

PSYC 1301.03: INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

Fall 2017: MWF 8:00–8:50am

CHSS C090

Sam Houston State University

Department of Psychology and Philosophy

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Office Hours: 10:00am – 12:00pm on Wednesdays, and by appointment

COURSE OVERVIEW & OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to survey major themes and concepts in psychology. We will cover topics such as biological bases of behavior, the scientific method, personality theories, and social behavior. The overarching learning objectives are as follows:

1. To gain factual knowledge in the area of psychology (i.e., terminology, classifications, method, trends)
2. To develop a basic understanding of psychology as a science-based discipline
3. To learn fundamental principles of psychology (e.g., biological, personality, and social stances)
4. To develop critical thinking skills in order to assess differing theories and perspectives in psychology
5. To apply your obtained knowledge and skill set to everyday situations

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Essentials of Psychology Concepts and Applications: Jeffrey S. Nevid (5th Edition)

ISBN: 9781337598170

- You can buy this book through the school bookstore (in a bundle that includes MindTap), or just buy the digital version: <http://www.cengage.com/c/essentials-of-psychology-concepts-and-applications-5e-nevid>

MINDTAP

Mindtap is an interactive resource available through Cengage. **Please see the instructions on Blackboard (pdf and/or video) on how to sign up.** You are NOT required to complete materials through Mindtap, however, they may prove useful for study. Once you have your student account set up, you will have access to a variety of interactive material online. For example, for each of your four exams (not including your cumulative final), you will have access to online learning module and quizzes to help you. You will be able to use these quizzes to test your knowledge on each chapter covered in class so that you are able to prepare for your exams and cumulative final more effectively.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance Policy:

Regular and punctual attendance is expected for this course. ***Attendance will be taken and a record of attendance will be kept.*** If tardiness becomes a problem at any point in the semester, I

will change the way attendance is done. You may miss 0-3 classes without penalty. If you have between 0 and 3 absences (for whatever reason: medical, school activities, individual holiday, etc.), 10 points will be added to your final total...meaning, you get extra credit for just coming to class! If you miss 4 or more classes, no bonus points will be available. You do **NOT** need to notify me if you will be missing a regular class period. I do not excuse absences. If you have to be absent, it may be helpful for you to ask a peer to go over the missed material with you and/or make an appointment to meet with me outside of class for additional clarification.

Readings:

You are responsible for reading the assigned chapter *prior* to the assigned class. Further, you are responsible for all content in those chapters and additional assigned readings. Each chapter contains helpful summaries and review questions for your assistance. Again, there will also be additional information for you on Mindtap.

Exams:

There will be **4 EXAMS AND 1 FINAL** (5 EXAMS TOTAL). The first four exams will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions, and are noncumulative. The final exam during finals week is cumulative (i.e., covers the entire course), standardized across sections, and includes 100 multiple-choice questions. Each exam is worth a total of 100 points for a total of 500 points in the course. **REMEMBER to bring a Scantron to EACH exam.** One will NOT be provided for you! Scantrons are sold in the LSC Campus Bookstore and may occasionally be provided by various student or campus organizations. If you arrive late for an examination you will not be given extra time to finish the exam.

Students will be granted the privilege of taking a make-up test in cases of serious illness, death in the family, or other serious obstacles, only when appropriate documentation is submitted and approved by the department. In case of emergency, please notify me as soon as possible (preferably before the exam) in order to qualify for a make-up exam.

With that said, simply missing a test does not entitle you to take a make-up exam. You will receive a zero (0...as in no points) if you are absent for an exam. If you know you will need to be absent on an exam day, you must notify me at least **one week** before the scheduled exam. This will be **strictly** enforced. If you need to take a makeup exam, you will have only one opportunity to do so. This also means that if you are allowed a make-up exam and do not show up, you will not be allowed another one. There will be one make-up exam day at the end of the semester. **All make-up exams must be taken on Friday, December 1st from 9:00am – 10:30am.**

Research Requirement:

Participation in research or practicum experiences conducted by members of the Department of Psychology and Philosophy is a **requirement** of this class. You can satisfy this requirement by participating in research studies being conducted within the department through the PeRP System. Many different projects scheduled at various times will be available to you, but you must complete **4 hours** of participation in these activities before 5:00pm on the last day of class (Friday, December 1, 2017). I highly suggest completing this requirement as early as possible as students tend to forget and then struggle to find openings at the end of the semester!

Not fulfilling the experiential component of this course will result in a grade of “Incomplete” in this course. Incomplete grades are governed by University policies. You will need to complete the course requirements by the close of the following semester in order to receive a grade of A, B, C, or D for the course; if you do not complete the course by then, your incomplete grade will become a failing grade.

Please Note: You must be at least 18 years of age to participate in the research requirements; if you are not yet 18 years of age, please email me AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Dr. Christopher Wilson, the Department Chair, will need your parents to sign consent for you to participate in research.

More details about this requirement can be found at the departmental website: http://www.shsu.edu/~psy_web/ResearchParticipation.html. Please read the guidelines for this requirement carefully.

To set up your Psychology Research Participation (PeRP) account:

- Go to shsu.sona-systems.com
- Click the orange button on the right that says “Request Account.”
- Fill out the information and be sure to write down your user name and password, and to select the correct class section (PSYC 1301-03). *****Make sure you choose the correct section; otherwise, you will create an account under another instructor and not get credit from me.***** We are PSYC 1301 Section 03.
- Click “Request Account.”
- You should receive an email confirmation shortly after that says you have created an account.
- Then you can log in to the system and click “all studies” to see available studies and timeslots.
- If you are having any issues with the PeRP system, please contact Dr. Anastasi at JSA001@SHSU.EDU

Important Information about PeRP:

- If you sign up for a research study and do not show up you will be ***deducted*** PeRP points. This means, if you need 4 points for the class, sign up and no-show to a 2-point study, you will have -2 PeRP points and will have to now complete 6 PeRP points to receive a grade in the class.
- I am not the person who assigns your PeRP points when you complete a study. The researchers/graduate students responsible for that study will grant you your points. If you feel that you were not granted points for a study or activity that you participated in, ***contact the researcher*** (not me, because I can’t help you). Please remember that you are contacting a professional, and you should contact them with respect.
- You need to make an effort to get your PeRP points early in the semester. If you wait until the end, studies may no longer be available and you may not have any convenient chances (or any chances at all) to get your points.

Extra Credit:

A maximum amount of 15 points extra credit can be obtained for this course. You may receive 10 points for attendance (see above), or complete additional PeRP or Mindtap material.

Calculate Your Grade:

Exam 1 grade = ____/100

Exam 2 grade = ____/100

Exam 3 grade = ____/100

Exam 4 grade = ____/100

Final Exam grade = ____/100

*Don't forget to add in your extra credit points too.

Final grade in class = Your total points earned divided by 500 (total points possible)

Example: 453 (Total Points Earned) $\rightarrow (453/500 = .906) \times 100 = 90.6\%$

Grading Scale:

The final course grade rubric is as follows:

A = 89.6-100%

B = 79.6-89.5%

C = 69.6-79.5%

D = 59.6-69.5%

F = Less than 59.5%

Note: The Psychology Department does not accept grades lower than a "C" for Psychology majors.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY/RELIGIOUS DAYS/DISABILITIES POLICY

Visit <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

DROPPING THE COURSE

It is the student's responsibility to do the paperwork to drop the course. If the student stops attending class and does not officially drop the course he/she will receive an "F" for the course.

INSTRUCTOR EVALUATIONS

Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

VISITORS

If you wish to have a visitor observe class, you must clear them with me at least one week in advance.

AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDING

Recording the lecture via any electronic means is not allowed unless you have a disability that makes recording a necessity. If this is the case, please come talk to me about it and we can figure things out to best help you learn in class.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

1. **Please turn off (silence) all cell phones!** Please put all devices away before class and do not take them out for the remainder of the period.
2. **Be on time.** Punctuality is important in the real world, and people walking in late distracts the class from the lecture material.
3. **No side conversation.** Please be respectful of those around you and keep conversations to class discussions and course material. If your side conversation becomes distracting or disruptive, you will be asked to leave for the remainder of the class period.
4. **Please be respectful toward classmates and myself.** While I am generally laidback and informal, I do take discrimination and disrespect seriously. Please keep this in mind when expressing opinions pertaining to course discussion.
5. **E-mail guidelines.** I welcome your e-mails, so please feel free to send me any content-related questions you may have at any time. Please observe the following guidelines:
 - a. Consult the course syllabus before contacting me.
 - b. I try my best to return emails quickly, but do not email me right before class and expect a quick response. I also will not respond immediately to emails sent after 5pm or on weekends/holidays.
 - c. I cannot discuss your grade over e-mail. Questions about exams, grades, or your performance should be addressed in person during office hours.
6. **Laptops.** I will allow students to take notes on their computers as long as it does not become a problem. As soon as I begin to feel that the computers are becoming a distraction, **the entire class will lose the privilege of computers in class.** You are responsible for your own learning. I recommend handwriting notes if using a computer in class will become too much of a temptation.

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours are on Wednesdays from 10:00am to 12:00pm, or by appointment. I not only welcome you to stop by, but encourage it as well! I ask that you please send me an email ahead of time if you plan on coming by in case there are any conflicts. Additionally, I understand these times may conflict with your schedule, and I will work with you to make an appointment for a time that works for both of us, if necessary.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Changes in Schedule:

This schedule will serve as an outline. I reserve the right to make changes as needed; however, I will notify you as far in advance as possible should changes be necessary.

Meeting Date	Lecture Topic/Description	Readings Due
W – 8/23	Introduction to the Course	Syllabus
F – 8/25	The Science of Psychology	Chapter 1
M – 8/28	The Science of Psychology	Chapter 1
W – 8/30	NO CLASS	
F – 9/1	NO CLASS	
M – 9/4	NO CLASS (Labor Day)	
W – 9/6	The Biological Foundations of Behavior	Chapter 2
F – 9/8	The Biological Foundations of Behavior	Chapter 2
M – 9/11	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 3
W – 9/13	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 3
F – 9/15	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 3
M – 9/18	EXAM 1: Chapters 1, 2, 3 – BRING A SCANTRON!	
W – 9/20	Learning	Chapter 5
F – 9/22	Learning	Chapter 5
M – 9/25	Learning	Chapter 5
W – 9/27	Memory	Chapter 6
F – 9/29	Memory	Chapter 6
M – 10/2	Memory	Chapter 6
W – 10/4	Motivation and Emotion	Chapter 8
F – 10/6	Motivation and Emotion	Chapter 8
M – 10/9	Motivation and Emotion	Chapter 8
W – 10/11	EXAM 2: Chapters 5, 6, 8 – BRING A SCANTRON!	
F – 10/13	Human Development	Chapter 9
M – 10/16	Human Development	Chapter 9

W – 10/18	Human Development	Chapter 9
F – 10/20	Personality	Chapter 11
M – 10/23	Personality	Chapter 11
W – 10/25	Personality	Chapter 11
F – 10/27	Social Psychology	Chapter 12
M – 10/30	Social Psychology	Chapter 12
W – 11/1	Social Psychology	Chapter 12
F – 11/3	EXAM 3: Chapters 9, 11, 12 – BRING A SCANTRON!	
M – 11/6	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 13
W – 11/8	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 13
F – 11/10	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 13
M – 11/13	Methods of Therapy	Chapter 14
W – 11/15	Methods of Therapy	Chapter 14
F – 11/17	Methods of Therapy	Chapter 14
M – 11/20	EXAM 4: Chapters 13 & 14 – BRING A SCANTRON!	
W – 11/22	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)	
F – 11/24	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)	
M – 11/27	Final Exam Review Day	
W – 11/29	Final Exam Review Day	
F – 12/1	Final Exam Review Day	
M – 12/4	FINAL EXAM (ALL CHAPTERS) 8:00AM – 10:00AM – BRING A SCANTRON!	