

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
Department of Psychology and Philosophy

**PSYC 1301: Intro to Psychology**  
Spring 2018: Tu/Th 3:30 – 4:50 PM  
CHSS Room C090

Instructor: Samantha Holdren

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Office Hours: 2:30 – 3:30 PM on Tuesdays, and by appointment

**Course Description:**

Why are people superstitious? Why do people blush when they are embarrassed? What is intelligence (and are IQ tests a good way to measure it)? Why don't psychopaths feel guilty when they harm others? How reliable are childhood memories? Why do we laugh? Do violent video games make people act violently? How do we choose whom to sleep with, date, or marry? How does stress affect our body? While questions like these have been asked for centuries, psychology has begun to provide answers to these--and other questions about the human mind--by applying the tools of scientific investigation.

In this course you will receive a broad introduction to the science of psychology: from the history of the field and its major advances, to the latest research on topics such as perception, memory, intelligence, morality, sexuality, mental illness, religion, language, and creativity. You will also learn about the tools and methods psychologists use to investigate the mind, such as observing how the mind of a child changes and develops over time, looking at people across cultures, measuring brain activity, and experimentally manipulating everything from the shape of a figure presented on a computer screen, to the smell of a room, or the attractiveness of the experimenter.

Because the field is so vast, we will not cover everything, and we will not be able to go into a lot of depth on any particular topic—that will be the work of later psychology courses, should you choose to take them. The main goals of this course are to acquaint you with the different areas contained within psychology, to provide you with some of the major concepts of each area, and to teach you how to think like psychologists.

**Learning 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 by Jeffrey S. Nevid (5th Edition)

ISBN-10: 1-305-96415-2

ISBN-13: 978-1-305-96415-0

- 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.

**Readings:** You are responsible for reading the assigned sections *prior* to the assigned class. Further, you are responsible for all content in those readings as well as the information presented during class. Each chapter contains helpful summaries and review questions for your assistance.

**Attendance Policy:** Regular and punctual attendance is expected for this course. *Per University policy, attendance will be taken and a record of attendance will be kept.* You may miss 0-3 classes without penalty. If you have between 0 and 3 absences (for whatever reason: medical, school activities, individual holiday, a day of self-care, etc.) 5 extra credit 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.

**Note:** You do *not* need to notify me if you will be missing a regular class period. I do not excuse absences.

**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.

**Exams:** There will be **4 EXAMS AND 1 FINAL** (5 EXAMS TOTAL), with each non-final exam consisting of 50 multiple-choice questions. Each exam is worth a total of 100 points. The first four exams are non-cumulative. The final exam during finals week is cumulative (i.e., covers the entire course), and includes 100 multiple-choice questions. Thus, there are 500 points total in the course.

**Note:** All five of your exams (4 exams and the final) will require Scantron sheets. YOU must provide these for yourself. Scantrons are sold in the LSC Campus Bookstore and may occasionally be provided by various student or campus organizations.

**REMEMBER to bring a Scantron to EACH exam. One will NOT be provided for you!**

Simply missing a test does not entitle the student to take a make-up exam. You will receive a zero (0) if you are absent for an 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. Also, you should notify me by email as soon as possible (preferably before the exam) in order to qualify for a make-up exam. If you know you will need to be absent on an exam day, you must notify me **1 week** before the scheduled exam. This will be **strictly** enforced. Students are only permitted to make-up an exam once; therefore, if you are allowed a make-up exam and don't show, you will not be allowed another one. **All make-up exams must be taken on Thursday, May 3.**

**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 5:00 PM on Friday, December 8th. 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. Anastasi 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/www/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](http://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 receive 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 time slots
- 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).
- 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.

### **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 percentage grade = Your total points earned divided by 500 (total points possible)

Example = 423 (Total points) =  $(423/500 = .846) \times 100 = 84.6\%$

**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.

Extra credit will be awarded for attendance, as well as through opportunities I will present throughout the semester. The total amount of extra credit you earn is added to the total number of points you have accumulated during the semester, NOT as a percentage amount. From the example above, if that student earned 10 points of extra credit, they would calculate their grade as follows:

$$423 \text{ (total points)} + 10 = 433$$
$$433/500 = .866 \times 100 = 86.6\%$$

You do not add the extra credit as percentage points. An 84.6% will NOT become a 94.6% with 10 points of extra credit.

**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. If you use your phone in class, you will be asked to leave that class session.
2. **Be on time.** Punctuality is important in the real world, and people walking in late distracts from the lecture material.
3. **No side conversations.** Please be respectful of those around you and keep conversations limited to class discussion and course material. Should side conversations become a distraction for other students, those engaging in such conversations will be asked to leave that class session.
4. **Please be respectful toward classmates and myself.** While I am generally laidback and informal, I take discrimination and disrespect seriously and will not tolerate either towards myself or classmates. 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. However, due to the large class size, I ask you to observe the following guidelines:
  - a. I try my best to return emails quickly, but do not email me right before class and expect a quick response. I will return emails within 24 hours during the class week, but may not respond immediately to emails received after 5pm, on weekends/holidays, or at 3am the day of a test.
  - b. Questions about exam grades or your performance in the class should be addressed in person and not by e-mail; however, do not take up other students'

- time by asking questions about your personal performance during class time. Please save that for office hours. I cannot discuss your grade over e-mail.
- c. Consult the course syllabus and classmates for clarification on assignments before contacting me.
  - d. I have already stated this, but do NOT email me to inform me that you won't be attending a regular lecture class session because I cannot help you. Lecture PowerPoints will be posted on Blackboard prior to class and if you need further information you can obtain notes from classmates, find information from your book, or make an appointment to meet with me outside of class.
  - e. Social networking sites. Contact through social networking sites is considered inappropriate for the teacher-student dynamic. Once the semester has ended and grades are turned in, I welcome the opportunity to keep up with former students as they continue their studies.
6. Laptops...I understand that many people prefer to take notes on their computers. However, laptops may also be distracting not only for you but for the people around you. It becomes hard to teach when I notice many students fixated on their computer screens because they are on Facebook, Twitter, Netflix, etc. In addition, students behind you may become distracted. Therefore, I will allow students to take notes on their computers so 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 using 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 2:30 – 3:30 PM on Tuesdays, and 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 will work with you to make an appointment for a time that works for both of us, if necessary.

## **Academic Dishonesty/Religious Days/Disabilities Policy:**

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

## **Changes in Schedule**

The class schedule is provided on Blackboard and will serve as an outline. I reserve the right to make changes as needed; for example, there may be additions of guest lectures, review days etc. I will notify you as far in advance as possible should changes be necessary.