

Introduction to Psychology (PSY 2301, Section 002)

Spring Semester 2013

3 credits

Instructor: Cyndi H. Matthews, PhD, LPC, NCC
Class Meeting: MWF 9-9:50 a.m.
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Course description: The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the field of psychology and to give a general understanding of the basic principles of psychology. Since it is intended to cover a variety of topics within psychology, it provides an overview of the field necessary for later courses.

Textbook: Stangor, C. (2011). *Introduction to Psychology*. Irvington, NY: Flat World Knowledge.

The textbook is available at www.flatworldstudents.com (search by instructor: Schroeder)

Additional handouts may be distributed in class, and articles may be placed on reserve in the library.

Grading: Course grades will be based on the total number of points received on four examinations and two projects (a media portfolio and a poster session).

Examinations: Examinations will be composed of multiple-choice questions and students will provide their own scantron sheets (long form, either green or brown, 50 items each side) for each examination if taken in class. Students must take the exams during the scheduled class time unless they have an excused absence as described in the Student Handbook and/or have made other arrangements with me in advance. Each exam will be worth 100 points.

Media Portfolio: For this project you are to collect 10 media clippings (from newspapers, magazines, editorials, cartoons, etc.) and indicate how each relates to concepts in psychology. For each clipping you are required to give its source and at least one paragraph on how it relates to a topic covered in lecture or the book. Portfolios will be graded on the following dimensions: (1) relevance of clippings to course material, (2) accuracy of description of relevance, (3) variety of concepts included, and (4) ability to make clever connections between clippings and concepts. The portfolio should be neat in appearance and have typed entries. A check that 5 clippings have been gathered will occur on 2/11 (worth 20 points) and the portfolio will be due on 3/6 (worth 80 points).

Poster Session: You are to develop a poster presentation that summarizes information about this area that goes beyond what is covered in class and the textbook. The poster should be more visual than verbal and should include enough information so that your classmates can obtain a general

understanding of your topic and ask questions. Posters will be graded on quality of presentation, effort put into presentation, originality, and proper citation of sources. Topics will be confirmed on 2/25, and due on the final day of class when the poster session will be held. The posters will be worth 100 points.

Research Participation: A goal of this class is to help you familiarize yourself with research methods. One manner to obtain this goal is to have you participate in research studies. Participating in research studies contributes to students and faculty at TAMUC, your understanding of how research is conducted, and human knowledge in general. All students in this class will be required to participate in the psychology department’s participant pool or complete alternative assignments (see me for more information on alternative assignments).

Students must complete a total of 6 experiment credits. However, if students complete their first 4 experiment credits without any “no-shows” you will receive 2 free punctual participant credits. In other words, if you show up to your experiments on time you will only need to complete 4 experiment credits. When you first sign into the experiment system (SONA) you will be asked to take a prescreen. The prescreen takes about 20 minutes to complete. If you complete the prescreen in the first two weeks of the semester you will receive ½ free experiment credit. You are only allowed to complete 2 experiment credits with online studies, the remaining experiment credits will need to be obtained by participating in laboratory studies.

If you fail to complete this portion of the class your grade will be lowered by one full grade. In effect, if you have an ‘A’ in the class but fail to complete your research participation (either through participating in research studies, alternative assignments, or a mixture of both) your final grade in the class will be a ‘B.’ More information about participating in research is given on eCollege.

Evaluation:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Exams (4 worth 100 pts. each) | = | 400 points |
| Media Portfolio (worth 100 pts.) | = | 100 points |
| Poster Session (worth 100 pts.) | = | <u>100 points</u> |
| Total points possible | = | 600 points |

+ Research Participation

| | | | |
|--------|---|---|---------|
| Grades | A | = | 540-600 |
| | B | = | 480-539 |
| | C | = | 420-479 |
| | D | = | 360-419 |
| | F | = | < 360 |

Student Conduct “All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” Students are expected to follow the code of conduct in class described in the Student Handbook (Policies and Procedures, Code of Student Conduct). Violation of the code will lead to an initiation of the

disciplinary processes described in the Handbook. Proper student conduct also includes maintaining a standard of academic honesty. This means that **neither cheating nor plagiarism will be tolerated** and students who engage in either will be subject to the disciplinary processes described in the Code of Student Conduct). Plagiarism essentially means that you cannot use the words and ideas of another person without giving them credit. Therefore, “quotation marks should be used to indicate the exact words of another. Each time you paraphrase another author you will need to credit the source in the text” (APA, 2001, p. 249). If you have any questions about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism please see me. *Students who plagiarize any material or engage in cheating will earn a grade of F for the course.*

Absences: Students are expected to **attend all classes unless they have excused absences** as described in the Student’s Handbook (Policies and Procedures, Academics). When students are absent from class they are responsible for making up the work covered in class and speaking with me about these arrangements. **More than 3 absences during the semester is considered excessive.** “It is the prerogative of the faculty to drop students from courses in which they have obtained excessive absences as defined in the course syllabus. In such cases, faculty recommend through the department head to the appropriate college dean that a student be dropped from a class. The faculty member will make a reasonable effort to communicate with the student prior to recommending a drop. If approved, the college dean will forward the recommendation to the Records Office (Systems Policy 13.2).” **If you miss more than five (5) classes you will receive a drop in letter grade no matter what your average may be.**

Seating/Tardy: Students will be assigned seating by the instructor. If students are not in their assigned seat during a given class period they will be marked absent. The instructor reserves the right to change the seating arrangement at any time during the semester. Students who are tardy to class are required to sit in the designated area so their attendance may be verified at the end of class. **Anyone more than 15 minutes late to class is considered absent for the day.**

Students are responsible for following University procedures to drop a class. If you stop attending the class for any reason, you must initiate the process of dropping, or you will receive a failing grade. Plan to take care of this several days ahead of time, so that you will have the time required to get the forms signed, submitted, etc.

Cell Phones/Laptops/Other forms of Technology. Cell phones must be turned off or placed on silent during class. If you have an emergency and may need to take a call during class, please see me prior to the beginning of class and leave your cell phone on top of the desk. Otherwise, I should see no cell phones during the course of the class. Students using cell phones during class without permission may be asked to leave and will be counted absent. Other forms of technology are treated as above. The professor retains the right to stop the lecture/discussion/class and **give a quiz to the class if she sees cell phones/iphones/facebook/social media being utilized** during class. This quiz grade will count towards the final grade.

Accommodations: Students requesting accommodations for disabilities must go through the Academic Support Committee. Instructors must be notified in writing by the Director of Disability Resources & Services before accommodations will be made. For more information, please contact the Director of Disability Resources & Services, Halladay Student Services Bldg., Room 303D, (903) 886-5835.

Proposed/Tentative Class Schedule

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Topic</u> | <u>Assigned Reading</u> |
|-------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1/14 | Introduction and Overview | Chapter 1 |
| 1/16 | Introduction and Overview | Chapter 1 |
| 1/18 | Psychological Science | Chapter 2 |
| 1/21 | NO CLASS (Martin Luther King Holiday) | |
| 1/23 | Psychological Science | Chapter 2 |
| 1/25 | Remembering and Judging | Chapter 8 |
| 1/28 | Remembering and Judging | Chapter 8 |
| 1/30 | Remembering and Judging | Chapter 8 |
| 2/1 | Catch-up day | |
| 2/4 | Exam #1 | Ch. 1, 2, 8 |
| 2/6 | Personality | Chapter 11 |
| 2/8 | Personality | Chapter 11 |
| 2/11 | Defining Psychological Disorders | Chapter 12 |
| | Media Portfolio – 5 sources check | |
| 2/13 | Defining Psychological Disorders | Chapter 12 |
| 2/15 | Treating Psychological Disorders (ONLINE) | Chapter 13 |
| 2/18 | Treating Psychological Disorders (ONLINE) | Chapter 13 |
| 2/20 | Psychology in our Social Lives | Chapter 14 |
| 2/22 | Psychology in our Social Lives | Chapter 14 |
| 2/25 | Psychology in our Social Lives | Chapter 14 |
| | Topics for Poster Session due | |
| 2/27 | Catch-up Day | |
| 3/1 | Exam #2 (ONLINE) | Ch. 11-14 |
| 3/4 | Brains, Bodies & Behavior | Chapter 3 |
| 3/6 | Brains, Bodies & Behavior | Chapter 3 |
| | Media Portfolios due | |
| 3/8 | Sensing & Perceiving (ONLINE) | Chapter 4 |
| 3/11 | SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS | |
| 3/13 | SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS | |
| 3/15 | SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS | |
| 3/18 | Sensing & Perceiving (ONLINE) | Chapter 4 |
| 3/20 | States of Consciousness | Chapter 5 |
| 3/22 | States of Consciousness (ONLINE) | Chapter 5 |
| 3/25 | States of Consciousness | Chapter 5 |
| 3/27 | Catch-up Day | |
| 3/29 | Exam #3 (ONLINE) | Ch. 3-5 |
| 4/1 | Growing & Developing | Chapter 6 |
| 4/3 | Growing & Developing | Chapter 6 |
| 4/5 | Learning | Chapter 7 |
| 4/8 | Learning | Chapter 7 |
| 4/10 | Intelligence & Language | Chapter 9 |
| 4/12 | Intelligence & Language | Chapter 9 |
| 4/15 | Emotions & Motivations | Chapter 10 |
| 4/17 | Emotions & Motivations | Chapter 10 |

4/19 Emotions & Motivations Chapter 10
4/22 Catch-up Day
4/24 Catch up Day
4/26 Catch up Day
4/29 **Poster session (Posters due A-L)**
5/1 **Poster session (Posters due M-Z)**
Research Participation must be completed
5/3 Final Review
5/6-5/10 **Final Exam (ONLINE)**

****Please be aware that this syllabus will serve as a guideline for the course and is subject to change as necessary.**