

**Honors Introductory Psychology**  
**(PSYC 1301-08)**  
**3 Credit Hours**  
**Fall 2017**

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**Instructor:** Justin Allen Ph.D., NCSP  
**E-mail:** Justin.Allen@SHSU.EDU  
**Office Hours:** M 5:00-6:00 pm  
Th 9:30-11:30 am or by appt.

**Office Location:** CHSS 323  
**Phone:** 936-294-1177  
**Class Time:** Mondays, 6:00-8:50 pm  
**Class Location:** CHSS 242A

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**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.

**Textbook:** Ciccarelli, S.K. & White J.N. (2015) *Psychology* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: Pearson

**Student Learning Objectives:** Students successfully completing this course will

1. gain factual knowledge in psychology (i.e., terminology, classifications, method, trends)
2. develop a basic understanding of psychology as a science-based discipline
3. learn fundamental principles of psychology (e.g., biological, personality, and social stances) including the ability to identify and explain
  - a. how our environment influences behavior.
  - b. how the anatomy and physiology of the brain influences behavior.
  - c. differences between maturation, learning, and development.
  - d. the ways in which our behaviors change when we have an audience.
  - e. the various types of abnormal behaviors and the various approaches to treatment.
4. develop critical thinking skills to assess differing theories and perspectives in psychology
5. apply their obtained knowledge and skill set to everyday situations

**Grading Procedures:** This course will include four exams and one presentation. The four exams will together compose 75% of the course grade while the presentation will make up the final 25% of the course grade. Class attendance and participation will be considered in terms of borderline grade situations. Including the final, there will be four exams during the semester. This final exam, which will have the same weight as the other three exams, will consist of two parts: the final unit exam and a comprehensive exam. The comprehensive portion will automatically be used in calculating the score of students with excessive absences. For those students who have less than three hours of absences, the comprehensive portion will be included if, and only if, it improves their final score. All exams must be taken to receive credit for the course.

**Missed Assignments & Assessments:** Assignments and assessments that are missed due to an unexcused absence are recorded as a zero. Students who know that they will miss a class will need to discuss the absence with the instructor ahead of time. Excusals are made on a case by case basis. Students who did not obtain prior approval from the instructor but who wish to complete a missed assignment or assessment will need to obtain documentation of excusal from the Dean of Students office.

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A= 89.50 to 100	D= 59.5 to 69.49
B= 79.50 to 89.49	F = 59.49 and below
C= 69.50 to 79.49	

**Presentation:** Students are required to complete one in-class presentation. The presentation is expected to be in poster form. The topic selected for presentation must be pre-approved by the instructor. Suggested topics include, but are not limited to the following

- A deeper exploration of a psychology-related profession. (see appendix B for topic suggestions)
- An in-depth exploration of a common psychological misconception.
- A further exploration of a psychological topic (e.g. area, disorder, phenomenon).
- Psychological applications within your chosen profession. For example, if you are studying to be a nurse, how might you use information from psychology to help you become a better nurse.

You must submit your topic for approval on or before October 2, 2017 and present your presentation on November 27, 2017. This presentation will constitute 25% of your grade.

**Research Participation:** 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 in the department. Many different projects scheduled at various times will be available to you, but you must complete **4 hours** of participation in these activities before 5:00 PM on the last day of class. 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 an “Incomplete” grade in this course. University policies dictate that the course requirements must be completed by the following semester to receive a grade of A, B, C, or D for the course. Failing to complete the course requirements by the end of the following semester will result in a failing grade for the course.**

**Please Note:** You must be at least 18 years of age to participate in the research requirement; if you are not yet 18 years of age, please contact AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Dr. Christopher Wilson, the Department Chair, and I will discuss each case on an individual basis.

More details about this requirement can be found at the departmental website:  
[http://www.shsu.edu/~psy\\_web/ResearchParticipation.html](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 [www.shsu.edu](http://www.shsu.edu)
- Type in: “perp” in the search bar at the top right-hand side of the page.
- Click on first link that says “Department of Psychology Grad Program.”
- Click on the PeRP link (this is highlighted in Orange).
- Click on New Participant- Request A New Account (located in the lower left-hand corner of the page).
- Fill out the information and be sure to **write down your user name and password**, and to select the **correct class section (Section 08)**.
- Click Request Account. ***\*\*Make sure you choose the correct section; otherwise, you will create an account under another instructor and not get credit from in this course.\*\****
- 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 time slots.

- If you are having any issues with the PeRP system, please contact Dr. Anastasi at JSA001@SHSU.EDU

**Attendance Policy:** Since tests items will include information from the readings and lectures, attendance is expected. Though I do not follow a “failure due to absences” policy, I do keep a record of attendance which is used in cases of borderline grades or extra credit. Excessive absenteeism, as defined by three or more absences, will negate any extra-credit points. Upon the third (class hour) absence, all extra-credit points are forfeited. Keep in mind that student attendance is strongly and positively correlated with the final course grade.

**Student Conduct:** Students may find the University’s Code of Student Conduct and Discipline at the following web link: <https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>  
Section 5.2.22 describes classroom disturbances, specifically students will need to observe the following classroom guidelines

1. Make every effort to arrive to class on time.
2. Do not engage in behaviors that disturb others or unnecessarily disrupt the class.
3. Notify the instructor ahead of time if you need to miss class or leave early.
4. Silence all electronic devices. Electronic devices are only to be used for instructionally related purposes.
  - Any use of a telephone, pager, or text messenger or any device that performs these functions during an assessment is prohibited. These devices should be stored securely and in such a way that they cannot be seen or used by the student. *Even the visible presence of such a device during the test period will result in a zero for that test.* Use of these devices during a test is considered de facto evidence of cheating and may result in a charge of academic dishonesty (see student code of conduct <http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/StudentGuidelines2010-2012.pdf#page=29>).
  - If students require an electronic device due to an emergency, the student will need to inform the instructor ahead of time, place the device on silent or vibrate mode, and place himself/herself in a seat near the door where an exit for a phone call would cause only minimal disruptions. Other arrangements for handling potential emergency situations may be granted at the discretion of the instructor.
5. If you fail an exam, schedule an appointment to meet with the instructor.

## **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 should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail [disability@shsu.edu](mailto:disability@shsu.edu)). 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 Services for Students with Disabilities 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 Services for Students with Disabilities. All the information you need can be located here: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/disability/>

For additional information about university guidelines involving classroom visitors and academic dishonesty please visit <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

**Emergency Planning:** If campus must close due to an emergency scenario (e.g. severe weather, electrical outage, active shooter) please refer to the KATSAFE website at <https://www.shsu.edu/dept/public-safety/upd/emergency-protocols.html> to obtain campus updates. If campus closes, we will not meet for the disrupted period, but will, calendar permitting, resume the course after the campus reopens.

**Instructor Evaluations:** Towards the end of the semester, students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation using the IDEA system. When constructing courses or lectures I often reflect on feedback provided from previous students. Therefore, students are encouraged to be complete and honest in their evaluations. Constructive feedback in the open-ended section of the evaluation form is especially appreciated. IDEA is the faculty evaluation system used at SHSU.

### **Important dates for all courses at SHSU:**

First day of fall semester: August 23, 2017

Last day to drop a course without a "Q": September 8, 2017

Last day of class: November 27, 2017

Final Exam: (Tentative) Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup> 8:30-10:30 pm

## Course Schedule

Date	Lecture Topic	Chapter
08/28	Course Introduction & The Science of Psychology	1
09/04	No Class - Labor Day	
09/11	The Science of Psychology & The Biological Perspective	1 & 2
09/18	Sensation and Perception	3
<i>EXAM 1 – September 25 (Chapters 1-3)</i>		
09/25	Consciousness	4
<i>*Presentation Topics Due* - October 02</i>		
10/02	Learning	5
10/09	Memory	6
10/16	Development Across the Lifespan	8
<i>EXAM 2 – October 23 (Chapters 4, 5, 6, 8)</i>		
10/23	Motivation and Emotion	9
10/30	Social Psychology	12
11/06	Theories of Personality	13
<i>EXAM 3 – November 13 (Chapters 9, 12, 13)</i>		
11/13	Psychological Disorders	14
11/20	Psychological Therapies	15
11/27	Special Topic & Presentations	
12/04	<i>FINAL EXAM 8:30-10:30 pm Chapters (14-15 &amp; Comprehensive)</i>	

**\*\*\*\*This schedule is subject to change as the needs of the class become apparent\*\*\*\***

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**Instructor Biography:** Dr. Allen earned his Ph.D. at the University of Kansas in School Psychology with a minor in Quantitative Methodology. Prior to joining the faculty at Sam Houston State University, he worked in the Leavenworth public school district in Leavenworth, KS as well as at the National Center for Response to Intervention (Consortium) at the University of Kansas. Additional information can be found at [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Justin\\_Allen6](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Justin_Allen6)