

**Psychology 1300**  
**Introduction to Psychology**  
**Spring 2012**  
Sec. 003 MWF 12:00-12:50 Hyer 100

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\*email is the best way to contact me

**Textbook:** Psychology, David G. Myers (9th Edition)

**Optional text:** Study Guide for Psychology

**Course Description and Student Learning Outcomes**

The aim of this course is to provide an overview of the major areas within the discipline of psychology. It will touch upon research, neuroscience, consciousness, perception, learning, memory, emotions, development, social influences, psychological disorders, and treatment.

Students will be able to explain basic theories and methods related to the study of human behavior, cognition, or socio-cultural organization.

Students will be a knowledgeable consumer of psychological research and findings and be able to think critically about psychological topics.

On a final exam, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the major areas within the discipline of psychology.

Class outlines and grades will be posted on Blackboard. <http://courses.smu.edu>.

**Grading**

1. **Exams:** There will be four exams and a cumulative final. The multiple choice questions will be drawn from the lectures, assigned readings, and films. Please bring a #2 pencil with eraser to each exam. Of the four exams, I will drop the lowest score (the final cannot be dropped). The three highest exams and the final will each be worth 25% of your final grade.
2. Make up exams will be given ONLY for university excused absences. NO EXCEPTIONS. If you have a university excused absence, you must notify me **before** the scheduled exam and provide appropriate documentation regarding your

absence. If you miss an exam for any other reason (you are ill, you oversleep, you are late and another student has completed the exam, personal travel, forget to bring a #2 pencil, etc.) this will be the exam that you drop. Medical university excuses must be a hand written note on either a prescription form or the doctor's letterhead stationery. A walk out statement from the health center will not suffice. Check the syllabus and final exam schedule before making flight reservations, travel arrangements, etc!!! Make up exams are not necessarily the same length or format as original exams.

3. Make up exams for excused absences will be given on the following dates: February 22, March 21, and April 25 at 3:30pm in Hyer 100.
4. All exams, including the final, **must** be taken during the class for which you are registered. Taking the exam with a different section will result in a grade of 0.
5. If the final exam is missed or taken with a different section without a valid excuse, it can be made up, but the score will be deducted by 25%.
6. You will not be permitted to exit the classroom during an exam, unless the exam has been turned in. Furthermore, if you are late on the day of the exam, you will not be permitted to take the test if any class member has completed the exam and left the room. No cell phones are allowed out during the exams. If you bring a cell phone, or if your cell phone rings during an exam, I will subtract 10 points from your test grade.
7. Exam grades will be posted on Blackboard. You will also have the opportunity to view your graded exam in class the following class day. However, you **must** view these exams within 1 week of the date the grades are posted. After 1 week, you will not have access to these exams.
8. Extra credit. You will have the opportunity to earn up to 5 points of extra credit to be applied to an exam by participating in the Psychology Department Subject Pool. You may sign up to participate in experiments on <http://smu.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate is April 23.

Grade distribution will be as follows: A = 93% and higher; A- = 90% - 92%; B+ = 87% - 89%; B = 83% - 86%; B- = 80% - 82%; C+ = 77% - 79%; C = 73% - 76%; C- = 70% - 72%; D+ = 67% - 69%; D = 63% - 66%; D- = 60% - 62%; F = below 60%.

Classroom Etiquette: Please be considerate of all of the other students. Walking in late to class, talking, and reading the newspaper is disruptive to the entire class. Turn off all cell phones during class lectures and exams. If you continue to disrupt the class, I will ask you to leave the classroom. Students are expected to attend class regularly.

Laptops are only allowed for note taking purposes. If you use it to surf the internet, or if it becomes a distraction to other students, I reserve the right to ban you from using your laptop.

## **Course Calendar**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chapters</b>
1/18 – 2/6	History, Methods, Neuroscience, Consciousness	Prologue, 1, 2, 3 (85-112)
<b>2/8</b>	<b>Exam I</b>	
2/10 – 2/29	Perception, Learning, Memory	6 (229-230; 263-289), 7, 8
<b>3/2</b>	<b>Exam II</b>	
3/5 – 3/30	Emotion, Social, Personality	12 (497-526), 16, 13 (553-564)
3/12 – 3/16	No Class – Spring Break	
<b>4/2</b>	<b>Exam III</b>	
4/4	Drop date	
4/4 – 4/27	Developmental, Psychological Disorders, Therapy	4 (133-143), 5, 14, 15
4/6	No Class – Good Friday	
<b>4/30</b>	<b>Exam IV</b>	

**Final exam: Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup> 8:00**

\* This schedule will be followed as closely as possible, but may change depending on the pace of the class. Changes will be announced as far in advance as possible.

## **University Policies**

Disability Accommodations: If you need academic accommodations for a disability, you must first contact Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS) at 214-768-1470 or [www.smu.edu/alec/dass.asp](http://www.smu.edu/alec/dass.asp) to verify the disability and to establish eligibility for accommodations. Then you must schedule an appointment with the professor to make appropriate arrangements.

Religious Observance: Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester, and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence.

Academic Integrity: Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course and will be dealt with according to the University's Honor Code. As stated by the Honor Council, "Permitting others to prepare their work, using published or unpublished summaries as a substitute for studying required materials, or giving or receiving unauthorized assistance in preparation of work to be submitted are directly contrary to the honest process of learning." A violation of the Code will result in an F for the course. In addition, the student may also be taken before the Honor Council. If you are unclear about this please see the instructor immediately.

Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities: Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity will be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of their participation. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor prior to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work.