

**Psychology 237W (Enhanced Writing Course)**  
**Section 1**  
**Spring 2008**  
**Professional Psychology**

**Time:** Academic Building IV, Room 302  
**Location:** 6:00-8:50 p.m. Tuesday  
**Instructor:** Ronald Davis Ph.D.  
**Office:** Smith-Kirkley, Room 322  
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**Office Hours:** Monday and Wednesday 3:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m.; Tuesday, 5:00-6:00p.m. and by appointment.

**Course Description:** The course is a survey of the profession of psychology covering such topics as understanding the profession, applying to graduate school, the APA, graduate degrees, and a survey of the disciplines within the field of psychology.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To become familiar with the various disciplines of Psychology (i.e. clinical, counseling, etc.) and the job tasks professionals in those disciplines undertake.
2. To become familiar with the organizations associated with professional psychology.
3. To acquire an understanding of education and training requirements for practice of professional psychology.
4. To acquire an understanding of current professional issues in the field to include certification and licensure, scope of practice and ethics.
5. To become familiar with the professional literature associated with the disciplines.

**Required Text:** *Sternberg R. J. (Ed). (2007) CareerPaths in Psychology; Where your degree can take you. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Washington, D.C., American Psychological Association.*

**Assignments:**

1. Four exams and a final exam. Each exam may include multiple choice and essay questions and will cover material from the text, lecture, material presented by guest speakers and class presentations. One of the four exams, excluding the final exam, will be dropped.
2. Numerous in-class writing assignments covering lecture and discussion material (1 minute papers) to share with classmates and the professor in small groups.
3. Three “thought papers” of two to three pages in length.
4. Presentation of “thought papers” to the class (may be in dyads or small groups) for critique.
5. A final paper 8 to 10 pages in length covering either a professional issue in Psychology (i.e. evidence based practice, ethics, etc.) or a sub-specialty in Psychology. For example, this might cover Clinical Psychology as practiced in a hospital setting or the Criminal Justice system.
6. 5 or more unannounced quizzes over assigned readings.

**Grading:** Grading will be as follows:

Exams	100 points each = 300 points
Final Exam	100 points
Thought papers	50 points each (for final draft) = 150 points

One minute papers	100 points (completion only)
Final Paper	100
Unannounced quizzes	100
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>850</b>

**NOTE:** Extra points will be assigned for participation in research (5 points for participation in each project total no more than 10 points)

<b><u>Total Points</u></b>	<b><u>Final Grade</u></b>
850-760	A
759-675	B
674-590	C
589-500	D
Below 500	F

*A more detailed description of the following policies with links specific to each policy may be found at: <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>*

### Tentative Schedule

In addition to topics listed below, students will be responsible for material presented by fellow students pertaining to internet exercises, guest speaker material and additional lecture material presented by the instructor. Schedule changes will be announced in class only.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Jan 22	1. Introduction to the Field of Psychology	Powerpoint
Jan 29	2. Graduate School Prep	Guest Speaker/Powerpoint
Feb 5	Exam 1 (Items 1 and 2)	
Feb 12	3. Graduate Student Experience	Guest Speaker
Feb 19	4. Clinical Psychology	Chapters 6, 7, 9 and 10
Feb 26	Exam 2 (items 3 and 4) Clinical Psychology	
Mar 4	5. Academic Careers	Chapters 1-5
Mar 11	6. Counseling Psychology	Guest Speaker, Ch. 8
Mar 18	Spring Break	
Mar 25	7. School Psychology and Psychology in Public Sector	Ch. 11-13/Guest Speaker
Apr 1	Exam 3 (Items 5-7) Industrial Organizational	Chapters 14-15
Apr 8	Industrial Organizational	
Apr 15	8. Licensure and Certification	
Apr 22	9. Professional Issues—Evidence Based Practice	
Apr 29	Exam 4—(Items 8 and 9);	
May 6	10. Professional Issues—Prescriptive Authority	
May 13	Final Exam	

**Academic Dishonesty Policy:** 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 material.

**Classroom Rules of Conduct:** Students are expected to participate in and facilitate an environment of learning and to respect each other. To this end, students should refrain from any activity or behavior that

distracts from the learning process (side conversations, falling asleep, etc.). **All electronic devices must be turned off and not visible during class.** Attendance will not be taken however students will not be able to make up missed quizzes or in-class assignments unless there is documentation of an activity according to Sam Houston State University policy.

**Students with Disabilities Policy:** 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 should 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. Please note that no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling center.

**Religious Holidays:** Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students remain responsible for all work.

**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.

**Note: This syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.**