

Honors Psychology

Fall, 2024

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

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.

Office Hours: MWF 8-9am and 10-11am in Nursing 314

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

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

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." 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

Format: This is basically a lecture class, though questions are earnestly welcomed (indeed

“Never interrupt your enemy while he is making a mistake” Napoleon

encouraged). If not, I'll just keep talking.

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
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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

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

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

August

26 M Course Overview

28 W Mind & Body: Grand Theoretical Approaches Chapter 1

30 F History of Psychology

September

2 M NO CLASS

4 W Science, and Research Methods

6 F Psychometrics and Ethics

9 M Genes, Behavior and Evolutionary Psychology

11 W Learning Basics, Classical Conditioning and Pavlov Chapter 4

13 F Watson and Beyond

16 M Thorndike, Guthrie, and Hull

18 W Operant Conditioning: Skinner

20 F Social Learning: Tolman, Miller, and Bandura

23 M Sensory & Short Term Memory Chapter 5

25 W Selected aspects of Long Term Memory

27 F Reconstruction and related matters

30 M **TEST-1 and PAPER-1**

October

2 W Communication and Language Chapter 6

4 F Schema, Concepts, and Mental Representations

7 M Problem Solving and Creativity

9 W Intelligence

11 F Nature vs Nurture - More about Intelligence

14 M Selected aspects of Emotion Chapter 7

16 W Selected aspects of Motivation

18 F Sexual Basics

21 M Freud Chapter 8

23 W Beyond Freud

25 F Selected aspects of Personality

28 M Selected aspects of Personality - Continued

30 W Piaget and Vygotsky Chapter 9

November

1 F **TEST-2 and PAPER-2**

4 M Abnormality Chapter 11

6 W Select Disorders: Depression and Anxiety
8 F Select Disorders: Schizophrenia
11 M More Select Disorders
13 W Psychodynamic Therapy
15 F Other Therapies
18 M Social Cognition
20 W Stereotypes, Prejudices, and Discrimination
22 F Liking, Lusting, and Loving
25 M Social Identity Theory

Chapter 12

Chapter 13

THANKSGIVING BREAK

December

2 M Asch & Milgram: Classic Works in Social Psychology
4 W Social Interactions - From Altruism to Apathy
6 F And so...

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

“Chance favors the prepared mind” Louis Pasteur

The Instructor: I am Tracy B. Henley, PhD. I should generally be around every class day from early morning until late afternoon. My faculty office is in Binnion, although I will be in the Dean's Office much of that time. 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

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