

Introduction to Psychology-H

PSY 2301:005 (3SH)

SS 143 (MWF 9-9:50)

Instructor

Dr. Raymond Green

Office Phone #: 903-468-3001

Office Hours: Office hours will be held in the Honors College office, first floor Prairie Crossing Apartments. I will be available MW from 8 to 9 a.m. and Thursday 11-12 **or by appointment**. I can also be reached via e-mail (Raymond.green@tamuc.edu).

Course Description

The aim of this course is to give a general understanding of the basic principles of psychology.

Purpose

This class is intended to introduce the student to the many different ways that psychology manifests itself. Some areas that will be covered include sensation and perception, memory, intelligence, psychological disorders, and stereotypes. A primary goal of the class is to help students understand that psychologists take a scientific approach to understanding thought and behavior.

Learning Outcomes

- (1) Students will be able to differentiate among the 3 major schools of thought in psychology.
- (2) Students will be able to differentiate between science and pseudo-science.

Textbooks

Both of these books are required and necessary.

Davis, S.F., and Palladino, J.J. (2009). Psychology (Sixth Edition). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall Inc. ISBN: 0205649246.

Lilienfeld, S.O., Lynn, S.J., Ruscio, J., & Beyerstein, B.L. (2010). 50 Great Myths of Popular Psychology. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell. ISBN: 1405131124

Grading

Class participation: I consider class participation to be one of the most important, yet underrated elements of a student's education. There are numerous elements that go into class participation: (1) Good attendance (according to University rules, students may be dropped from the class for excessive unexcused absences); (2) Arriving to class on time and **not packing up early**; (3) Somewhat frequent, and preferably intelligent, contributions to class discussion; (4) **Polite and civil** interactions with all members of the class ["All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct)]. **Turn off all cell phones and**

papers. Students who fail to do so may be asked to leave the class. No laptops are allowed to be used in class.

Some elements of participation grades are difficult to objectively assign. Thus, approximately once a week in-class assignments will be completed (the day will not be announced ahead of time). These assignments may include quizzes, group projects, surveys, and problem solving sessions. Successful completion of the assignment (I am the final judge of what is successful) is worth 1 point toward your final average. In general, these assignments are designed to augment your comprehension of the material. For obvious reasons, there are absolutely no make-ups for these in-class assignments (however, I suggest that you still ask about the assignment to see if it would help you better understand the material). **Total: 10%**

Exams: Exams will constitute a major portion of your course grade. There will be 5 exams (four tests during the semester and one during the final exam period). The lowest of your test grades will be dropped. Your exam grades are worth a total of 50% of your class grade (thus, once your lowest grade has been dropped each exam is worth 12.5% of your grade).

NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I mean this. Exams may be rescheduled, without penalty, only when arrangements have been made in advance of the testing date. I expect people to come to me within the first week of class if they have conflicts with the exam dates. Make-ups will only be given in the case of **verifiable** medical or legal emergencies. Verifiable means that written documentation is provided (e.g., signed doctors' notes, court appearance tickets, newspaper obituaries). The final decision concerning make-up exams rests with the instructor. If no valid excuse (in the opinion of the professor) is presented your exam grade is a zero and this will become the exam grade that you drop.

Exams will include both multiple choice questions and essays. None of these exams are cumulative (except where the course material itself is naturally cumulative). You are responsible for all lecture and reading materials.

No cell phones are allowed on desks during exam day. In addition, calls may not be received – if you answer the phone your exam will be forfeited (unless arrangements are made with me ahead of time). **Total=50%**

Social Norm and Myth Busting Papers: You have two papers to write this semester. One paper, worth 10% of your grade, will explore your experience with violating a social norm. The second paper, worth 20% of your grade, will ask you to investigate one of the psychological myths found in your book *50 Great Myths of Popular Psychology*. Papers are due at the beginning of the class. Reminder: I am not required to accept assignments that are turned in after the due date, so I suggest that you turn the assignments in on time. Absence from class does not remove your responsibility for turning the assignment in on time. More details on these papers will be provided in separate handouts. **Total=30%**

Subject Pool Requirement: As part of your course requirement, you will need to participate in a total of 6 experimental credits of research studies. However, if you complete your first 4 experimental credits without any "no-shows" you will receive 2 free *punctual participation points*. Further, to participate in experiments you will need to register in the Experiment Management System (EMS). If

you do this within the first two weeks of the semester you will receive a ½ experimental credit. In essence you can receive 2 ½ credits just for not being a sloth!

These studies will be conducted by various faculty and students (graduate and undergraduate) in the department of Psychology and Special Education. Research credit will depend on the nature of the study and the time required.

Your participation in these studies is vital in order for the department to accomplish its research goals, make its contribution to the development of psychological science, and demonstrate what Texas A&M University-Commerce does in the national and international frontier of knowledge. Furthermore, the studies will give you an opportunity to learn about some of the things we do in this field and may turn out to be fun for you as well.

You have the right not to participate in these studies. If you decide not to participate in these studies, you will be given other educational opportunities.

This requirement is worth 10 percent of your grade. You will either receive 10% for full completion of the requirement or 0% for anything less.

Your grade will be determined as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| In-Class Participation | 10% |
| Exams | 50% |
| Subject Pool Requirement | 10% |
| Two Papers | <u>30%</u> |
| | 100% |

Final grades are based on the total number of points earned during the term in accordance, generally, with the following levels of proficiency: A = 90-99; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 65-69; F = below 65.

Other important information

(1) 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@tamu-commerce.edu

- (2) "All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). **Turn off all cell phones and pagers.**
Texting during class is forbidden.

Finally, I can not stress enough the importance of contacting me immediately if you find that you are having trouble with the course material. Come to my office hours, use my email, IM me on Facebook, ask me questions before, during, and after class. If we catch a problem early, it can be cured. I can do nothing for you when approached after the semester has been completed.

Schedule

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Topic</u> | <u>Reading</u> |
|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 8/27 - Mon. | Class Introduction | |
| 8/29 - Weds. | Origins and Key Ideas | DP 1 |
| 8/31 - Fri. | Key Ideas and Memory | DP 7; L11-13 |
| 9/3 - Mon. | Labor Day-No Class | |
| 9/5 - Weds. | Memory | |
| 9/7 - Fri. | Behavioral Neuroscience | DP 2; L2 |
| 9/10 - Mon. | Behavioral Neuroscience | |
| 9/12 - Weds. | Behavioral Neuroscience | |
| 9/14 - Fri. | Exam #1 | |
| 9/17 - Mon. | Sensation and Perception | DP 3; L3,5 |
| 9/19 - Weds. | Sensation and Perception | |
| 9/21 - Fri. | Sensation and Perception | |
| 9/24 - Mon. | States of Consciousness | DP 4: L12,19,20 |
| 9/26 - Weds. | States of Consciousness | |
| 9/28 - Fri. | Learning | DP 5 |
| 10/1 - Mon. | Learning | |
| 10/3 -- Weds. | Learning | |
| 10/5 -- Fri. | Exam #2 | |
| 10/8 - Mon. | Lifespan Development | DP 9; L6 |
| 10/10 -- Weds. | Lifespan Development | |
| 10/12 -- Fri. | Lifespan Development | |
| 10/15 - Mon. | Sex and Gender | DP 10; L29 |
| 10/17 - Weds. | Sex and Gender | |
| 10/19 -- Fri. | Sex and Gender | |
| 10/22 -- Mon. | Exam #3 | |
| 10/24 - Weds. | Health Psychology | DP 14; L24 |
| 10/26 - Fri. | Health Psychology | |
| 10/29 - Mon. | Health/Social Psychology | DP 15 |
| 10/31 - Weds. | Social | L27,28 |
| 11/2 - Fri. | Social | |
| 11/5 - Mon. | Social | |

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|---------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 11/7 - Weds. | Social | |
| 11/9 - Fri. | Personality | DP 11; L33-35 |
| 11/12 - Mon. | Personality | HW#1 Due |
| 11/14 - Weds. | Personality | |
| 11/16 - Fri. | Exam #4 | |
| 11/19 - Mon. | Psychological Disorders | DP 12; L37,38,41,42 |
| 11/21 - Weds. | Psychological Disorders | |
| 11/22-11/25 | <i>Thanksgiving Break</i> | <i>Enjoy your turkey</i> |
| 11/26 - Mon. | Psychological Disorders | |
| 11/28 - Wed. | Psychological Disorders | Hw#2 Due |
| 11/30 - Fri. | Psychological Disorders | |
| 12/3 - Mon. | Therapy | DP 13; L44-47, 49 |
| 12/5 - Weds. | Therapy | |
| 12/7 - Fri. | Therapy | |

Exam #5: See Final Exam Schedule