

INTRODUCTORY HONORS PSYCHOLOGY
PSY 131H (3 Credit Hours)
Fall, 2007
AB4 205 Monday 6-9:00 P.M.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 5-6 and by appointment

TEXTBOOK: Nevid, J. S. (2007) Psychology: Concepts and applications (2nd Ed.)
Boston, MA.:" Houghton Mifflin Company

CLASS DESCRIPTION AND FORMAT:

This course is designed to be a broad survey of the field of psychology covering such topics as learning, personality, development, psychopathology, therapy, etc. It covers both the theoretical basis and the empirical content of these areas. We will attempt to cover most of the book during the semester. Class time will be devoted to discussions, films, presentations, etc.. Students will be responsible for all assigned material in the book, even if the material is not covered in the class. If you do not understand something in your text, it is your responsibility to ask questions.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

It is the goal of this class to familiarize you with the basic approaches, methods, and areas of specialization within psychology. More specifically, this course is designed to encourage you to learn and use the terms, concepts, etc. that are identified in the text and discussions.

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. There will be no penalty per se for excessive absenteeism. However, anyone with excessive absences (more than three hours of class) will take a comprehensive final exam at the end of the semester. It will be your responsibility to initial the attendance sheet for each class session. The only excused absence will be for situations where University business prevents you from attending or for students missing class to observe a religious holy day. Students who will be absent from class so as to observe a religious holy day will need to let the professor know in advance of the holy day.

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY

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.

DISABLED STUDENT 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 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.

EXAMS:

Including the final, there will be five exams during the semester. Exams will consist of both a multiple choice and essay format. The final exam is not comprehensive and will have the same weight as the other four tests. However, students with excessive absences will also be required to take a comprehensive exam. All exams must be taken to receive credit for the course. *Make-up exams will be given only with the instructor's approval and only when you can show evidence of the situation that prevented you from taking the exam.* Students who fail to show up for an exam and who fail to notify the instructor *in advance* will receive a failing grade for that exam. These exams will constitute 75% of your final grade.

PAPER:

Students are required to write one five-page typed application paper in APA style. You may choose either topic listed below:

1. Based on material that you have studied during this semester, identify one misconception that you had about a psychological issue. Briefly describe the problem area and state the nature of your misconception.
2. Describe how the study of psychology has changed the way in which you will deal with your chosen profession. For example, if you are studying to be a nurse, how could you use your new found knowledge of psychology to help you become a better nurse.

Be sure to include a brief discussion of the psychological issue using scientific journals. . You must select your topic by October 8, 2007. This paper will constitute 25% of your grade. You must submit your paper by November 26, 2007.

CLASS PARTICIPATION:

In order for a seminar class to be successful, students must come to class prepared to discuss the assigned material. Throughout the semester, you will take turns leading the discussion. Your ability to lead and contribute to the discussion will be assessed. Participation will be used to determine borderline grades.

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 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.

RULES OF CONDUCT:

All students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students will treat their classmates with respect. Students will turn off their cell phones upon entering the classroom.

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM:

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

CLASS OUTLINE:

TOPICS	CHAPTERS	TEST	TEST DATE
Introduction and Research Methods	1		
Biological Bases of Behavior	2		
		Test 1	Sept. 10
Consciousness	4 (pp. 136-453)		
Learning	5		
Memory	6 (pp. 216-243)		
		Test 2	Oct. 8
Child Development	9		
Adolescent and Adult Development	10		
		Test 3	Oct. 29
Motivation	8 (pp. 294-305)		
Gender	11 (pp. 422-433)		
Social Psychology	16		
		Test 5	Nov. 19

Personality	12
Psychological Disorders	13
Therapy	14

Test 5 *Dec. 10*

POTENTIAL CLASS OBJECTIVES

1. Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)
2. Learning fundamental principals, generalizations, or theories
3. Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)
4. Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to the course.
5. Acquiring skills in working with others as a member of a team
6. Developing creative capacities (writing, inventing, designing, performing in art, music, drama, etc.)
7. Gaining a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual/cultural activity (music, science, literature, etc)
8. Developing skill in expressing myself orally or in writing.
9. Learning how to find and use resources for answering questions or solving problems
10. Developing a clearer understanding of, and commitment to , personal values
11. Learning how to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.
12. Acquiring an interest in learning more by asking my own questions and seeking answers.

STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

NAME: _____

NAME YOU WOULD
LIKE TO BE CALLED: _____

EMAIL: _____

LOCAL PHONE NUMBER: _____

MAJOR: _____ MINOR: _____

HOMETOWN: _____

CLASSIFICATION: FR SO JR SR

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12