

## Psy 131.01—Introduction to Psychology

LDB 216

Spring 2008

TTh 8-9:20

3 Credit Hours

Instructor: Jennifer Sanders

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Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 10-12, Monday 12-2, or by appointment

### Course Description

A 3-credit, lecture-based course which provides an overview of the diversity within the psychological field. A wide variety of topics will be studied over the course of the semester, including sensation and perception, development, and social psychology.

### Course Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, the student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of many different specializations within the field of psychology; different structures within the brain, nervous systems, and sensory organs; and different psychological theories, processes, and disorders.

### Text

Nevid, J. S. (2007). *Psychology: Concepts and applications* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). New York: Houghton Mifflin.

### Attendance

It is helpful to attend every day to be able to participate in discussions, ask questions, and get the full extent of the material. Attendance will be taken every day—please keep in mind that if you miss more than 5 classes, you will be dropped a letter grade. If you miss 10 classes (a third of class!), you will receive a failing grade for the course. If you show up to class after roll is called, you will be counted absent.

### Exams, Quizzes, and Grading

There will be four exams over the course of the semester, each testing four units of material (four chapters each); each exam will have equal weight. All of your tests will be 50 questions, multiple choice, and an 882-E Scantron is required for each.

Midway through each unit, a 10-question quiz will test whether you have done the assigned readings. The quiz will be administered at the beginning of class on the quiz day via PowerPoint, and all questions will be either short answer or multiple choice. If you keep up with your reading, these quizzes will be no problem.

All of your 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 to change this.

The grade distribution is as follows:

Exams	75%
Quizzes	25%

I will offer a 75-question comprehensive final on our scheduled final day. This final is OPTIONAL. If you decide to take it, it will replace your lowest test grade. I will not lower any of your grades if you take the final and get a lower score, so it's really a no-lose situation. I will provide more information about this when we get closer to the end of the semester.

Graduate students and professors are always looking for research participants, and extra credit is an often-used incentive. If you participate in three research/therapy projects (e.g., participate in three mock therapy sessions, one mock therapy session and two research projects, etc.), I will add five points to one test; if you complete five activities, I will add 10 points. You must register with the Research Participation website to find out what is going on and sign up for a slot. Go to [http://www.shsu.edu/~psy\\_www/ResearchParticipation.htm](http://www.shsu.edu/~psy_www/ResearchParticipation.htm) for more information. I would recommend going through the Participant Tutorial before registering. Please note: do not sign up for research I may be helping with unless I give the go-ahead. I would like for my classes to help other students/professors in need of participants. I will let you know what I am working on this semester.

#### Academic Honesty

The University expects all students 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. Any act of academic dishonesty will result in a 0 on the assignment and will be reported to the department chair.

#### Religious Holidays

Section 51.925 of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education shall allow a student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. The student should inform the instructor as soon as possible in the form of a written statement if they will be absent for a religious holy day, and both the student and instructor must complete an absence request form.

#### Visitors to the Classroom

An unannounced guest who wishes to visit the classroom will need to present a current and official Sam Houston State University identification card. If the visitor is not a registered Sam Houston State University student, the instructor will act at his/her own discretion as to whether the visitor will remain.

#### Americans with Disabilities Act

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individuals shall, solely by reason of their disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic program or activity. Any student who needs special accommodations should inform the instructor and present documentation of the disability to the Services for Students with Disabilities division of the

SHSU Counseling Center and register with this department.

Disturbances in the Classroom

Campus disruptive activities or disorderly conduct on component-owned or controlled property or at a component-sponsored or supervised function that inhibit or interfere with the educational responsibility of the component community or the component's social-educational activities shall include but not be limited to: using abusive, indecent, profane or vulgar language; making offensive gestures or displays that tend to incite a breach of the peace; perpetrating fights, assaults, acts of sexual violence, abuse, or threats; or evincing some obviously offensive manner or committing an act that causes a person to feel threatened. Such prohibition includes disorderly classroom conduct that obstructs, interferes with, inhibits and/or disrupts teaching and/or related classroom activities.

If a classroom disturbance should occur, the student(s) who cause the disturbance will be asked to leave the classroom. Should the disturbance occur during an exam, the student(s) test will be collected, he/she/they will be asked to leave the classroom, and the student(s) will receive a zero on the exam.

**NOTE TO THOSE WHO LOVE THEIR CELL PHONES:** I reserve the right to chat with anyone who contacts you on your cell during class, whether through a call or text message. Please refrain from text messaging or making calls during class.

If your phone rings or makes any other noise indicating you are receiving a call or text, I will pick up your test at that time.

## Schedule for Spring 2008

January 17	Class Introduction, Syllabus	No reading!
January 22	Introduction to the Course	Chapter 1
January 24	The Neuron	Chapter 2
January 29	Parts of the Brain	Chapter 2
February 1	The Senses <b>Quiz 1</b>	Chapter 3
February 5	Perception	Chapter 3
February 7	Consciousness and Review	Chapter 4
February 12	<b>EXAM 1:</b> Chapters 1-4	
February 14	Classical and Operant Conditioning	Chapter 5
February 19	Cognitive Learning, Remembering	Chapter 5 & 6
February 21	Forgetting, Bio. Processes of Memory <b>Quiz 2</b>	Chapter 6
February 26	Thinking and Language	Chapter 7
February 28	Intelligence and Intro. to Motivation	Chapter 7 & 8
March 4	Conclusion of Motivation and Review	Chapter 8
March 6	<b>EXAM 2:</b> Chapters 5-8	
March 10	SPRING BREAK—NO CLASS	
March 12	SPRING BREAK—NO CLASS	
March 18	Prenatal and Infant Development	Chapter 9
March 20	Emotional, Social, and Cognitive Devel.	Chapter 9
March 25	Adolescence and Early Adulthood	Chapter 10
March 27	Middle and Late Adulthood <b>Quiz 3</b>	Chapter 10

April 1	NO CLASS!! <i>Just kidding, there's class...</i> Gender Identity	Chapter 11
April 3	Sexual Response and Behavior	Chapter 11
April 8	Sexual Dysfunction and Intro. to Personality	Chapter 12
April 10	Perspectives of Personality and Review	Chapter 12
April 15	<b>EXAM 3:</b> Chapters 9-12	
April 17	Psychological Disorders!	Chapter 13
April 22	Psychological Disorders!	Chapter 13
April 24	Methods of Therapy	Chapter 14
April 29	Stress and Psychological Disorders <b>Quiz 4</b>	Chapter 15
May 1	Social Psych—Us vs. Them	Chapter 16
May 6	Social Psych—Groups and Review	Chapter 16
May 8	<b>EXAM 4:</b> Chapters 13-16	
May 15	<b>OPTIONAL COMPREHENSIVE FINAL</b> <b>8:00-11:00 AM</b>	