

Introduction to Psychology

(PSY 131 Sec. 03)

3 Credit Hours

Fall 2007

MWF 10 – 11 a.m.

AB4 302

Instructor: Drew Curtis, MA

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Office Hours: MWF 11-12; T 2-3

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

Course Description: This course is designed to be a broad survey of the field of psychology covering such topics as learning, perception, personality, development, psychopathology, etc. It covers both the theoretical basis and the empirical content of these areas.

Course Objectives:

1. To become familiar with major contributors to psychology and their related theories.
2. Introduce terminology unique to the study of psychology.
3. To learn about the various sub-disciplines of psychology and related conceptual material.
4. To acquire an understanding of the scientific study of cognitive processes and behavior.
5. To understand and appreciate the diverse areas of study within the field of psychology.

Instructional Format: Classes will consist of lectures, group discussions, and various media presentations.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is expected and will be recorded. Attending class is important to pass the course and to keep up with the course material. Attendance will be considered in cases of borderline grades and **students with perfect attendance will also have the option of waiving the final exam if they choose to do so.** The university's full attendance policy can be found at the following website:

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

Exams: There will be four exams worth 100 points each and a final exam worth 100 points. Exams will be comprised of multiple choice and essay/short answer questions. The exams will be based on class lectures, discussions, and material from the textbook. **Make up exams will only be given in extenuating circumstances** and the student may be required to prepare an essay on the material. The final exam will be comprehensive and must be taken at the time designated by the University or prior arrangements must be made with the instructor.

Project: This assignment consists of two components: (a) a 4-5 page research paper and (b) a 3-5 minute presentation. (100 points)

Paper: You are expected to write a 4-5 page, typed, double-spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman font paper about a specific topic in psychology. Feel free to elaborate on any topic discussed in the class; however, you must not simply reproduce material discussed in class. You are to get your topic approved by the instructor by **OCTOBER 1st**. You are expected to cite at least 3 references from scholarly psychology journals according to APA guidelines. Papers are to be turned in the day that you present to the class.

Presentation: Students will be expected to present their research paper in class and create a handout, outlining the information, for each classmate. The presentation will be graded on the content (10 points), the organization/appeal (10 points), and the effective use of time (10 points).

Grading:

Research Paper	70
Presentation	30
Exam 1	100
Exam 2	100
Exam 3	100
Exam 4	100
Final Exam	100

Your grade will be based upon the following schema:

With Final	Final Waived (perfect attendance)
A = 540-600	A = 450-500
B = 480-539	B = 400-449
C = 420-479	C = 350-399
D = 360-419	D = 300-349
F ≤ 359	F ≤ 299

Syllabus Guidelines: You may find online a more detailed of the following policies. These guidelines will also provide you with a link to the specific university policy or procedure: <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus>

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 their 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, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

Classroom rules of conduct: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Please do not talk, send, or receive messages on cell phones or other electronic devices when in the classroom. Respect your classmates by muting your cell phone. It is inappropriate to speak while others are speaking. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

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.

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.

Visitors in the classroom: Generally visitors are not allowed in the classroom. Exceptions may be made on a case by case basis.

Tentative Schedule:

20-Aug	Introduction	Chp. 1
22-Aug	Methods	Chp. 1
24-Aug	Methods	Chp. 1
27-Aug	Biological Foundations	Chp. 2
29-Aug	Biological Foundations	Chp. 2
31-Aug	Sensation and Perception	Chp. 3
3-Sep	LABOR DAY	
5-Sep	Sensation and Perception	Chp. 3
7-Sep	Consciousness	Chp. 4
10-Sep	Consciousness	Chp. 4
12-Sep	EXAM 1	
14-Sep	Learning	Chp. 5
17-Sep	Learning	Chp. 5
19-Sep	Learning	Chp. 5
21-Sep	Memory	Chp. 6
24-Sep	Memory	Chp. 6
26-Sep	Thinking, Language, & Intelligence	Chp. 7
28-Sep	Thinking, Language, & Intelligence	Chp. 7
1-Oct	Motivation and Emotion	Chp. 8
3-Oct	Motivation and Emotion	Chp. 8
5-Oct	EXAM 2	
8-Oct	Child Development	Chp. 9
10-Oct	Child Development	Chp. 9
12-Oct	Adolescence & Adulthood	Chp. 10
15-Oct	Adolescence & Adulthood	Chp. 10
17-Oct	Gender & Sexuality	Chp. 11
19-Oct	Gender & Sexuality	Chp. 11
22-Oct	Personality	Chp. 12
24-Oct	Personality	Chp. 12
26-Oct	EXAM 3	
29-Oct	Social Psychology	Chp. 16
31-Oct	Social Psychology	Chp. 16
2-Nov	Social Psychology	Chp. 16
5-Nov	Psychological Disorders	Chp. 13
7-Nov	Psychological Disorders	Chp. 13
9-Nov	Psychological Disorders	Chp. 13
Nov. 12-19	Presentations	
Nov. 21-23	THANKSGIVING	
26-Nov	Methods of Therapy	Chp. 14
28-Nov	Methods of Therapy	Chp. 14
30-Nov	Methods of Therapy	Chp. 14
3-Dec	EXAM 4	
5-Dec	Review	
7-Dec	Study Day [No class]	
10-Dec	FINALS (Check Schedule)	