

# Honors Psychology

Fall, 2023

"You cannot teach a man anything: You can only help him find it within himself" Galileo

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**Course:** This course is a general introduction to the field of psychology. My primary objective is to develop and motivate your interest in the domain by looking at select topics. At the same time I hope we'll all have fun, and that you'll learn some basic facts about the discipline.

"Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler" Einstein

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**Text:** *Introducing Psychology* version 5.0. Written by Kosslyn & Rosenberg. Published by Flat World.

"The great use of life is to spend it for something that outlasts it" William James

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**The Basics:** Do the reading. If you do I promise you will find this class both educational and easy, if you don't—well—not so much. Let me be blunt, if you do not do the readings you almost certainly will fail this course. Also, keep in mind that a syllabus sometimes shifts a little as the course unfolds - at some point we may get behind (or maybe ahead). I say that by way of noting the importance of class attendance, as you will be held responsible for any change in plans announced in class. The other basic admonition every syllabus must include is that cheating (broadly defined) is not allowed. In this class that absolutely does include the use of AI technology to write part or all of your assignments. Or, as the university likes me to say: "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)." If you have any questions about what constitutes cheating please see me. Also, note that "The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)." Last... Be advised that only qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, even license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

"When in doubt, tell the truth" Mark Twain

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**Format:** This is basically a lecture class, though questions are earnestly welcomed (indeed encouraged). If not, I'll just keep talking.

"Never interrupt your enemy while he is making a mistake" Napoleon

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**Assignments:** There will be three in-class tests. Each test will cover about a third of the text's material. Each test will be worth 50 points (though a bonus is likely), and will be composed of both multiple choice items and short-answer questions. Additionally, you will need to do 3 short 5-10 page papers. Each paper will need to do 3 things; (1) cover the material in the book spanning the pages noted, (2) focusing on the question asked, and (3) going "deeper" on some aspect of that matter. These will also be worth 50 points each. And last, everyone must participate in the SONA system as covered in the handouts.

For Paper 1 - Pick one of these 5

**Chapter 2**

What are Neurotransmitters and How do they Work? 75-85  
 Provide an overview of the Brain and Nervous System 86-111

**Chapter 3**

Vision: What is the difference between Sensation and Perception? 129-146  
 Provide an overview of Gestalt Psychology 147-163  
 Provide an overview of Hearing and Other Senses 163-181

For Paper 2 - Pick one of these 4

**Chapter 7**

Psychology and Eating? 389-395

**Chapter 9**

Summarize Development from Conception thru Childhood 457-477  
 How does Morality Develop? 485-492  
 Summarize Development from a Lifespan Perspective 492-507

For Paper 3 - Pick one of these 4

**Chapter 10**

Discuss Stress and its effects on Health 514-530  
 Discuss Sleep and its effects on Health 531-543  
 Discuss Aggression and Narcissism 544-551  
 Discuss How and Why Drugs work 551-562

"The fewer the words the better the prayer" Martin Luther

**Grades:** As noted, there will be 3 in-class tests (150+ points) and 3 papers (150+ points). Final grades will be based on these 6 scores as well as the SONA system work that you complete. See the scale below.

The Grade Scale will be:

A=	280 and above (~94%)
B=	260 (~88%)
C=	245 (~82%)
D=	225 (~76%)
F=	224 and below

Failure to complete the SONA System credits will cost you points per credit not completed.

Let us end this section on a positive note. I will curve the tests (if need be) so that at least two people make a perfect score. Also, I may lower this scale if that seems to be needed.

"I have worked as hard and as well as I could, and no man can do more than this" Darwin

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**Make Up Policy:** Don't miss tests. Failing that admonition, see me as soon as possible about the make-up assignment.

"We will either find a way, or we will make one" Hannibal

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## The Schedule of Events (have the reading listed that day done before class)

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### August

28 M Course Overview

30 W Mind & Body: Grand Theoretical Approaches Chapter 1

### September

1 F History of Psychology

4 M NO CLASS

6 W Science, and Research Method

8 F Psychometrics and Ethics

11 M Genes, Behavior and Evolutionary Psychology

13 W Learning Basics, Classical Conditioning and Pavlov Chapter 4

15 F Watson and Beyond

18 M Thorndike, Guthrie, and Hull

20 W Operant Conditioning: Skinner

22 F Social Learning: Tolman, Miller and Bandura

25 M Sensory & Short Term Memory Chapter 5

27 W Selected aspects of Long Term Memory

29 F Reconstruction and related matters

2 M TEST-1 and PAPER-1

### October

4 W Communication and Language Chapter 6

6 F Schema, Concepts, and Mental Representations

9 M Problem Solving and Creativity

11 W Intelligence

13 F Nature vs Nurture - More about Intelligence

16 M Selected aspects of Emotion Chapter 7

18 W Selected aspects of Motivation

20 F Sexual Basics

23 M Freud Chapter 8

25 W Beyond Freud

27 F Selected aspects of Personality

30 M Selected aspects of Personality - Continued

### November

1 W Piaget and Vygotsky Chapter 9

3 F TEST-2 and PAPER-2

6 M Abnormality Chapter 11

8 W Select Disorders: Depression and Anxiety

10 F Select Disorders: Schizophrenia

13 M More Select Disorders

15 W Psychodynamic Therapy

17 F Other Therapies

20 M Social Cognition

Chapter 12

Chapter 13

**THANKSGIVING BREAK**

27 M Stereotypes, Prejudices, and Discrimination

29 W Liking, Lusting, and Loving

*December*

1 F Social Identity Theory

4 M Asch & Milgram: Classic Works in Social Psychology

6 W Social Interactions - From Altruism to Apathy

8 F And so...

Final exam period      **TEST-3 and PAPER-3**

"Chance favors the prepared mind" Louis Pasteur

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**The Instructor:** I am Tracy B. Henley, PhD. I should generally be around Binnion every class day from early morning until mid afternoon. If that is not good for you, see me before/after class and we can find an alternative time for an appointment.



You can also contact me at: [tracy.henley@tamuc.edu](mailto:tracy.henley@tamuc.edu)

"We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing, while others judge us by what we have already done" Longfellow

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