@shsu.edu) \* (preferred) \*

## **Required Textbook:**

Nevid, J. S. (2007). *Psychology: Concepts and application* (2 ed.). Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.

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

## **Course Objectives:**

1. Students will become familiar with major theorists in psychology as well as their contributions.
2. Students will learn about the various sub-disciplines of psychology and related conceptual material.
3. Students will acquire an understanding of the scientific study of mental processes and behavior.
4. Students will understand and appreciate the diverse areas of study within the field of psychology.

## **Grade System:**

There will be five multiple-choice tests. Students will be responsible for information presented in lecture and in the textbook. This includes information in the book that is not presented in class as well as information from lecture that is not in the book. Overall course grade will be determined by your **four highest test grades and your attendance grade**. Each test will be worth 100 points. The lowest test grade will be dropped.

## Missing tests:

If a student is going to miss a test, the instructor will need to be notified *prior* to the scheduled test time. Tests will only be rescheduled if the student is able to provide acceptable documentation (i.e.: a doctor's note) for missing the test. If this is not done, the student will receive a 0 on the test. Students are allowed to have *one make-up test* during the semester and are responsible for contacting the instructor to schedule the make-up test.

### Attendance:

Attendance is expected. Your attendance grade is worth 100 points. Role will be taken at the beginning of every class. If you are more than 10 minutes late to class or if you leave more than 10 minutes early, you will be counted absent. You are allowed *three* unexplained absences. For each additional absence, *5 points* will be deducted from your 100 attendance points unless you have a doctor's note.

### Your grades will be based upon the following schema:

A = 450-500	D = 300-349
B = 400-449	F = 000-299
C = 350-399	

**Opportunities for Extra Credit:** You may participate in one of the following opportunities for 10 points extra credit. Students may participate in up to three opportunities for a total of 30 points toward their final grade. Research and role-play participation will be tracked by the Psychology Research Participation System at <http://shsu.sona-systems.com>. Papers will be turned in directly to the instructor. It is recommended that you do not wait until the end of the semester to complete this portion of the course:

1. *Research Participation:* Students can take part in three 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:* Students can take part in three 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.
3. *Research Paper:* Students can write a 2-3 page, 12-point, double-spaced, paper providing a summary and interpretation of a research article relevant to any approved topic in psychology. The topic and article must be approved by *November 9<sup>th</sup>*, and the paper will be due on *November 26<sup>th</sup>*. Creativity is strongly encouraged.

### **Classroom Behavior:**

You are expected to arrive on time, behave appropriately during class, and be respectful to your peers as well as the instructor. Cell phones or other technological devices that could potentially be disruptive should be turned or silenced before class begins. If you are disruptive to the class, you will be asked to leave at any time during the semester.

### **Study Tips:**

The best advice on how to study for this course is to read the material beforehand, listen attentively to the lecture, and then review the material very soon after each class has ended. In addition, students with academic difficulty should contact the SAM Center.

### **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.

**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 speak with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodations 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.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to be absent him/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 holyday(s). The instructor will notify the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

**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. This policy is not intended to discourage the occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons. Obviously, however, the visiting of a particular class should be occasional and not regular, and it should in no way constitute interference with registered members of the class or the educational process.

**Instructor Evaluations:**

Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form at the mid-point in the semester and at the end of the semester.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
August 20	Syllabus and Intro	
August 22	Introduction to Psychology and Methods of Research	Chapter 1
August 24	Methods of Research	Chapter 1
August 27	Biological Foundations of Behavior	Chapter 2
August 29	Biological Foundations of Behavior	Chapter 2
August 31	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 3
<b>September 3</b>	<b>No class – Labor Day</b>	
September 5	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 3
September 7	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 3
<b>September 10</b>	<b>TEST 1</b>	
September 12	Consciousness	Chapter 4
September 14	Consciousness	Chapter 4
September 17	Consciousness	Chapter 4
September 19	Learning	Chapter 5
September 21	Learning	Chapter 5
September 24	Learning	Chapter 5
September 26	Memory	Chapter 6
September 28	Memory	Chapter 6
<b>October 1</b>	<b>TEST 2</b>	
October 3	Cognitive Psychology	Chapter 7
October 5	Cognitive Psychology	Chapter 7
October 8	Motivation and Emotion	Chapter 8
October 10	Motivation and Emotion	Chapter 8
October 12	Motivation and Emotion	Chapter 8
October 15	Child Development	Chapter 9
October 17	Child Development	Chapter 9
<b>October 19</b>	<b>TEST 3</b>	
October 22	Adolescent and Adult Development	Chapter 10
October 24	Adolescent and Adult Development	Chapter 10
October 26	Gender and Sexuality	Chapter 11
October 29	Gender and Sexuality	Chapter 11
October 31	Personality	Chapter 12
November 2	Personality	Chapter 12
November 5	Personality	Chapter 12
<b>November 7</b>	<b>TEST 4</b>	
November 9	Psychological Disorders- <b>Topic due for extra credit paper</b>	Chapter 13
November 12	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 13
November 14	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 13
November 16	Methods of Therapy	Chapter 14
November 19	Methods of Therapy	Chapter 14
November 21	<b>No class - Thanksgiving</b>	
November 23	<b>No class - Thanksgiving</b>	
November 26	Methods of Therapy – <b>Extra credit paper due</b>	Chapter 14
November 28	Social Psychology	Chapter 16
November 30	Social Psychology	Chapter 16
December 3	Social Psychology	Chapter 16
December 5	Review	
<b>TBA</b>	<b>TEST 5</b>	