

PSYCHOLOGY 131, 15
Introduction to Psychology
Spring 2008
Class Meeting Time: Wed 6-8:50 PM
AB-IV 302

Instructor: Mark Stonger
Office: LDB 332J
Office hours: 12-2pm Mon., or by appointment
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Course Description:

Psychology 131 is designed to provide a basic overview of psychology. Students will gain an understanding of the major theories, various subsections, and historical events in psychology. Students will also learn about the scientific process and how researchers use this method to study psychological issues.

Course Objectives:

1. Provide an overview of the scientific method and how it relates to psychology.
2. Gain an understanding of important concepts within the different areas of psychology.
3. Link psychological theories with specific theorists to understand their contributions to the field.
4. Gain an overall understanding of the multiple areas of psychology.

Required text: Nevid, J.S. (2007). *Psychology: Concepts and Applications (2nd ed.)*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Grades: You will have four regular exams and one final exam. Each of these is worth 18% of your overall grade. Regular attendance accounts for the last 10% of your grade. Regular exams will be 50 multiple choice questions. The final will be a comprehensive, fill-in-the blank exam consisting of 10 questions. You must get at least 8 out of 10 questions correct on the final or you will receive an automatic failing grade for that exam(5/10). **Exams will only be rescheduled if the student is able to provide acceptable documentation (e.g. a doctor's note) for missing the exam. If a student misses an exam it is his/her responsibility to contact the professor within 24 hours, failure to contact the professor or provide acceptable documentation for the absence will result in an automatic 0 for the exam. Make-up exams will be held during the final exam week and are all in essay form. The final exam will only be given during the time designated by the university, failure to take the final during this time will result in an automatic zero and there will be no opportunity to make up this exam.**

Class Participation: You should come to class having read and prepared to discuss the readings assigned for the week. This class will be MUCH more interesting if you have information of your own to contribute; I will be asking discussion questions during the class period to provoke thoughtful responses.

Extra Credit Opportunities: For those of you interested in extra credit, you may participate in up to 2 research opportunities/role plays for a total of 2% towards your final grade. You will need to provide written documentation of your participation (a signed consent form).

Attendance Policy: University policy states that you may miss only 3 hours of class (or ONE class period) during the course of the semester. Since this is a once a week class, attendance is crucial to your learning and subsequent success. I will take attendance every day and you will accumulate attendance points as part of your final grade. You will also be considered absent if you do not arrive for class in a timely fashion. That is to say, if you are not in your seat by 10 minutes after the hour, you will be considered absent.

Grading System: Grades will be based on your scores on 5 exams and attendance. Extra credit possibilities will be made available during the course of the semester and can add up to 2% to your final grade.

Tests:	Percentage	Grade Equivalent
Test 1=18%	90-100	A
Test 2=18%	80-90	B
Test 3=18%	70-80	C
Test 4=18%	60-70	D
Final=18%	below 60	F
Attendance=10%		

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 on Religious Holidays 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. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf

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 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 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.

*I reserve the right to make any changes to this syllabus. However, if changes are made I will inform you in a sufficient amount of time.

****Please refrain from bringing cell phones or other possible distractions to class. If I catch you texting or if your phone rings in class, I will continue the conversation and then take the phone until class is over.**

Schedule

The outline below is tentative, provided to assist you in planning. We may progress more slowly or rapidly through these topics depending upon your response. Should significant changes occur to the schedule, an updated syllabus will be provided.

Date	Topic	Corresponding Reading <i>(to be completed prior to class)</i>
1/16/08	Introduction and Methods	Syllabus; Ch. 1
1/23/08	Brain and Behavior	Ch. 2
1/30/08	Sensation and Perception; Review	Ch. 3
2/6/08	EXAM #1	
2/13/08	Consciousness	Ch. 4
2/20/08	Learning & Memory	Ch. 5 & 6
2/27/08	Thinking et al; Review	Ch. 7
3/5/08	EXAM #2	
3/12/08	SPRING BREAK-NO CLASS	
3/19/08	Motivation and Emotion; Personality	Ch. 8 & 12
3/26/08	Development; Review	Ch. 9 & 10
4/2/08	EXAM #3	
4/9/08	Gender and Sexuality	Ch. 11
4/16/08	Disorders	Ch. 13
4/23/08	Disorders; Therapy	Ch. 13 & 14
4/30/08	Social Psychology	Ch. 16
5/7/08	EXAM #4; Last Day of Class	
5/12/08	FINAL EXAM, 8-10pm	