

PSYCHOLOGY 2301.001 – Introduction to Psychology
Fall 2012

Instructor: Lindsey Pierce
Email: lhaisler@leo.tamu-commerce.edu
Office: Binion 224
Phone: 903-886-5594
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 9:00-10:00 or by appointment

Course Description & Purpose:

The main purpose of this course is to provide an overview of a number of topics which are related to modern day psychology. More specifically, this course is intended to provide a basic understanding of the principles and theories of psychology, as well as, the different applications of such information. Upon completion of this course, one should have a general understanding of Psychology which will be important in additional courses.

Required Materials:

Davis, S.F., and Palladino, J.J. (2009). Psychology (Sixth Edition). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall

ISBN: 0205649246.

Grading Policy:

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Point Value</u>	<u>Cumulative Value</u>
Research Participation (4 credits)	<i>varies</i>	<i>10 points for 4 credits</i>
4 Assignments	10	40
Class Participation	5	5
Midterm Exam	20	20
Final Exam	25	25
	Total for Class:	100

There are 100 points available. You need 90 points or better for an 'A', 80 points or better for a 'B', 70 points or better for a 'C', and 60 points or better for a 'D'. A total below 60 points will result in an 'F'.

Research Participation:

In order to give you a better understanding of the nature of psychology, you will be required to participate in research or complete alternative assignments. I would like to emphasize that your Participation in research can greatly help students and faculty who are conducting research at TAMU-C.

You will be able to sign up for various studies through the SONA system. Instructions on how to do this **will be provided in a separate handout.**

Credits: This course requires that you complete a total of **6** credit hours of research participation. **HOWEVER**, if you do not have any unexcused no-shows (i.e. you do not show up for a study) you will be required to complete only **4** credit hours. Students who complete the 4 credits without acquiring any no-shows will be allowed to complete an additional 2 credits for extra credit.

******Studies are worth different amounts of credit depending upon how long it takes to complete the study. You may sign up for any combination of studies you wish as long as you complete the required number of credits.

Prescreen: When you log on to SONA you will be asked to complete a prescreening questionnaire which takes about 20 minutes. If you complete the prescreen **within the first two weeks of** school you will receive .5 extra credit towards your participation.

Alternative Assignments: Participating in research is voluntary. If you do not want to participate in research let me know and I will assign alternative assignments. In other words you can complete this portion of the course through obtaining research credits and/or completing alternative assignments.

Note: Failure to fully complete this portion of the course will result in your grade being lowered by one full letter grade. For example, if you have an 'A' but do not complete 4 research credits/alternative assignments your final grade will be a 'B'.

Assignments:

You will earn up to 10% of your overall grade for each assignment which is completed correctly and submitted on time. In effect, this portion of the class is worth 40% of your overall grade. For each assignment, you will be given specific tasks which contain outside materials and resources to expand your knowledge past the offerings of your textbook. Specifics will be given in class one week before the assignment is due (except assignment 1).

Exams:

There are 2 exams in this course which will be over the materials covered in class. The Midterm will be worth 20% of your grade and the final will be worth 25% of your grade. Exams will be given during the scheduled class time.

EXAMS MUST BE COMPLETED ON THE DAY THEY ARE SCHEDULED! No make ups will be allowed unless...

1. You let me know ahead of time that you have a schedule conflict.
2. If there is an unexpected conflict it must be an emergency in which you provide me documentation.

Class Participation:

This portion includes attendance and participation during class. Participation may include engaging in class when I open the floor for discussion as well as participating in group activities which I will describe in class.

Extra Credit:

In addition to the 100 points available during the regular semester, you will also have the opportunity to earn up to 10 points of extra credit (equal to one letter grade) through completing additional assignments. These assignments will be specified during class.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Any changes to the following course schedule will be announced in class.

	Date	Lecture Topics	Assignments
Week 1	Aug. 28	<i>Introduction/Course Overview</i>	Read chapter 1
	Aug. 30	Ch. 1: Modern Psychology	Assignment 1 Due Chapter 1 (cont.)
Week 2	Sep. 4	Ch. 1: Research in Psychology	Read chapter 2
	Sep. 6	Ch. 2: Behavioral Neuroscience	Read chapter 3
Week 3	Sep. 11	Ch. 3: Perception & Sensation	Read chapter 4
	Sep. 13	Ch. 4: States of Consciousness	Read chapter 5
Week 4	Sep. 18	Ch. 5: Classical Conditioning	Chapter 5 (cont.)
	Sep. 20	Ch. 5: Operant Conditioning	Read chapter 6

Week 5	Sep. 25	Ch. 6: Motivation	Chapter 6 (cont.)
	Sep. 27	Ch. 6: Emotion	Assignment 2 Due Read chapter 7
Week 6	Oct. 2	Ch. 7: Models of Memory	Chapter 7 (cont.)
	Oct. 4	Ch. 7: Memory Processes	Read chapter 8
Week 7	Oct. 9	Ch. 8: Cognition/Language	Chapter 8 (cont.)
	Oct. 11	Ch. 8: Cognition/Intelligence	Read chapter 9
Week 8	Oct. 16	Ch. 9: Development	Chapter 9 (cont.)
	Oct. 18	Ch. 9: Development (cont.)	
Week 9	Oct. 23	Midterm Review	Review chapters
	Oct. 25	Midterm Exam	Read chapter 10
Week 10	Oct. 30	Ch. 10: Sex & Gender	Read chapter 11
	Nov. 1	Ch. 11: Personality	Chapter 11 (cont.)
Week 11	Nov. 6	Ch. 11: Personality (cont.)	Read chapter 12
	Nov. 8	Ch. 12: Psychological Disorders	Assignment 3 Due Chapter 12 (cont.)
Week 12	Nov. 13	Ch. 12: Classifying Disorders	Read chapter 13
	Nov. 15	Ch. 13: Therapy	Read chapter 14
Week 13	Nov. 20	Ch. 14: Health Psychology	Read chapter 15 before next week
	Nov. 22	<u>NO CLASS</u> Thanksgiving	
Week 14	Nov. 27	Ch. 15: Social Cognition	Chapter 15 (cont.)
	Nov. 29	Ch. 15: Social Cognition (cont.)	Assignment 4 Due Read chapter 16
Week 15	Dec. 4	Ch. 16: IO/ Other Applications	Review chapters
	Dec. 6	Final Exam Review	
Week 16		FINALS WEEK	

Respect for others:

During class I hope that we will have an 'open discussion' of the materials, rather than lecture alone. In effect, it is important that you respect others. For example, if I am talking OR if your peers are sharing or asking questions I expect that you will not interrupt or be distracting. Distractions include talking to others about things outside of this course, as well as, CELL PHONES. Please turn your cell phones off or put them on silent **NOT** vibrate.

Honesty and Plagiarism:

I trust that your work is completed independently. If you are suspected of academic dishonesty, I will refer you to the Dean of Students for disciplinary actions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR ASSIGNMENTS 2, 3, and 4.

APA Format:

You are required to use APA format for all references, including those gathered from the internet. If you are unaware of how to use APA format, there are many free internet sources that can help you in this regard. Make liberal use of them. I find [The Owl at Purdue](#) to be a great resource. Scroll down to the bottom for examples of how to cite your work appropriately.

Make certain that if I ask you to incorporate sources, that you provide an internal citation within the body of the text and a full reference at the end of your document. You need to make every effort to ensure that I not only know what information is drawn from your sources, but how I could locate those sources for myself.

Example:

Internal citation: The sky is falling (Weatherford, 2010).

Full reference: Weatherford, D. (2010). The sky is falling, *Fictitious Journal*, 16-26.

I'm not that picky on the nitty gritty details of whether you put a comma or period in the correct place, as long as I can see that you are including enough information for me to easily discriminate your work from others and you give proper credit.

Paraphrasing versus Quotations:

Personal experiences and opinions do not, obviously, need to be cited because they are authentic to you. I hope that while engaging in these discussions, that you can easily tie your opinions to facts and show that your beliefs are based upon a solid foundation of evidence, not just conjecture. That is where I expect that you will be using historical facts and statistics that have to come from somewhere, and that somewhere needs to be specified. Intellectual property is serious in academia and if someone puts their thoughts, research, and ideas out for the world to read, they deserve to have credit if you 'borrow'

them to support a point that you are trying to make. They have earned that. Sometimes people treat it softly because words and ideas are not entirely physical, but plagiarism is analogous to stealing. As many of you are future teachers, I'm sure that we can agree that you want to be certain that your students submit works that do not present other persons' ideas as their own.

In sum,

- Paraphrasing (using someone's ideas, facts, historical data, research etc. in your own words) without citing is plagiarism.
- Using exact wording, even if you cite, without quotation marks is plagiarism.
- Using most of the words from a sentence and using synonyms for select words or switching up the order (basically improper paraphrasing) with or without citing is plagiarism.

If you have any questions about whether or not to cite a source, you can always feel free to ask me directly. Therefore, ignorance is not an acceptable excuse. Outside of that, cite liberally. I would much rather that you cite more than cite less.

When to cite:

If I am asking you to summarize or critique an article/video/chapter, I expect that the only citations that I will see will come 1) if you seek out sources on your own to supplement and support your ideas or 2) cite relevant literature or theory that was cited by the original author. It is my general assumption that most of your submission will be from the article/video/chapter itself, and therefore citing every sentence is unnecessary. So, you only need to internally cite that article in the event you lift an exact quote from it. I caution, however, that you should use quotes sparingly and only when doing so provides particularly compelling insight that only the author's words can truly capture. In reading the articles, it is my hope that you gain a deep enough understanding to convey the ideas of the author **IN YOUR OWN WORDS. If I discover that you have taken the exact words of any source and presented them as your own, without using quotation marks, you will be given a zero for that assignment. Subsequent infractions will result in further disciplinary action (up to and including failure of this course) through the appropriate university channels.**

BE WARNED, I take plagiarism very seriously and I will not tolerate it in any fashion.

Disability Statement:

Refer to student handbook. Please discuss with me if you have any needed reasonable accommodations. If there is a question or clarification needed, I will seek assistance from the Dean of Students for resolution.