

The University of Texas at Dallas
Course Syllabus

Course Information

Course number: PSY 2301.HN1.135

Course title: **INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY- Collegium V Honors**

Term: Spring 2015

Meeting times: Tuesday & Thursday 4:00 – 5:15 pm, GC1.208B

Professor Contact Information

Professor's name: Dr. Joanna Gentsch

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Email: jgentsch@utdallas.edu

Office location: JO2.214

Office hours: Thursdays, 2:00-3:30 p.m. or by appointment

Other information: The fastest and best way to reach me is direct UTD email. **Please put the course name in your subject line and email from your UTD email address. I will only answer emails sent to the address listed above. Please do NOT email me via eLearning as I will not regularly be checking those emails.**

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions: None

Course Description

This course introduces students to the phenomena, principles, and theories of psychology. Psychologists study how biological, cognitive, social, and cultural factors interact to determine how we develop our amazing capacity for complex behavior, emotions, and cognitions. Psychologists seek to understand why and how risk factors lead some individuals to suffer from psychological disorders, whereas others are able to be resilient in the face of adversity.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

This course serves as a General Education requirement for the Social and Behavioral Sciences TX Common Core. <http://provost.utdallas.edu/assessment/2014-core-curriculum>. After completing the course, students should be able to:

- Describe and explain the nature of psychology as a scientific discipline (1.1)
 - Describe and analyze major theoretical perspectives and overarching themes (1.2)
 - Use critical thinking to evaluate popular media and scholarly literature (critical thinking skills core)
 - Demonstrate effective writing skills in various formats (e.g., summaries, integrations, critiques, technical reports) and for various purposes (e.g., informing, teaching, explaining, defending, persuading, arguing) (communication core)
 - Demonstrate how psychological principles can explain and inform clinical issues, social issues, organizational issues, and public policy (social responsibility core and 3.1)
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Required Textbooks and Materials:

- Schacter, D. L., Gilbert, D. T., & Wegner, D. M. (2013) *Introducing Psychology* (2nd Edition). New York: Worth
- Additional **mandatory** assigned readings on ***eLearning and as assigned on the syllabus***
- For each exam, you must bring a Pearson Scantron **#229630** (pink form) and a #2 pencil. You are required to bring your own scantron for each exam! They are free at the off-campus bookstore.
- eLearning will be used throughout the semester for recording your grades, for class announcements, for providing supplemental readings and handouts, and for you to submit your activity essays electronically. Make sure you have access to eLearning.

Research Exposure Credit Requirement (REC):

One requirement of all students enrolled in this class is completion of two research exposure credits. This requirement provides students practical and direct experiences with research and is an important means to understanding behavioral research. Details about this requirement appear on the separate Research Exposure Credit Requirement handout distributed on the first day of class. "Instructions for Research Exposure Credit Requirements" are also posted on the BBS Information Center in eLearning (link on the left side under Content) and on the BBS website. Failure to complete the research exposure requirement will result in lowering your total grade in this class. For each Research Exposure Credit you fail to complete, your course grade will be reduced by 1/3 letter grade. For example, if you only complete one of the two required credits and your grade for all other course requirements is an A+, then your grade would be lowered from an A+ to an A. If you do not complete both credits, your grade would be lowered from an A+ to A-. The deadline for completion of these credits is May 1, 2015.

Grading Policy:*(including percentages for assignments, grade scale, etc.)*

Final course grade is based on the following criteria: Grades are reported as percentages and correspond with letter grades as listed below.

<i>Class Participation and Attendance</i>	<i>10% total</i>
<i>Discussion Questions and Class Activities</i>	<i>15% total</i>
<i>Exams 1, 2, 3</i>	<i>50% total</i>
<i>Essays 1-3</i>	<i>25% Total</i>

98-100	A+	77-79	C+
93-97	A	73-76	C
90-92	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	63-66	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
		Below 60	F

Course and Instructor Policies and Descriptions of Course Assignments:

Class Participation and attendance (10%):

- Class participation is required and expected. It is assessed in a variety of ways. Class participation is an important indication of your commitment and engagement in the material and is critical to your success in class. You will have the opportunity to participate in class through class discussions, emailed questions, attendance and student writing activities. Lecture content will frequently cover topics and current events that are not found in the text and will not be provided on lecture notes. In addition there will be in-class activities which will require student participation. If you are unable to stay for the entire class, please let the professor know and you will be credited for partial attendance. The attendance grade is based on a percent of classes attended (allowing for 2 un-excused absences).
- Students can miss up to two (2) classes with no penalty to their Class Participation grade. There will be no opportunities to make-up missed Class Participation credit, regardless of the reason. I frequently hear from students (frequently enough in fact, that I've added it to this syllabus) after missing the first two classes that they had an excellent reason for the third class they missed, such as illness, family emergency, or car trouble. I highly recommend saving up your freebies for unforeseen circumstances that may indeed arise.
- Students do not need to submit any documentation for missed days of lectures, the first two missed days will simply be dropped, and all subsequent missed days will result in a deduction, regardless of the reason (this does not apply to Exams; see below).

Classroom Behavior: Please come to class on time and stay for the duration of the class session. You should be seated and ready to begin on time. Please be respectful of your classmates and your professor and refrain from talking to each other during lectures. Coming and going during class and talking to your neighbors is disruptive and distracting.

Electronics policy: Because this is a small class I will allow the use of laptops for note-taking. I am requesting that you not use the laptops for checking email, surfing the internet or any other non-note-taking activities. You will be asked to sign a form indicate your willingness to adhere to this policy. If you have no self-control and can't resist the urge to do the above activities when you have your laptop in class, please refrain from using it. Cell phones must be turned off and put away during class.

Lecture notes will be posted weekly on eLearning. These are for student's use only and are not to be distributed in any other format. Note: These notes are meant as an outline for class and will not contain all information discussed and reviewed in class.

Discussion Questions and in-class activities (15%):

Once per week, students will need to submit two (2) questions, comments, or "psychology in the news" items based on the readings and/or topics assigned for the week. These questions and comments will be incorporated into class lecture and will be used to facilitate class discussions and also for reflective in-class writing activities. Accordingly, these questions/comments must be submitted to eLearning 24 hours in advance of the class. For Tuesday classes, questions must be submitted by the previous Monday at noon. For Thursday classes, questions must be submitted noon on Wednesday. You may submit two questions at once or choose to submit one question for each class day. Students may skip submitting questions/comments two times throughout the semester with no penalty to their grade.

Exams (50%)

Three non-cumulative exams focusing on the assigned readings and lecture material will be given to assess your mastery of the material in each section of the course.

Exams will be multiple-choice, short essay and fill in the blank.

DON'T MISS AN EXAM! You must be present for all exams. Make-up exams will be given only if: (a) you were seriously ill and have verifiable documentation from a physician, or (b) you were detained the day and time of the exam, or (c) you made arrangements prior to the exam to attend an urgent family affair (e.g., funeral).

In any of these cases, you must notify your professor in advance of the scheduled time of the exam (call and leave a voice-mail message if you can do nothing else) and you must also provide the appropriate documentation. Otherwise, you will receive a 0 for that exam. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that an exam is made up within one week of the scheduled time. If you do not come to the make-up exam at the scheduled time you will receive a 0 for the exam. Beware, make-up exams are designed to be more comprehensive to compensate for having more study time. If you have a concern about an exam grade, please contact your instructor within one week of the grades posting to discuss the issue.

Activity Essays (25%)

You will be responsible for writing three brief essays in the course of the semester. Each essay will address a particular topic that will be discussed in class and preparation will be aided with additional readings and activities. Each essay will be submitted electronically on eLearning (due dates are on the syllabus calendar). **No assignments will be accepted after the due date.** The assignments will be discussed in greater detail in class and detailed descriptions and specific instructions will be posted on eLearning.

Please do not make video and/or audio recordings of the lecture without permission. Video and/or audio recordings of class sessions made with or without permission may not be distributed in any way. This includes but is not limited to postings on the internet, websites, eLearning, or email.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.

How your Essays are evaluated

Throughout the course of the semester each student will be required to complete all three essays. Each student will be responsible for reading the associated articles and writing a brief essay related to the assignment. The essays must be submitted electronically to E-learning by class time on the due date. If you are having trouble uploading the essay, please email it to igentsch@utdallas.edu by the due date/time in order for full credit to be given. If you continue to have issues, please let me know so that we can investigate your issues with electronic submission. **Technological issues are not an excuse for late work.** All written work must be original unless appropriate credit is given (please read plagiarism policy in this document. Essays will not be returned to the student. Each essay will be graded prior to the due date of the consecutive essay. Grading criteria is outlined below:

CONTENT	7 points total = 70%
Completeness and Knowledge of the subject	
High Quality: Addressed the question completely, integrated examples from lecture and readings. Excellent use of critical inquiry, analysis and synthesis of material.	6-7 points
Adequate: Addressed the question but left out details or did not use appropriate examples. Relevant to the topic but is limited in critical interpretation of the material.	4-5 points
Needs improvement: Addressed the question, but provided few details or examples. Minimal substance and limited knowledge of the subject. Interpretation is unfocused and shallow.	2-3 points
Inadequate Did not address the question. Failed to provide any appropriate support for thesis. Supporting evidence is wrong.	0-1 points
ORGANIZATION, STYLE, AND MECHANICS	3 points total=30%
High Quality: The essay is well written, clear and concise. There are no grammar or spelling errors, length and formatting requirements are met.	3 points
Adequate: The essay contains minimal grammar or spelling errors. The length and formatting requirements are met.	2 points
Needs Improvement: The essay contains numerous grammar and spelling errors. Length and formatting requirements are not met.	1 point
Inadequate: The essay is difficult to read due to poor writing, spelling or grammatical errors. Length and formatting requirements are not met.	0 points

Extra credit: Absolutely no individualized extra credit will be given. The course is designed to provide a variety of grading opportunities.

Plagiarism: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings. **Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism** (see general catalog for details).

PSY 2301♦INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY♦

SPRING 2015

TUESDAYS	THURSDAYS
JANUARY 13- Class 1	JANUARY 15- Class 2
Introduction to Course	Methods in Psychology
Reading: Chapter 1	Reading: Chapter 2
TUESDAYS	THURSDAYS
JANUARY 20- Class 3	JANUARY 22- Class 4
Neuroscience and Behavior	Sensation and Perception
Reading: Chapter 3	Reading: Chapter 4
TUESDAYS	THURSDAYS
JANUARY 27- Class 5	JANUARY 29- Class 6
Sensation and Perception	Consciousness
Reading: Chapter 4	Reading: Chapter 5
eLearning Reading One	Essay One Due at 4 p.m. via eLearning
TUESDAYS	THURSDAYS
FEBRUARY 3- Class 7	FEBRUARY 5- Class 8
Consciousness	Memory
eLearning Reading Two	Reading: Chapter 6
TUESDAYS	THURSDAYS
FEBRUARY 10- Class 9	FEBRUARY 12- Class 10
Memory	EXAM 1- Don't forget your scantron!
eLearning Reading Three	
TUESDAYS	THURSDAYS
FEBRUARY 17- Class 11	FEBRUARY 19- Class 12
Learning	Learning
Reading: Chapter 7	Reading: Chapter 7
TUESDAYS	THURSDAYS
FEBRUARY 24- Class 13	FEBRUARY 26- Class 14
Emotion and Motivation	Emotion and Motivation
Reading: Chapter 8	Reading: Chapter 8
eLearning Reading Four	

TUESDAYS	THURSDAYS
MARCH 3- Class 15	MARCH 5- Class 16
Language, Thought, and Intelligence	Development
Reading: Chapter 9	Reading: Chapter 10
TUESDAYS	THURSDAYS
MARCH 10-Class 17	MARCH 12-Class 18
Development	Personality
	Essay Two Due at 4 p.m. via eLearning
TUESDAYS	THURSDAYS
MARCH 17-	MARCH 19-
SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
TUESDAYS	THURSDAYS
MARCH 24- Class 19	MARCH 26- Class 20
Personality	Exam Two -
Reading: Chapter 11	Don't forget your scantron!
eLearning Reading Five	
TUESDAYS	THURSDAYS
March 31- Class 21	APRIL 2- Class 22
Social Psychology	Social Psychology
Reading: Chapter 12	Reading: Chapter 12
TUESDAYS	THURSDAYS
APRIL 7 – Class 23	APRIL 9- Class 24
Psychological Disorders	Psychological Disorders
Reading: Chapter 13	Reading: Chapter 13
eLearning Reading Six	
TUESDAYS	THURSDAYS
APRIL 14- Class 25	APRIL 16- Class 26
Treatment of Disorders	Treatment of Disorders
Reading: Chapter 14	Reading: Chapter 14
TUESDAYS	THURSDAYS
APRIL 21- Class 27	APRIL 23- Class 28
Treatment of Disorders	Stress and Health
Reading: Chapter 14	Reading: Chapter 15
	Essay 3 Due at 4 p.m. via eLearning

TUESDAYS	THURSDAYS
APRIL 28- Class 29	April 30- Class 30
Stress and Health	Exam 3 – Bring a Scantron
Reading: Chapter 15	LAST CLASS DAY
eLearning Reading Seven	