

PSY 131 – Introduction to Psychology

Fall Semester, 2007 LDB 216

Section 11 (3 Cr.)

Instructor: Carol Woods

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Class Times: T,Th 12:30 – 1:50 pm

Office Hours: T,Th 9:30 – 10:30 am
(or by appt)

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

Course Objectives:

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 Text (*Required*): Nevid, J. (2006). *Psychology: Concepts and applications* (2nd ed). Houghton Mifflin
ISBN: 0618799036

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. Please show respect to your peers, as well as your instructor, by turning off all cell phones and other technological devices that could potentially be disruptive prior to the start of each class.

GRADING

Examinations: During the course, four exams will be administered covering the chapters discussed immediately preceding the exam. All materials discussed in lectures and group discussion, as well as information contained in the text will be covered by the exam. Exams will be multiple-choice format. Each exam is worth 100 points.

Final: The course will conclude with a comprehensive final exam in multiple-choice format. The final is worth 100 points. The final is optional and may be used to replace the lowest of the four examination scores. If you are satisfied with your examination grades you may opt not to take the final exam.

Class Participation and Attendance: Come to class prepared with questions and/or comments about the material in the text – the readings for each class should be done prior to the corresponding class meeting. Attendance is required and is worth 50 points toward your final grade. You are responsible for signing the attendance sheet daily *for yourself*. You may have up to 2 unexcused absences. Additional absences will require an acceptable, documented excuse. Additional unexcused absences will result in loss of the attendance portion of your grade. If you foresee an absence on an exam day, you are responsible for making *prior* arrangements for that test. Without an acceptable, documented excuse, make-up examinations will *not* be administered.

Grading System: The final grade for the course will be based on attendance and your performance on the exams.

		<u>Total Points</u>	<u>Final Grade</u>
Exam1	100		
Exam2	100	405 or greater	A
Exam3	100	360 - 404	B
Exam4	100	315 - 359	C
<u>Attendance</u>	<u>50</u>	270 - 314	D
Total Course	450	269 or less	F

Research or Role-Play Participation for Extra Credit: Research or role-play participation can count as extra credit toward your final grade. Each one-hour session is worth 5 extra credit points. You may earn up to a total of 25 points toward your final grade. All extra credit must be completed before the last class meeting (12/6). These opportunities can fill up quickly – don't wait until the end of the semester to sign up!

SCHEDULE [Subject to change]

Date	Subject	Readings
Aug 21	Introduction to Psychology	1.1 – 1.4
Aug 23	Biological Foundations of Behavior	2.1 – 2.3
Aug 28	Biological Foundations cont'd	2.4 – 2.6
Aug 30	Biological Foundations cont'd	2.7 – 2.8
Sept 4	Sensation and Perception	3.1 – 3.3
Sept 6	Sensation and Perception cont'd	3.4 – 3.6
Sept 11	Consciousness	4.1 – 4.3
Sept 13	Consciousness cont'd	4.4 – 4.5
Sept 20	Learning	5.1 – 5.4
Sept 25	Memory	6.1 – 6.2
Sept 27	Memory cont'd; Thinking, Language and Intelligence	6.3 – 6.4; 7.1
Oct 2	Thinking, Language and Intelligence cont'd	7.2 – 7.4
Oct 4	Motivation and Emotion	8.1 – 8.4
Oct 11	Child Development	9.1 – 9.3
Oct 16	Child Development	9.4 – 9.6
Oct 18	Adolescence and Adulthood	10.1 – 10.2
Oct 23	Adolescence and Adulthood cont'd; Gender and Sexuality	10.3 – 10.4; 11.1
Oct 25	Gender and Sexuality cont'd	11.2 – 11.4
Oct 30	Personality	12.1 – 12.3
Nov 1	Personality cont'd	12.4 – 12.6
Nov 8	Psychological Disorders	13.1 – 13.3
Nov 13	Psychological Disorders cont'd	13.4 – 13.7
Nov 15	Methods of Therapy	14.1 – 14.4
Nov 20	Psychology and Health	15.1
Nov 22	THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS	
Nov 27	Psychology and Health cont'd	15.2 – 15.3
Nov 29	Social Psychology	16.1 – 16.2
Dec 4	Social Psychology cont'd	16.3 – 16.4
Dec 13	Final Exam 11:00am - 1:00pm	

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 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. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

Student Absences of 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 a religious holy day as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20..." 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 absent himself/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 holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf

Students 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.

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 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. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.pdf

Visitors in the Classroom: Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the instructor. 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.

Instructor Evaluations: Each student will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation toward the end of the semester. These evaluations are taken very seriously and constructive criticism is appreciated.