

PSYC 1301.04: Introduction to Psychology

MWF 8:00-8:50am, Spring 2018

CHSS Room C090

Department of Psychology and Philosophy
College of Humanities and Social Sciences

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Office Hours: Wednesday 9:00-11:00am, and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND 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 learner 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 5th edition, Jeffrey S. Nevid

- ISBN: 9781337598170

MINDTAP

The textbook required for this course comes with access to Cengage's MindTap. This is an online resource that you can use as a study tool. MindTap includes sample test questions, flash cards, and practice quizzes. It is a useful tool for studying or for students who are interested in delving further into specific topics, however there are no required assignments or homework. Two extra credit assignments will be offered from MindTap, so it may be useful to figure out early in the semester.

A guide to help you get started with MindTap is available here:

http://embed.widencdn.net/pdf/plus/cengage/ahe9vip2p3/gui_mt-bb-stu-quick-guide.pdf?u=c8lcjz

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.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY/RELIGIOUS DAYS/DISABILITIES POLICY

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

I do not tolerate cheating. If I suspect you are cheating on an exam, I will take your test and grade it as is.

INSTRUCTOR EVALUATIONS

Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester as well as small evaluations after the tests to ensure that the class is running smoothly.

VISITORS

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

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance is expected. Attendance will be taken and a record of attendance will be kept. Of course, students must certainly sometimes be absent for various legitimate reasons. Therefore, you may miss up to 3 classes without penalty (i.e., you missed zero days, one day, two days, or three days total). If you have between 0 and 3 absences (for whatever reason: medical, school activities, individual holiday, a day of meditation, etc.) 5 points will be added to your final total...meaning, you get extra credit for just coming to class! 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, be sure you have arranged for a peer to obtain your materials for you. If you miss 4 or more classes, no bonus points will be available.

If you have to be absent for whatever reason, you may be tempted to have a friend sign you in. If I catch you doing this, you and your friend will become ineligible for the five extra credit points. While this may seem unlikely, I perform regular audits of the attendance records and have caught people in the past. Remember, you can miss up to three classes and still get the points, so don't make yourself lose out on this opportunity.

Additionally, if it becomes apparent that people are signing in and leaving class, the entire class will lose eligibility for these points.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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.

Depending on trending/current events in the media, supplemental readings may be assigned. Those will be assigned and posted to Blackboard as appropriate.

Exams

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

Missed Exams

Simply missing a test does not entitle the student to take a makeup exam. You will receive a zero (0) if you are absent for an exam. The following guidelines will be **strictly enforced** for missed exams, so please do your best to not miss any. Additionally, students are only allowed to make up 1 exam. Therefore, if you miss multiple exams, you will receive zeroes on the additional exams missed.

- If you know you will be absent on an exam day, you should notify me at least 1 class day before the scheduled exam. This is typically cases such as a serious/chronic illness or a death in the family. If you do not tell me beforehand, you have **24 hours** following the exam time to notify me of your missed exam and your intent to attend the make-up day.
- If an emergency occurs and you are unable to make it to the exam (i.e., car broke down, apartment flooding, or other serious obstacles), you have **24 hours** following the scheduled exam time to notify me. If you do not email me within 24 hours of the missed exam, you will not be able to make-up the exam, and will receive a zero.

There will be ONE make-up test day on 5/2 during our regularly scheduled class hour. If you missed an exam, and emailed me within the **24 hours** of missing the exam, you will be able to take the test on this day. If you did not email me within 24 hours, you will not be able to make up the test and will receive a zero. This day is for missed exams only and does not apply to students who want to re-take a test for a higher grade.

Research Requirement

Participation in research conducted by members of the Department of Psychology and Philosophy is a **requirement** of this class. **It is not extra credit but a part of the course.** You can satisfy this requirement by participating in research studies being conducted in the

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.

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 (Friday, May 4th, 2018). I HIGHLY recommend getting these completed early in the semester, as they tend to fill up towards the end. If there are not studies available, then you will not receive the hours.

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 me via personal contact, email or phone AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Dr. James Crosby, the interim 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_www/ResearchParticipation.html. Please read the guidelines for this requirement carefully.

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

- Go to 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 and within the text of the page on the right hand side).
- 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 (_04_).
- Click Request Account. ****Make sure you choose the correct section; otherwise, you will create an account under another instructor and not get credit from me.****
- 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**

Fun Facts 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 participate in, contact the researcher (not me, I can't give you points).
- I am also not the person who runs PeRP. If you have any issues with your account, contact Dr. Anastasi at JSA001@shsu.edu. I cannot answer any PeRP specific questions, as I did not make PeRP and do not run the program.

- 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

If you email me asking for your grade in the class or what you need to make on the next test(s) in order to get a [insert desired grade here], I will email you the calculator below. If you visit me in my office, I will be more than happy to go through this with you based on your individual grades!

Exam 1 Grade = ____/100

Exam 2 Grade = ____/100

Exam 3 Grade = ____/100

Exam 4 Grade = ____/100

Final Exam Grade = ____/100

Overall Class Grade = **Your total points** (Exam 1 Grade + Exam 2 Grade + Exam 3 Grade + Exam 4 Grade + Final Exam Grade) **divided by 500** (total points possible)

Example:

Say we're three tests in and you want to know what you need to make on the next two tests to get a B. Currently, your grades are:

Exam 1 grade = 64/100

Exam 2 grade = 78/100

Exam 3 grade = 85/100

Exam 4 grade = ____/100

Final Exam grade = ____/100

Currently, you have 227 points in the course (64+78+85). Out of the possible 300, you have 227, which means you have a 75.6 (227/300). This is a C in the course.

To make a B in the course, you would need 398/500 total points. To get 398 points (398-227), you would need to make 171 points on the next two exams. That means, you would need to get an 85.5 on the next two exams to get a B.

Grading Scale

The final course grade rubric is as follows:

A = 89.6-100% (448-500 total points)

B = 79.6-89.5% (398-447.5 total points)

C = 69.6-79.5% (348-397.5 total points)

D = 59.6-69.5% (298-347.5 total points)

F = Less than 59.5% (297.5 total points or less)

*Grades will be rounded to the nearest tenth of a whole number (e.g., 96.49 to 96.5).

Note: The psychology department does not accept grades lower than a “C” for psychology majors.

Additionally, I do not “bump” grades or offer any extra credit beyond what is outlined in the syllabus.

Extra Credit

Beyond the 5 points of extra credit for attendance, I offer 10 extra credit points for the completion of two writing assignments in MindTap (5 points each; 15 points total). The first is the writing exercise in Chapter 5 on Operant Conditioning, which is due on or before the second exam (7:59am on 3/29). The second is Chapter 11 Personality, due on or before the date of the fourth exam (7:59am on 4/30). If you fail to submit the exercise by the deadlines listed then extra credit will not be counted. Additionally, points will be granted on the quality of your submission, so please try your best. You are more than welcome to submit your assignments before the deadline and ask for my feedback, then resubmit before the deadline.

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours are on Wednesdays from 9:00-11:00am 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 will work with you to make an appointment for a time that works for both of us, if necessary. If this is the case, please email me.

CLASS ROOM ETIQUETTE

1. Turn off cell phones, tablets, or any other electronic devices/notifications that may be distracting before we begin class. Please put all devices away before class and do not take them out for the remainder of the period.
2. Laptops. I allow laptops to take notes, but please try to keep distractions to a minimum. If you are using your computer, please silence it. It is incredibly embarrassing to have Spotify or a video you’re watching on Facebook start playing in class (obviously, this will never happen and you all will pay attention during lecture).
3. Be on time. It’s disruptive when students enter after we have started lecture. I know that parking is tough, but please leave yourself enough time to get to class.
4. No side conversation. Talking during a lecture is not only distracting but inconsiderate of those around you trying to listen.
5. Be respectful. 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.
6. Eating/snacking. Feel free to eat or drink waters/sodas in class, but PLEASE clean up after yourselves. If this becomes a problem then I will no longer allow it.
7. E-mail guidelines.
 - a. Questions about exams, grades, or your performance 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.

- b. Consult the course syllabus and classmates for clarification on assignments before contacting me. If the answer is in the syllabus, I'm just going to email you an attachment of the syllabus.
- c. I will attempt to return e-mails within 24 hours during the class week. However, I will not respond immediately to e-mails received after 5 pm or on weekends/holidays.
- d. There is no need to email me to let me know you won't be able to attend lecture. Lecture outlines will be posted on Blackboard prior to class and if you need further information, you should be able to consult the book, MindTap, classmates, or request an appointment to meet with me.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Changes in Schedule

This schedule 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.

Meeting Date	Lecture Topic/Description	Readings Due
W – 1/17	Introduction to the Course	Syllabus
F – 1/19	The Science of Psychology	Chapter 1
M – 1/22	The Science of Psychology	Chapter 1
W – 1/24	The Biological Foundations of Behavior	Chapter 2
F – 1/26	The Biological Foundations of Behavior	Chapter 2
M – 1/29	The Biological Foundations of Behavior	Chapter 2
W – 1/31	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 3
F – 2/2	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 3
M – 2/5	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 3
W – 2/7	EXAM REVIEW (Bring specific questions you have!)	
F – 2/9	EXAM 1: Chapters 1, 2, 3 – BRING A SCANTRON!	
M – 2/12	Learning	Chapter 5
W – 2/14	Learning	Chapter 5
F – 2/16	Learning	Chapter 5
M – 2/19	Learning	Chapter 5
W – 2/21	Memory	Chapter 6
F – 2/23	Memory	Chapter 6

M – 2/26	Memory	Chapter 6
W – 2/28	Motivation and Emotion	Chapter 8
F – 3/2	Motivation and Emotion	Chapter 8
M – 3/5	Motivation and Emotion	Chapter 8
W – 3/7	EXAM REVIEW (Bring specific questions you have!)	
F – 3/9	EXAM 2: Chapters 5, 6, 8 – BRING A SCANTRON!	
M – 3/12	NO CLASS (Spring Recess)	
W – 3/14	NO CLASS (Spring Recess)	
F – 3/16	NO CLASS (Spring Recess)	
M – 3/19	Human Development	Chapter 9
W – 3/21	Human Development	Chapter 9
F – 3/23	Human Development	Chapter 9
M – 3/26	Personality	Chapter 11
W – 3/28	Personality	Chapter 11
F – 3/30	NO CLASS (Good Friday)	
M – 4/2	Personality	Chapter 11
W – 4/4	Social Psychology	Chapter 12
F – 4/6	Social Psychology	Chapter 12
M – 4/9	Social Psychology	Chapter 12
W – 4/11	EXAM REVIEW (Bring specific questions you have!)	
F – 4/13	EXAM 3: Chapters 9, 11, 12 – BRING A SCANTRON!	
M – 4/16	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 13
W – 4/18	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 13
F – 4/20	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 13
M – 4/23	Methods of Therapy	Chapter 14
W – 4/25	Methods of Therapy	Chapter 14
F – 4/27	EXAM REVIEW (Bring specific questions you have!)	
M – 4/30	EXAM 4: Chapters 9, 11, 12 – BRING A SCANTRON!	
W - 5/2	Final Exam Review Day	
F – 5/4	Make-Up Test Day (ONLY for people who have contacted)	

M – 5/7	FINAL EXAM 8:00-10:00am
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