

Introduction to Psychology

PSY 131 Sec 9

Spring 2008

T/TH 3:30-5pm

AB4 204

Instructor: Kyle Wagner

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Office Hours: MF 10-11am T/W/TH 1-2pm

Required Text: Nevid, J. (2007). *Psychology: Concepts and applications* (2nd ed).

Course Description: This class will survey the field of psychology. We will look at methodology, learning, development, psychopathology, perception, and personality, among other topics. Our goal is to examine both the theory and application of the science.

Course Objectives:

1. To become familiar with key individuals and their contributions to the field.
2. To familiarize ourselves with the terminology used in psychology.
3. To begin to understand the cognitive processes that drive our lives.
4. To grasp the methods for studying those processes.

Instructional Format: Classes will consist of lecture, group discussion, group work, and a few media presentations.

Attendance Policy: Attendance in class is expected and will be tracked. Coming to class is extremely important for any student who wishes to keep up with the course material and pass the class. Attendance will be a consideration in the case of borderline grades. For the university's full policy, please visit the following website: <http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#attend>

Exams: There will be three exams worth 100 points each, as well as a comprehensive final exam. Exams will be multiple choice, short answer, and brief essay. They will be based on class lecture and assigned readings. **Make up exams will only be given in special circumstances.** Please see me for more information. The final exam will be given at the time and place designated by the University. Please see me if you have a major conflicting issue.

Paper: You will be writing a paper. The topic of which will be distributed in class along with the specifications. It will be worth 100 points.

Class Participation: This will be worth 50 points and be determined by attendance and intelligent contribution to class discussions and demonstrations.

Grading:

Paper	100
Exam 1	100
Exam 2	100
Exam 3	100
Final Exam	150
Class Participation	50

A = 90%-100%
B = 80%-89%
C = 70%-79%
D = 60%-69%
F < 60%

Syllabus Guidelines: You may go online to find more details about the following policies.
<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 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.

The bottom line is that plagiarism WILL NOT be tolerated. The minimum penalty for plagiarism is the failing of the specific assignment.

Americans with Disabilities Act: 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 a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers 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. 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.

"Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Visitors in the Classroom: Normally, visitors are not allowed. Exemptions will be determined case by case.

Instructor Evaluations: Will be handed out at some point so you can tell everyone how you feel about me. Please take them seriously. I treat these evaluations as important feedback to help me be a better teacher.

Tentative Schedule

1-17	Introduction	CH. 1
1-22	Methods	CH. 1
1-24	Biological Foundations	CH. 2
1-29	Biological Foundations	CH. 2
1-31	S&P	CH. 3
2-5	S&P	CH. 3
2-7	Consciousness	CH. 4
2-12	Exam 1	
2-14	Learning	CH. 5
2-19	Learning (Paper assigned)	CH. 5
2-21	Memory	CH. 6
2-26	Memory	CH. 6
2-28	Thinking, Language, and Intelligence	CH. 7
3-4	Thinking, Language, and Intelligence (Paper Due)	CH. 7
3-6	Exam 2	
3-11	Spring Break	
3-13	Spring Break	
3-18	Motivation and Emotion	CH. 8
3-20	Motivation and Emotion	CH. 8
3-25	Child Development	CH. 9
3-27	Child Development	CH. 9
4-1	Adolescence and Adulthood	CH. 10
4-3	Adolescence and Adulthood	CH. 10
4-8	Gender and Sexuality	CH. 11
4-10	Gender and Sexuality	CH. 11
4-15	Personality	CH. 12
4-17	Exam 3	
4-22	Psych Disorders	CH. 13
4-24	Methods of Therapy	CH. 14
4-29	Psychology and Health	CH. 15
5-1	Social Psychology	CH. 16
5-6	Kyle's buffer	
5-8	Study and Review	
	Final Exam	