

Syl Psychology 2315 (was Psy 130)
Syllabus will be changed for fall 2012

Welcome

I am excited about this new semester and the additional students that I will meet over the Internet. I encourage you to view the syllabus to know the class content, quizzes, discussions, and course requirements. You should go ahead and begin your first assignment. (Scroll down to find topics.) I will be responding to questions almost daily, if possible, if sent to my private email address william_masten@hotmail.com.

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I reserve the right to add to or change this syllabus.

Plagiarism: Instructors do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Students are expected to uphold and support the highest academic standards. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty are listed in the Student Code of Conduct (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1,2,3]).

Plagiarism is a complicated issue. 1. If you use a direct quote without using quotation marks, the page number of the quote and the authors name and year of publication, this is definitely plagiarism. 2. Using someone's idea without crediting the source is plagiarism. This includes information from our text book. 3. Using an essay you have used before is plagiarism. 4. Using a paper from a "paper mill" is plagiarism (i.e. term_papers_are_us.com). 5. Using a paper or essay someone wrote for you is plagiarism. Using a paper or essay for 2 courses is plagiarism.

How to avoiding plagiarism: 1) Always cite the source. 2) Never use direct quotes.

Cheating is the willful giving or receiving of information in an unauthorized manner during an examination, illicitly obtaining examination questions in advance, unauthorized copying of computer or Internet files, using someone else's work for the assignments and presenting it as if it were one's own, coping test items, printing test items or saving test items, or any other dishonest means of attempting to fulfill the requirements of a course.

Collusion is intentionally aiding or attempting to aid another in an act of scholastic dishonesty, including but not limited to, providing a paper or project to another student; providing an inappropriate level of assistance; communicating answers to a classmate during an examination; removing tests or answer sheets from a test site, or allowing a classmate to copy answers.

Virtual office The virtual office is open for your use. You may ask any questions about the course. I will answer the questions so everyone may see the answers. This should save your time and prevent more than one student from asking the same question via email.

Textbook Psy 2315: Psychology Applied to Modern Life: Adjustment in the 21st Century, 10th Edition. Wayne Weiten - Dana S. Dunn - Elizabeth Yost Hammer - ISBN-10:1111297983
ISBN-13: 9781111297985 ©2012.

Website for book <http://www.wadsworth.com/cgiwadsworth/>

course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20bl&flag=instructor&product_isbn_issn=9780495553397

&disciplinenummer=24

Required assignments: Read and learn all chapters, study all documents under doc sharing, complete all assignments, discussions and quizzes under specific weeks.

Quizzes, assignments, and discussions due dates
(Everything is due at 11 pm on the date indicated.)

Week 1 Assignment,

Week 2 Assignment,
Quiz 2 is to be taken only on.

Week 3 Assignment Chapters 1 & 2,

All students will use Discussion to interact with your fellow students beginning with week 3. You may use Discussion give your personal opinion about some issue related to the assignment of the week .

Week 4

Week 5 Assignment

Week 6 Assignment

Week 7 Assignment

Week 8 Quiz 2 (Chapters 1-8)

Week 9 Assignment Chapters 9 & 10,

Week 10

Week 11 Assignment Chapters 11 & 12

Week 12 no assignment due

Week 13 Assignment Chapters 13 & 14,

Week 14 no assignment due

Week 15 Assignment Chapter 15

Week 16 Quiz 3 (Chapters 9-15)

There will be three quizzes, the first one will be on APA style and the information included on the syllabus. The other two are on the book, PowerPoint and other documents in doc sharing. The exams will be multiple-choice questions. The quizzes must be taken at the time designated, not before, not after. At 11:00 pm on the quiz day, your ability to access the quiz will end. After you take a quiz, you will receive your score, the test items are not provided because the quiz has not been designed to be a learning experience. Rather, they are designed to measure learning. If you want a learning activity make up questions before you begin reading a chapter or go to the textbook web site or use the study guide. It will have practice quizzes where you can see where your mistakes are. If you attempt to copy any items of the quiz this is considered cheating and it is a violation of copyright. Study tips: Reading the assigned chapters and PowerPoint presentations are crucial to academic success in this class.

Grading: If you go the extra mile on every assignment, you will be rewarded. If you have everything "down pat" from the book, PowerPoint, videos, etc. you will gain a higher score on the quizzes. Some students indicate they do not have enough time to study. In that case, I say wait to take the course until you have enough time.

Assignments: Be sure to put your entire Assignment essay in one (1) Word file and post it under Dropbox.

Might I suggest you type your responses in Word and use the spellcheck? Do not cut and paste direct quotes from a book, or an article (unless you want a 0). Put the answers in your own words and credit the source (use APA style: <http://flash1r.apa.org/apastyle/basics/index.htm>). Do not use websites from the Internet. Use only journal articles and books.

Criteria for Assignments Essays No use of websites or Psychology Today to answer questions. I will read the Assignments and evaluate individual performance. This is a subjective evaluation. Below is a section "Assignments will be graded as follows." For every Assignment, be sure to respond to one of your fellow students about some aspect of their answer. If you neglect to post a response to at least one of your fellow students for every Assignments question, expect no more than half the possible points. Assignments essays will be graded as follows: Never, never use direct quotes from the textbook, journals, or books. Always, always, put the answer in your own words. It must be a "real" journal. Not Psychology Today, Time, or Ladies Home Journal. Do not cut and paste direct quotes from a book, or an article (unless you want a 0). Do not use websites from the Internet. Use only journal articles and books. Put the answers in your own words and credit the source (use APA style: <http://flash1r.apa.org/apastyle/basics/index.htm>). At the end of the semester you will be asked, "If you were provided with a safe and caring online "class environment" that was open for learning." I expect all will answer yes, If not, you should contact me during the semester to tell me why the class environment was not safe and caring.

Question?

Is it ok to submit an outline instead of an essay?

Answer:

No. It is best to submit a written essay, not an outline.

Review the Assignment of week 13 now!

What are the expectations for the Assignments responses? The Assignments questions should be answered completely, accurately and in the detail possible for the highest score.

On the use of abbreviated English or slang in Assignments essays. When you write your essays to Assignments questions avoid short hand English (i.e. R for are, U for you, cant for can't, 5 mth for five months) or slang. This is fine in email messages or text messages to your friends, but not in a formal Assignments essay where you are graded. Think of the Assignments as formal essays that you would type on white paper and hand in if this were a face-to-face course. In addition, every Assignments essay should have a reference!!

Grading Plan: The grading scale is listed below. This includes the 3 quizzes during the semester and points for each Assignments essay questions.

Below is the grading criterion for the Assignments.

100 Absolutely perfect. There will probably be 1 or 2 per semester. Here 100 means absolutely perfect. This grade will be rare during the semester. If everyone gets a perfect score, soon this will have no meaning! No typos, beyond minimum requirements, additional references added, excellent knowledge of topic, clearly project completed with much forethought, the top paper in class, independent of class size, APA style is used appropriately, submitted on time, independent of excused or unexcused absence.

99-90: Great job, no typos, built upon minimum requirements, met reference requirements, good knowledge of topic, completed with forethought, good paper not one of the best in class, top 10% in class, APA style requirements met.

89-80: Good job, writing good, although at times not too clear, offered basic understanding of major points, ideas at times choppy, few typos, top 25% in class, APA style requirements met, all questions answered.

79-70: Paper attempted but completed poorly, several typos, did not followed directions, part or the entire question not answered, if there is more than 1 question part was just not answered; paragraphs are sentences not paragraphs, no independent thought, a collection of ideas from others.

60-50: Paper not completed with forethought, numerous typos, student barely meeting minimum requirements, not reflective of college-level performance, numerous questions not answered. Paper turned in, but too many distractions, not meeting minimum requirements.

40-45: did not answer both parts of the question or did not respond to another student

0 for Assignments question not answered by the due date.

Finding the Assignments

Where is Assignment? Look under Course Home and you will see Week 1. Hit Week 1. Hit the "Assignment" tab. There will be a "drop down menu" then scroll to the appropriate Assignments. Assignment demarcations will obviously change with the assignment numbers, such as Assignment for week 2, 3, 4, etc. If you need help, first phone call to technical support may be necessary for further clarification. From time to time Ecollege may not work. When this happens, be sure to notify me. You will not lose points if you explain the problem, the time, and date of the problem. You get 1 hour for the quizzes 2 & 3, so sign-on at least one hour before the deadline.

Using Discussion

All of your Discussion responses will be submitted via Discussion. Where is Discussion? Look towards the top of this page and you will see Week 1. Hit the "Discussion" tab. Look for "Week 1 Discussion" and then scroll to appropriate Discussion. For example, your first Discussion will be APA style. Do not forget to push "post response". Essay demarcations will obviously change with the Discussions, such as Discussion 2, 3, 4, etc. If you need help, first send a message to technical support. If your problem cannot be solved there, phone for technical support for further clarification. If that does not work, send an email message to me. From time to time Ecollege may not work. When this happens, be sure to notify me.

Each time you post an essay, copy and paste the chapter number and question. In this way, everyone will know which question you are answering. The easiest way is to simply paste your response from Word into Discussion. At the end of the semester, you will be asked to complete an evaluation of this course. Each one of the "Discussions" has been designed to enhance your skills and abilities in various areas. These goals are listed with the questions.

You will be required to read the chapters for this class, and then prepare appropriate Discussion essays. DEADLINE DATES ARE OFFERED below. The Discussions are worth 100 points each (half for the essay, half for the response to another student's essay). Responses to other student's posted Discussion are due when the essays are due.

Final letter grade = Percentage (average) of possible points: 100-90% = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79%=C; 60-69%=D; Below 60% = F.

Final grade = average of percentage of all assignments, discussions and quizzes.

Email Policy: I will attempt to return emails with 48 hours. Send all messages to william_massten@hotmail.com. Please do not send second emails etc. Please, do not request grades be sent via email. I will post grades only on Ecollege. From time to time, I will send you email messages so be sure to check your email messages. I may make comments with the Discussion answers. You cannot see these comments on the gradebook. It will be necessary to open the Discussion to view the comments.

Students with disabilities: Students with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Gee Library, Room 132, Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835, Fax (903) 468-8148, StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Honesty and Plagiarism: As an Internet class and there may be an opportunity to Cheat (share exams, or perform other acts of academic dishonesty). Unless otherwise indicated, all of your work is completed independently. There will be some Discussions that you will work on in small groups. If you are suspected of academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary actions. I need to emphasize that there is the assumption that answers to Discussion questions and assignments are your own. I welcome and encourage you to use the journal articles, books and the library. However,

avoid independent sites that are not journal articles as resources to completing the assignments or Discussions. You must provide a reference for any idea borrowed from a source. A simple statement such as "references included" will not be sufficient. No one cares if you get an idea from someone as long as you credit the source. Do not use sources without crediting the source. Also, avoid direct quotes. Another person's idea used without a reference is plagiarism. Be advised do not copy and paste direct quotes from any source.

Assumptions Related to Successful Completion of this Course: 1. You have reliable access to a computer with an internet connection. There are a number of computer labs on campus. Able to use "MS Word" word processing. 2. You have adequate writing abilities. You may seek the assistance of the University Writing Lab, but you must indicate the person's name and date if you do. There will be no loss of points for using the University Writing Lab. 3. You are able to read the required reading materials. These assumptions are listed as every semester students present numerous inquiries along the following lines of thought: (a) "I do not have a computer and I did not know a computer was required for the course! (b) I am not accustomed to writing essays. Can you prepare an alternative task for me? (c) I am working 40 hours per week, taking 18 semester hours, and have three children. Can you reduce the course workload for my situation? (d) I just do not have the time to do all the requirements of the course, (e) Can I take this course without reading the book or support materials? (f) You really do not expect me to read all the assignments, do you? (g) I do not like to read, may I avoid the readings?" The previous quotes are taken from actual emails received in the past. Anything I do for one student, I must do for all students. If you are not able to meet the course requirements, then you are encouraged to drop this course.

Factual knowledge versus opinion: I have noticed when questions ask for factual knowledge some students do not answer the question. Instead, they give their personal opinion. Save your personal opinions for responses to other students. Other times, when questions ask students to support a specific opinion, some students think they can support the opposite of the opinion. Be sure you do not fall into these mistakes.

Study Recommendations: 1. Study the syllabus and know the Discussion due dates. 2. Do not wait until the last minute to post your Discussions. Post an assignment early as opposed to the last minute. Remember Murphy's Law: "Anything that can go wrong will go wrong." Murphy's Extended Law: "If a series of events can go wrong, they will do so in the worst possible sequence." The same laws apply to the quizzes.

Notes on Acceptable Assignments: I expect students to write at the level of college students. You should post your answers in Discussion. Do not send files. You may submit essays use 12 font size, Arial font type, and 1-inch margins on all four sides. I expect you to proofread, utilize spell-check and grammar-check software prior to submitting your assignment.

Grades will be based on quality of responses, not length of responses. Some students are too verbose and perform poorly, and others students are effectively concise and specific and perform very well. Length is not the measure; completeness and accuracy is.

Office preference: Since this is an online course, the expectation is that everything can be completed online. For that reason, if you have a general question about the class, post it under virtual office. For specific questions, use my email address william_masten@hotmail.com. Thanks.

Late Assignments: If the assignment is late, you may receive a 0 on that assignment. Assignments will be due at 11 pm on the designated deadline dates, as are the quizzes. I recognize things happen. Even if late, be sure to post your assignment. If your response is there when I grade it, the essay will be graded. Do not wait weeks to post a discussion and expect your work to be graded. One student waited until after I posted final grades, and then asked if her late assignments could be graded. If you miss an assignment due to death, military, or reasonable excuse, please email me. If you miss an assignment without a legitimate excuse, you will receive 0 points. If you miss two (2) or more assignments without a valid excuse, you may be dropped from the course. If you cannot get in Ecollege, go to technical support and then contact me.

Respect for Others Adjustment reflects who we are and potentially who we may become. As such, the topics of conversation will be emotional and controversial. Loosely quoting Voltaire, I may not agree with what you have to say, but I will fight to the death for your right to say it. I encourage you to disagree with me and other students. However, there is a difference between academic discourse and rudeness. If you cross the line, I will counsel you on the matter. If you make racial, sexist, or non-scholarly comments or derogatory statements about others, I will refer you to Dean of Students. I encourage you to offer your opinion, or disagree with me or other students, or even offer your opinion strongly, be respectful to your classmates and your teacher. At the end of the semester you will be asked, "If you were provided with a safe and caring online "class environment" that was open for learning." I expect all will answer yes, If not, you should contact me during the semester to tell me why you did not see the class environment as safe and caring.

APA Format You are required to use APA format to cite the source of all ideas including our textbook and journal articles. If you fail to list references for a source, then you will lose 1/2 of the total possible points. If you improperly use APA format, then you will lose a few points. If it is not your idea, then you must cite the source by using a reference. Below are sites that discuss the APA Style. Reference List: Basic Rules: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/05/>. Reference List: Author/Authors. Reference List: Articles in Periodicals. Reference List: Books. Online Bibliographies and Annotated Bibliographies.

Jürgens, R. (2005). HIV/AIDS and HCV in Prisons: A Select Annotated Bibliography. Retrieved from http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/alt_formats/hpb-dgps/pdf/intactiv/hiv-vih-aids-sida-prison-carceral_e.pdf