



PSY 2301.04 Introduction to Psychology
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2014

Instructor: Melissa J. Hawthorne, PhD
Class Location: McDowell Administration Building 106
Class Times: MWF 11:00am - 11:50am
Office Location: Henderson 230
Office Hours: MW 1:00pm-4:00pm, and by appointment
Email Address: mhawthorn@leomail.tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description: In this course we will cover the fundamental theories and research conducted in psychology. We will cover both classic and modern psychological research.

Course objectives: In addition to learning course content, students will:

1. Be able to recognize their own position as being subjective, follow objectively the arguments of others, and interpret data.
2. Engage in communication that follows conventions of grammar and syntax appropriate to the audience, purpose and message.
3. Be able to interpret, test and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data.
4. Demonstrate understanding and empathy toward societal and/or civic issues.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance

Students are required to attend all class periods and attendance will be taken at each class. If a student has more than 3 unexcused absences (see the Student Handbook for a list of excused absences), he or she will be asked to drop the course. If he or she chooses not to drop the course, I will institute an administrative drop for that student.

2. Exams

There will be a total of 5 exams throughout the semester. In order to evaluate your retention of the information presented in this course, each exam is **cumulative**. Exams will cover **anything** discussed in class, including class policies, syllabus contents, and information contained in the attendance quizzes. Take note, however, that the majority of the questions for each exam will encompass the areas discussed since the previous test.

No electronic devices will be allowed to be visible during a test day. Any cell phones or other electronic devices that are visible will result in that student's exam being forfeit (it will be entered as a grade of 0).

At the conclusion of the semester the lowest of the six regular exam grades will be dropped,

meaning that **the final exam will not be dropped**. In total your exams will account for 80% of your final grade. See the grading policy below for details. Your final exam will be take-home. It will be an essay exam and will be due by midnight Monday, December 8. (That is no later than 11:59 p.m. on 12/8).

3. Paper

Common Myth Paper: In this course, students will be required to prepare a two-page paper that addresses some preconceived idea concerning human psychology that the student believes upon entering the class. In this paper, the student will discuss the evidence, which will consist primarily of empirical studies, that either supports or refutes this idea. As part of this discussion, students should address the principles addressed in the empirical data, the ways that these principles were tested, and how the results apply to the established (or preconceived) principle. In addition, the students will discuss the relevance of this knowledge to general society and how such knowledge might be used for bettering the social (or human) condition. In preparing this paper, students will be expected to follow proper principals of grammar and syntactic structure so as to demonstrate appropriate communication skills. The paper will be worth 100 points.

		Grades
Exams	400 pts	
Paper	100 pts	
Final exam	200 pts	
400-360 pts	A	
359-320 pts	B	
319-280 pts	C	
279-240 pts	D	

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

What can YOU expect from ME?

My office hours are listed above, but I am relatively flexible if you need to meet outside of those times, I simply request that you email me ahead of time. I will do my very best to have your assignments or assessments graded by the next class period. If you have any questions at any point during the class, please feel free to ask.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Student Behavior:

My expectations in this area should be very simple to fulfill. (1) Immaturity will NOT be tolerated! If a student's behavior is disrupting the class, he/she will be asked to stop. (2) To remain in this class, you must be respectful of others and maintain a mature and professional manner at all times. Failure to do so will result in your expulsion from the course. (3) The Student's Guidebook addresses the issues of academic cheating and plagiarism. These are a breach of conduct, and students are subject to disciplinary actions. It's simple. Do NOT cheat (to take the work or idea of someone else and pass it off as one's own)!

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

Electronic-Devices Usage Policy

From the Student Handbook:

Students are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that does not disrupt teaching or learning. Faculty members have the authority to request students who exhibit inappropriate behavior to leave the class and may refer serious offenses to the University Police Department and/or the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.

Class Policy

1. Students will have all electronic devices turned off and put away before class begins..
2. Students are expected to use laptops only for taking notes. No cell phones or other electronic devices, unless otherwise specified in the syllabus, are permitted to be used during class. You are not permitted to surf the internet during lab.
3. **Inappropriate conduct will result in the following actions:**
 - a. verbal warning
 - b. private conference
 - c. written warning
 - d. removal of the student from the class
4. The instructor may, for breach of student conduct and at his or her discretion, remove the student from the classroom for one class period without prior warning.

Participation in Research

Supporting Psychological Science: Research Participation Requirement

As part of your course requirement, you will need to complete a total of 5 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 3 credit hours. Students who complete the 3 credits without acquiring any no-shows will be allowed to complete an additional 2 credits for extra credit.

Failure to complete the required number of credits will result in the reduction of your final grade by one letter grade. That is, if you have an “A” and do not complete the required credits, your final grade will be a “B.”

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. 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.

A pre-screening questionnaire is required before participating in many of the studies. You may earn .5 credits by completing the pre-screening within the *first two weeks* of the semester.

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!

The alternative to the research experiment participation will be to complete an original 20 page research project, as specified by your instructor. If you choose to do the research project instead of the research experiments, you must make an appointment and meet individually with the instructor prior to Monday, September 8, 2014, and the written project will be due by Monday, December 1, 2014, in class.

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

*As this schedule is **tentative**, it is the **student’s** responsibility to be aware of changes announced in class.*

	Date	Topics	Reading
Week1	8/25/14	Syllabus/Ice Breaker	
	8/27/14	Introduction and Research Methods	Chapter 1
	8/29/14	Introduction and Research Methods	Chapter 1
Week 2	9/1/14	NO CLASS/ LABOR DAY BREAK	
	9/3/14	Neuroscience and Biological Foundations	Chapter 2
	9/5/14	Neuroscience and Biological Foundations	Chapter 2
Week 3	9/8/14	Stress and Health Psychology	Chapter 3
	9/10/14	Stress and Health Psychology	Chapter 3
Week 4	9/12/14	EXAM 1	
	9/15/14	NO CLASS/GROUP WORK DAY	
	9/17/14	Sense and Perception	Chapter 4
Week 5	9/19/14	Sense and Perception	Chapter 4
	9/22/14	States of Consciousness	Chapter 5
	9/24/14	States of Consciousness	Chapter 5
	9/26/14	EXAM 2	
Week 6	9/29/14	Learning	Chapter 6
	10/1/14	Learning	Chapter 6

	10/3/14	NO CLASS/ARMADILLO CONFERENCE	
Week 7	10/6/14	Memory	Chapter 7
	10/8/14	Memory	Chapter 7
	10/10/14	Thinking, Language, and Intelligence	Chapter 8
Week 8	10/13/14	NO CLASS/GROUP WORK DAY	
	10/15/14	Thinking, Language, and Intelligence	Chapter 8
	10/17/14	EXAM 3	
Week 9	10/20/14	Lifespan Development	Chapter 9
	10/22/14	Lifespan Development	Chapter 9
	10/24/14	Emotion and Motivation	Chapter 10
Week 10	10/27/14	Emotion and Motivation	Chapter 10
	10/29/14	Personality	Chapter 11
	10/31/14	Personality	Chapter 11
Week 11	11/3/14	EXAM 4	
	11/5/14	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 12
	11/7/14	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 12
Week 12	11/10/14	Therapy	Chapter 13
	11/12/14	Therapy	Chapter 13
	11/14/14	Social Psychology	Chapter 14
Week 13	11/17/14	Social Psychology	Chapter 14
	11/19/14	EXAM 5	
	11/21/14	NO CLASS/PSYCHONOMICS CONFERENCE	
Week 14	11/24-28/14	NO CLASS/ THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS	
Week 15	12/1/14	Review/Final Exam Handed Out/ Paper Due	
	12/3/14	Open Day	
	12/5/14	Conclusion	
Week 16	12/8-12/14	FINALS WEEK/FINAL EXAM DUE	