

**PSYC 1301-06 &07 INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY**  
**Spring 2018 Syllabus**

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**Course Schedule:** exclusively online (January 17- May 9, 2018)

**Office Hours:** M-Th 12:00-2:00 PM via cell phone or skype. I am available to meet in person by appointment only.

**Department Chair:** Christopher Wilson, Ph.D.

**Required Materials:**

1. Textbook: Myers, David G. (2013) *Exploring Psychology: in Modules*, 9<sup>th</sup> Ed. Worth Publishers.
2. Print ISBN-10: 1464108412 or ISBN-13: 978-1464108419.
3. Dedicated computer/internet access daily. A smart phone, ipad, chromebook is insufficient.
4. Respondus Browser: A link is provided in Blackboard. This is a free program.

**Optional/Strongly Encouraged:** Blackboard App which sends you reminders about due dates on smart phone.

**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.

**Course Objectives:**

By the end of the semester, the students will be able to do the following:

1. Describe both historical developments and current theoretical perspectives prominent in the field of psychology
2. Identify terminology unique to the study of psychology
3. Describe experimental methods used by psychologists in the study of behavior and mental processes
4. Demonstrate familiarity with the domains of theory and research in psychology to include: biopsychology, sensation and perception, learning, development, intelligence, memory, consciousness and psychological health and disorders.
5. Explain the process of how psychologists critically analyze data to protect against bias and to contribute to contemporary theory in an objective and parsimonious manner.

**Credit:** 3 Credit hours

**Contacting Me:** I can be reached via e-mail for most issues. I usually respond to e-mails within 24 hours of receipt. I do not have a campus office; however, we can set up conference calls. Please post questions you have about the course content (lectures, study guides, etc.) in the “HELP?>! Discussion Board” on Blackboard. This enables other students to view questions and answers.

If you need immediate assistance with non-grade related questions, text me at 713-701-7792. If it involves missing assignments, missed points, exams, etc., put write your request in an email. Texting is temporary, but I keep emails throughout the semester.

For technical support assistance, you can speak with a technician by calling the Help Desk at 936-294-1950 or SHSU online at 936-294-2780. Pay attention to the “announcements” on Blackboard. Any extensions of assignment, quiz or exam timeframes will be posted here and in virtual office. Check it every 48 hours.

**Student Conduct and Discipline**

5.1 Each student is expected to be fully acquainted and comply with all published policies, rules, and regulations of the Component and of The Texas State University System... Students are also expected to comply with all federal and state laws.

5.2 Student Misconduct. Each student is expected to act in a manner consistent with the component's functions as an educational institution, including off campus conduct that is likely to have an adverse effect on the component or on the educational process.

5.3 Academic Honesty. "The University expects all students 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." Subsection 5.31 notes the University and its official representatives, acting in accordance with Subsection 5.32, "may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials." If you are caught engaging in any form of academic dishonesty outlined in policy 5.31, I reserve the right to fail you on the assignment and the course. Please, please don't plagiarize or cheat. I really hate failing students. On written assignments, I typically use turnitin.com to assess for the degree to which your written work is academic work. Additional details about the code of conduct can be found at: <https://netreg.shsu.edu/mirror/codeofconduct.html>

**Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy**

1.01 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. 1.02 "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, United States Tax Code. Students who shall miss assignments due to a holy day should contact me prior to missing work to arrange a possible extension. Additional details can be found at: <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/0953c7d0-7c04-4b29-a3fc-3bf0738e87d8.pdf>

**Class Attendance Policy**

1.01 "Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student at Sam Houston State University." What does this mean online? You should "attend" class on Blackboard by logging into our class daily to check for announcements or schedule changes. I monitor the frequency of your log-ins and participation online as well as the timeliness of your assessment submissions.

**Students with Disabilities Policy**

The university adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. 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. Additional details regarding the policy may be found at: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

Any student with a disability that affects his/her academic performance should contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities in the SHSU Counseling Center (Lee Drain Building, North Annex), telephone 936-294-3512 or TDD 936-294-3786. After meeting with the Disability Office, inform me of your needs by providing your written accommodation form. This will ensure appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. If you have never been formally identified as having a disability, but suspect you may have one, I encourage you to contact the Disability Office as soon as possible. No accommodation can be made unless you have formal accommodations per the Disability Office.

## **DR. CANTU'S COURSE POLICIES**

### **Classroom Conduct, Participation, and Reading**

We strive for interesting discussions online; however, students may not be disrespectful towards others. For example, derogatory comments based on race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation, or nationality will not be tolerated. Students are responsible for reading all chapters by the appropriate date. Class assignments are based on the student's independent reading of the chapters. Online participation in the form of submitting assignments, completing exams, and exchanging emails is required. Strong online participation will be helpful if you are a couple points shy of your desired final grade.

### **Missed Work**

Students are responsible for completing assignments by due dates. Make-up work will not be given without a compelling reason (i.e., medical or family emergency) that can be documented (in writing). If you are permitted to make up work, it must be done during finals week. You can always complete work early, if you are planning on being out of town. Incomplete final grades are rarely given and will not be provided absent a very good excuse. Additionally, the university requires a written contract related to the work and the proposed completion timeline. If you cannot complete the course due to a family death, provide written documentation of the loss.

### **Internet Policy**

Each semester I have students who report their assignments were interrupted due to internet problems. We can avoid many of these crises by reviewing some tips below. Please be aware I have the discretion to allow you to complete interrupted assignments. When there are internal glitches in Blackboard, I typically am aware of those and offer re-dos to those affected. If your problem is unique, I consider the circumstances. Here is a list of expectations I have of you:

First, it is your responsibility to conduct work in a place with dedicated access on either a desktop or laptop. Work completed on tablets and smart phones often result in service disruption, which kicks you out of the system. Please do not use a tablet or smart phone for assignments. Many assignments have a large time frame, so complete work when you know you have dedicated internet. Secondly, it is your responsibility to conduct work at a time when you are free from distractions (e.g., after work, after kids are asleep, when you are prepared to do well, etc.). Assessments have a time limit, and each exam or quiz will submit your attempt once the time limit expires. Next, you are also responsible for having the best browser (I recommend Firefox) and deleting cookies often. It may seem silly, but online learning platforms are sensitive to browser settings. Finally, keep in mind that when you report internet problems, I can review your online access in the class (e.g., when you logged in, how long you stayed on a page or assignment, whether you saved it, and your IP address). Please do not misrepresent the truth as there is an internet trail. I am much more apt to help you if you are forthcoming about difficulties managing responsibilities than I am if you report fraudulent work attempts.

If you have any difficulty "seeing" class modules (e.g., Exam 1 material), contact the Blackboard help team first. It is likely this is a problem with your account. If you fail to see an assignment (e.g., Chapter 1 Quiz) that should be there and you can see the rest of the page, send me an email as the link may be inactive. If you are trying to complete work after the due date, it will no longer be visible.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR POINTS

Syllabus Quiz	5 points	5 points
Exams (50 questions)	100 points each x 5 exams	500 points
Final Exam (not cumulative)	100 points x 1 final exam	100 points
Chapter Quizzes (10 MC questions)	10 points x 32 quizzes	320 points
Discussions	15 points x 5 discussions	<u>75 points</u>
		1000 total points possible

## GRADE CALCULATIONS

895-1000	90-100%	A
795-894	80-89	B
695-794	70-79	C
595-694	60-69	D
0-594	below 60%	F

Grades will be posted on Blackboard as soon as they become available. Final point totals may be curved at the end of the semester (10 points or less) based on the level of participation (frequency of log-ins, completed assignments, discussion postings and communication with professor). However, curving is always at discretion of professor.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Do I need to buy/read the book?** Yes—you will not be able to earn an A-C without reading

**When can I take the exam?** Exams magically appear at 12:00 a.m. on Friday and close at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday. You can log in Friday-Sunday to take the exam, but once you log in, you have one hour to take exam.

**What is the exam format?** They consist of 50 multiple choice questions to be completed through the Blackboard online system. Each question is worth 2 points. The total exam is worth 100 points. You do not need to go to an exam center, or need a password. Exams cover information presented in the power point slides and in the book.

**Can I make up MISSED work?** Yes, however, you must make up work the last week of class. You can only make up 2 assignments—either 2 quizzes OR 1 exam & 1 quiz. Discussions cannot be made up as they are live conversations between peers. You must provide documentation to receive credit for missed work. Students who have emergencies and miss work must contact me ASAP via email. Students who have scheduling conflicts with an exam should arrange to take the exam prior to the exam date. You are not able to “re-do” items.

**Is the final exam cumulative?** No- It covers the final chapters in the book

**What’s up with the quizzes?** The quizzes feature 5-10 questions. The quiz simply helps you stay on top of reading. Think of them as a multiple choice reading comprehension assessment.

**Can I turn in study guides?** No- They are non-graded study tools to help you master the concepts. Please complete them if you want to earn an A or B.

## SHSU PSYC 1301 WEEKLY SCHEDULE

All students should enter quiz and exam due dates in their smart phone at the beginning of the semester.

**All assignments are due by midnight.** The SHSU academic calendar, which has course drop deadlines can be found here: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/registrar/calendars/academic-calendar.html>. **This syllabus is subject to change to ensure the learning outcomes of the course are met. Students will be notified of syllabus changes as soon as possible via blackboard**

Week	Readings	Due Dates
Half week	Read Syllabus and Dr. Cantu's "about me" <b>Post Discussion 1</b>	January 19 <sup>th</sup>
Week 1	Read History and Scope of Psychology (1) Research Methods (2)	January 26 <sup>th</sup>
Week 2	Neural and Hormonal Systems (3) The Brain (4)	February 2 <sup>nd</sup>
	<b>Exam 1: Modules 1-4</b>	<b>February 4<sup>th</sup></b>
Week 3	Developmental Issues & Newborn (9) Infancy and Childhood (10) Adolescence (11) <b>Discussion 2</b>	February 9 <sup>th</sup>
Week 4	Basic Concepts of Sensation and Perception (15) Vision and Perceptual Organization (16) The Nonvisual Senses (17)	February 16 <sup>th</sup>
	<b>Exam II: Modules 9-11; 15-17</b>	<b>February 18<sup>th</sup></b>
Week 5	Dual Processing, Sleep and Dreams (6) Drugs (8) <b>Discussion 3</b>	February 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Week 6	Basic Learning Concepts and Classical Conditioning (18) Operant Conditioning (19) Biology, Cognition, and Learning (20)	March 2 <sup>nd</sup>
	<b>Exam III: Modules 6, 8, 18-20</b>	<b>March 4<sup>th</sup></b>
Week 7	Studying and Building Memories (21) Storage and Retrieval (22)	March 9 <sup>th</sup>
	<b>Spring Break</b>	
Week 8	Forgetting, Memory Construction, and Improvement (23) Thinking (24)	March 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Week 9	Language and Thought (25) Intelligence (26)	March 30 <sup>th</sup>
	<b>Exam IV: Modules 21-26</b>	<b>April 1<sup>st</sup> *</b>
Week 10	Theories and Physiology of Emotion (30) Expressing and Experiencing Emotion (31)	April 6 <sup>th</sup>
Week 11	Stress and Illness (32) Health and Happiness (33)	April 13 <sup>th</sup>
Week 12	Gender Development (13) Human Sexuality (14) <b>Discussion 4</b>	April 20 <sup>th</sup>
Week 13	<b>Exam V: Modules 30-33; 13-14</b>	<b>April 22<sup>nd</sup></b>
Week 14	Classic Perspectives on Personality (34) Contemporary Perspectives on Personality (35)	April 27 <sup>th</sup>
Week 15	Basic Concepts and Mood Disorders (39) Schizophrenia (40) <b>Discussion 5</b>	May 4 <sup>th</sup>
Week 16	Other Disorders (41) <b>Final Exam: Modules 34-35; 39-41</b>	May 9 <sup>th</sup>

\* These dates fall on holiday weekends. Work can be submitted Tuesday without penalty.