



CRIMINAL JUSTICE 436. 09W (CJ436091AS08)
UNDERSTANDING HUMAN BEHAVIOR
SPRING 2008 TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS, 9:30-10:50 A.M. A213, CJ CENTER

SYLLABUS

COURSE GOAL: This course is described in your course catalogue as “The dynamics of human behavior; analysis of the biological, cultural, sociological and psychological factors.” This is a core course in the undergraduate curriculum because most of you plan to become criminal justice/human service professionals. This means that you will be dealing with a variety of people with a variety of issues and problems. This course is going to help you better understand yourself as well as persons you encounter in your future career.

PROFESSOR VICTORIA B. TITTERINGTON

Office Hours:
Mon., Tues., Thurs. 2 – 5 p.m.,
or by appointment

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COURSE OBJECTIVES:

At the completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. List and define the four major perspectives used to understand personality.
2. Describe at least three techniques used to increase coping skills in a variety of stressful life encounters.
3. Summarize the aspects of personality and psychological disorders that may lead to criminal behavior.
4. Describe the current leading approaches in the human service field to dealing with the psychological disorders of criminal offenders.
5. Demonstrate your ability to write and think critically about issues of psychology and human (including criminal) behavior.

REQUIRED READING

Weitin, W. & Lloyd, M. (2006). Psychology Applied to Modern Life: Adjustment in the 21st Century (8th Ed). Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth. ISBN: 0-534-60859-0.

There is a companion website for this textbook at: www.psychology.wadsworth.com. Chapter outlines, sample quizzes, references and other learning material is there; some of your examination questions will come from this website.

Other readings as assigned, via Class Handouts, Library Reserve and Blackboard.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS & POLICIES

READ

ATTEND

PARTICIPATE

Class attendance requirements will be followed in accordance with Academic Policy Statement 800401. Attendance will be recorded for each class. Students who arrive late or leave early may not receive credit for class attendance that day.

Frequently, your credit for class attendance will be based upon (1) submitting a short out-of-class assignment at the beginning of a class or (2) your participation in a project during class, including small group discussions, **reading quizzes**, etc.

Students can miss up to three (3) classes without a grade deduction. The final grade will be reduced by one-half letter grade (e.g. 5 points) for every absence beyond the 3rd.

BLACKBOARD

Students must use their SHSU computer account. All e-mail communications between the professor and student will use the SHSU assigned e-mail. Also, Blackboard protocols require students to log in (<http://blackboard.shsu.edu>) using their SHSU student account.

Check Blackboard regularly for course Announcements and Course Documents and to consult the Course Calendar. Also, attendance and examination grades will be posted on Blackboard.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Personal cell phones, pagers and iPods should be turned off during class. Please see me if you have a job that requires you to be on call during class time. Violators of this policy will be warned one time; the second instance of use will result in dismissal from the class. No text messaging, by phone or computer, is to take place within this class, unless requested by the instructor.

INCOMPLETES

University policy specifies that any student who seeks an incomplete for a course must have passed a minimum of 50% of the course requirements with a C or better and have extenuating circumstances (e.g., documented health problems) that prevent him or her from completing the course.

TOLERANCE

Students are expected to be courteous and considerate at all times. Distractions, rude comments or gestures, and otherwise intolerant behavior are unacceptable. Being considerate also entails not wearing clothing with obscene or offensive symbols or wording. Students wearing offensive or derogatory clothing will not be admitted to the classroom. Any of these behaviors may be grounds for dismissal from the class or referral to the Dean of Undergraduate Studies.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

See <http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty> Turnitin.com anti-plagiarism software may be used in this course.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

See http://www.shsu.edu/~reg_www/academic_calendar/ .

DISABLED STUDENT POLICY

See <http://www.shsu.edu/schedule/>

SERVICES FOR DISABLED STUDENTS

See <http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAY POLICY

See <http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html.holyday>

COURSE EVALUATION

EXAMINATIONS AND WRITING STANDARDS

Because this is a writing-enhanced course, each examination will include 50 points for objective questions and 50 points for an essay question. These are the grading criteria for your written essays:

Substantive Content	25 points
Grammar	5
Spelling	5
Punctuation	5
Citations in APA Format	5
Neatness	<u>5</u>
	50 points

Your essay questions will require some research of the academic literature (beyond what is in your textbook) and official government websites (e.g. the American Psychological Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). Your essay answers should include at least three references, only one of which may be from *Wikipedia*.

Your examination **essay** questions will be provided to you **in advance**. You will bring a hard/paper copy of your answer to the class, to submit before completing the objective part of the examination. If I also request an electronic copy of your essay(s), these must be submitted in order to receive credit for the essay(s). See Course Calendar for examination dates.

The essays must be written using Microsoft Word, Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, 1 inch margins, double-spaced, American Psychological Association format, with your name and page number at the top of each page. No exceptions.

There are no make-up examinations in this course; however, your lowest exam grade will be dropped; so a missed exam will be the dropped grade.

GRADING

4 Examinations, @ 100 points each; (drop lowest grade)

Total 300 points

270-300 points = A 240-269 points = B 210-239 points = C
180-209 points = D < 180 points = F

** One-half letter grade deducted for each absence over three.

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

As a student of Sam Houston State University, several valuable resources are available to you with all of your courses. These include:

**Student Advising and Mentoring (SAM) Center (http://www.shsu.edu/~sam_www/),

**Sam Houston Writing Center(<http://www.shsu.edu/~wctr/>) and

**Sam Houston Reading Center (http://www.shsu.edu/~rdg_www/).

I encourage you to use these services as needed.

COURSE OUTLINE OF TOPICS, READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS		
DATE	TOPICS	READINGS/ ASSIGNMENTS
January 17	Course Overview Assignment for January 22: Buy textbook and visit textbook website Read Chapter 1 Complete Student Contact Sheet, including photo ID	Syllabus
January 22	Adjusting to Modern Life	Weiten & Lloyd, Chapter 1
January 24	Adjusting to Modern Life, part 2	Weiten & Lloyd, Chapter 1
January 29	Theories of Personality	Weiten & Lloyd, Chapter 2
January 31	Theories of Personality, part 2	Weiten & Lloyd, Chapter 2
February 5	Stress and Its Effects	Weiten & Lloyd, Chapter 3
February 7	Stress and Its Effects, part 2	Weiten & Lloyd, Chapter 3
February 12	Coping Processes	Weiten & Lloyd, Chapter 4
February 14	Examination #1 / Essay Questions Due	Weiten & Lloyd, Chs. 1-4
February 19	The Self	Weiten & Lloyd, Chapter 5
February 21	Social Thinking and Social Influence	Weiten & Lloyd, Chapter 6
February 26	The Criminalization of Mental Illness	Supplemental Reading

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February 28	Interpersonal Communication	Weiten & Lloyd, Chapter 7
March 6	Friendship & Love	Weiten & Lloyd, Chapter 8
March 11, 13	Spring Break	No Class
March 18	Examination # 2/ Essay Questions Due	Weiten & Lloyd, Chs. 5-8 and Supplemental Reading
March 20	Marriage and Intimate Relationships	Weiten & Lloyd, Chapter 9
March 20	Marriage and Intimate Relationships, part 2	Weiten & Lloyd, Chapter 9
March 25	Gender and Behavior	Weiten & Lloyd Ch.10
March 27	Development in Adolescence & Adulthood	Weiten & Lloyd, Chap. 11
April 1	Juveniles in the U.S. CJ System	Supplemental Reading
April 3	Careers and Work	Weiten & Lloyd, Chap. 12
April 8	Workplace Violence	Supplemental Reading
April 10	Examination # 3/ Essay Questions Due	Weiten & Lloyd, Chapters 9-12 and Supplemental Reading
April 15	Development and Expression of Sexuality	Weiten & Lloyd, Chap.13
April 17	Sexual Offending	Supplemental Reading
April 24	Psychology and Physical Health	Weiten & Lloyd, Chap. 14

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April 29	Psychological Disorders	Weiten & Lloyd, Chap. 15
May 1	Psychotherapy	Weiten & Lloyd, Chap. 16
May 6	Correctional Treatment Programs	Supplemental Reading
May 8	Course Summary, Review & Evaluation	
May 13	Final Examination, 8 – 10 a.m.	Weiten & Lloyd, Chapters 13-16 and Supplemental Reading
Have a Good Summer!		

Your Photo Here

Name _____ Email: _____

Address _____

Classification _____ Phone: _____

Career Goals _____

What interests you most about human behavior? _____

Is there anything else about yourself that you would like for me to know?

My signature below indicates that I have read and understand this syllabus and have been given a copy of my own to keep.

Student signature

Date

Print Name
