

**Introductory to Psychology – Psychology 1315/006**  
**Spring Semester 2008; Tuesdays/Thursdays 12:30 – 1:50 pm**  
**Life Science Bldg 100**

**Instructor:** Marc Gomez

**Office:** 411 Life Science Building

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00pm – 3:00pm or by appointment

**Mailbox:** Psychology Department, Box 19528

**Email:** magomez@uta.edu

**Web links:** webct.uta.edu; <http://www.uta.edu/psychology/>; <http://uta.sona-systems.com/>

**Required Textbook:** *Psychology* by James Nairne, 4<sup>th</sup> edition

**Recommended/supplement:** study guide

### **Course Description/Objective**

This course is designed to expose students to the field of study encompassing several areas of psychology. Specifically, students will be exposed to social, personality, cognitive, developmental, neurological and clinical psychological concepts. The course is designed to interest and meet the needs of both majors and non-majors of psychology. Mastery of such areas of psychology will come in the form of exams throughout the semester.

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to identify pertinent psychological concepts (i.e., principles, approaches, and theories) through a combination of lectures, activities, videos, class discussions, and assignments set forth in the course outline.

### **Attendance Policy**

Class attendance is not required; however, I encourage you to attend. Students who regularly attend class tend to do better on the exams than those that only appear on exam days. Material covered in class may not appear in the textbook. If you miss a class, the onus is on you to get the notes from one of your classmates.

Tardiness is unacceptable. Please be on time. If you are late, you may miss important announcements and extra credit opportunities. Additionally, if you plan to leave during class please tell me in advance.

### **Class Participation**

I will conduct class in a manner that encourages student involvement by maintaining an open, informal atmosphere for everyone to discuss topics related to psychology. Respect for other student's opinions and contributions, regardless of whether those beliefs are contrary to their own beliefs will be upheld.

### **Classroom Behavior**

Noise devices such as pagers, cellular telephones, and iPods during class are disruptive to other students as well as the instructor. Please make it a habit to have all such devices turned off prior to the start of class. Laptops are permissible for taking notes only.

### **Exams**

There will be FOUR (4) non-cumulative exams throughout the semester. Exams are used as a measure to demonstrate a student's knowledge over material leading up to that particular exam day. The exams will cover information in your textbook, as well as additional information

discussed in class. Both textbook and class lectures compliment each other. Students who do not read the textbook, but attend lectures run the danger of failing. Likewise, a student who reads the textbook, but does not attend class runs the chance of failing. In short, a student who reads the textbook AND attends class will be better prepared for exam day.

Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions worth two (2) points each. Students arriving after the scheduled class start time, on the exam date, may be turned away. That is, a student will not be given an exam once one has been turned in. There will be NO make-up exams given since a student's lowest test score will be dropped. I respect personal situations which call for absences and that is why I'm allowing the lowest grade out of the first 3 exams to be dropped. Exam 4 ("final examination") is NOT optional and the grade on this particular exam will not be dropped.

Students are asked not to wear ball caps or any other head covering that prevents the proctors from seeing their eyes. Additionally, all students will be required to bring some form of picture identification (i.e., student ID, driver's license, or passport) on exam days. Students will be asked to present the identification when submitting their test.

Students who wish to find out what questions they missed on examinations are invited to meet with me in my office during office hours or by appointment. Specific grades will not be discussed during class.

### **Research Participation Requirement**

All students enrolled in PSYC 1315 must complete SIX (6) research participation credits by the end of the last class day. This requirement may be satisfied by serving as a subject in an Institutional Review Board (IRB) approved psychological study and/or by summarizing and evaluating published studies, in journals or in other sources, approved by the Sona Administrator. Credits/points are NOT added to the course grade for completion of this requirement; however, failure to complete a minimum of 6 credits by the last class day will result in an incomplete for the course regardless of your earned letter grade. Specific questions/concerns should be addressed to the Subject Pool Coordinator, Marie Ramirez, at [psycpool@uta.edu](mailto:psycpool@uta.edu).

### **Extra Credit or Free Points**

There are several ways a student can earn extra credit or free points on exams throughout the semester.

I may give a random word to the class throughout the semester that will appear as an exam question. This is an incentive for students to attend regularly.

A student can earn up to two (2) extra points toward their final grade by participating in two (2) additional experiments or writing research article reviews as per the Sona handout requirements. A student has the option of doing two experiments, two article reviews or a combination of the two (e.g., one experiment and one review).

Like the attendance policy, assigned homework other than the required reading is optional. I will only assign homework in addition to the reading if I believe the extra homework will benefit the student's learning objective. Therefore, I will randomly select assignments to pick up to grant as extra credit (assuming it is right). Not every assignment will be picked up.

There may be other extra credit opportunities as the semester progresses.

## Grading

The course grade will be based on a point scale which will comprise of the mean of three exam grades (the best two exam grades out of the first three given and exam 4). The grade for each exam will be the % [point] correct of exam questions. The final grade distribution will be based on a 300 point distribution and will be strictly adhered to.

A = 270 – 300 pts (90% or higher)

B = 240 – 269 pts (80% - 89.9%)

C = 210 – 239 pts (70% - 79.9%)

D = 180 – 209 pts (60% - 69.9%)

F = under 179 pts

Each test is weighted equal; therefore, each test is worth roughly 33.33% (or 100pts) of the final grade. Rounding will be applied only for the calculation of the course grade, not for each individual exam. For example, a course grade of 79.5 will be rounded to 80 for a course letter grade of B. A course grade of 79.4 will yield a letter grade of C.

### Allocation of Points

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>POSSIBLE POINTS</u>
Exam 1	100pts
Exam 2	100pts
Exam 3	100pts
	200pts
Exam 4	100pts

Total points to be earned: 300

### Outline for the Course

	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
	<b>January 15</b>	<b>January 17</b>
<b>Week 1</b>	Syllabus Review	Guest speaker Helen Hough: Available library resources
	<b>January 22</b>	<b>January 24</b>
<b>Week 2</b>	Chapter 1: Intro to Psyc Discuss Sona/Research Requirement	Chapter 2: Tools of Psyc
	<b>January 29</b>	<b>January 31</b>
<b>Week 3</b>	Chapter 2: Tools of Psyc	Chapter 3: Biological Processes
	<b>February 5</b>	<b>February 7</b>
<b>Week 4</b>	Chapter 16: Stress and Health	Movie: Awakenings (part I) No office hours
	<b>February 12</b>	<b>February 14</b>
<b>Week 5</b>	Movie: Awakenings (part II) Catch up/Review Day	EXAM 1
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>February 19</b>	<b>February 21</b>

	Chapter 4: Human Development	Chapter 4: Human Development
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>February 26</b>	<b>February 28</b>
	Chapter 8: Memory	Chapter 6: Consciousness
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>March 4</b>	<b>March 6</b>
	Chapter 7: Learning From Experience	Chapter 5: Sensation and Perception
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>March 11</b>	<b>March 13</b>
	Catch up/Review Day	<i>EXAM 2</i>
<b>Week 10</b>	<b>March 18</b>	<b>March 20</b>
	Spring	Break
<b>Week 11</b>	<b>March 25</b>	<b>March 27</b>
	Chapter 9: Language and Thought	Chapter 10: Intelligence
<b>Week 12</b>	<b>April 1</b>	<b>April 3</b>
	Chapter 11: Motivation and Emotion	Chapter 11: Motivation and Emotion
<b>Week 13</b>	<b>April 8</b>	<b>April 10</b>
	Chapter 15: Therapy	Catch up/Review day
<b>Week 14</b>	<b>April 15</b>	<b>April 17</b>
	<i>EXAM 3</i>	Chapter 14: Psychological Disorders
<b>Week 15</b>	<b>April 22</b>	<b>April 24</b>
	Chapter 12: Personality	Chapter 12: Personality
<b>Week 16</b>	<b>April 29</b>	<b>May 1</b>
	Chapter 13: Social Psychology	Chapter 13: Social Psychology
<b>Week 17</b>	<b>May 6</b>	<b>May 8</b>
	No Class (Finals week)	<i>EXAM 4</i> 11-1:30pm

## Special Dates

January 14: First Day of Classes

January 21: MLK Jr. Holiday

January 30: Census Date

March 17-21: Spring Break

March 28: Last day to drop

May 2: Last class day

May 5-9: Final exams (Intro to Psyc, Thursday, May 8, 11am)

## Drop Policy

A course drop grade will be assigned in accordance with UT-Arlington policy (see current catalog). No grade is given if a student drops a course before 5:00pm CST of the Census Date, January 30, 2008. A student may drop a course with a grade of W until the two-thirds point of the semester. This period ends on March 28, 2008. A student may drop a course after this point only by approval of the appropriate official.

## **Policy on academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty is unacceptable and will not be tolerated in any form at The University of Texas at Arlington. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include a grade of “F” for an assignment, a grade of “F” for the class, suspension or expulsion from the University.

*“Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts”* (Regents’ Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22).

## **Students with Disabilities**

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference to Public Law 93112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act – (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

It is your responsibility to inform me if you require an accommodation based on disability. As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide a reasonable accommodation to you, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability.

## **Student Support System**

The University supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success.

- **Computers** in LS 318 are available for your use weekly 8:00am -5:00 pm
- **Psychology Society** is a student run organization for those that are interested in psychology. They can be contacted by phone, (817.272.5059) or by email (mpo4542@exchange.uta.edu).
- **Library information** can be obtained through Helen Hough, Psychology Librarian. Please contact her by phone (817.272.7429) or by email (hough@uta.edu).
- **Other** services can be obtained from the University. The University supports a variety of student success programs to help you which include: learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and information about federally funded programs. Students seeking assistance with academic, personal or social problems should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817.272.6107.

## Student Contract

**My signature below signifies that I have read and/or been briefed on the syllabus AND the research requirement (e.g., SONA procedures) for PSYC 1315-006.**

Specifically, my signature below signifies that I understand the syllabus in its entirety and acknowledge that I had the opportunity to ask for clarification regarding all information set forth in the syllabus. I realize that I must complete 6 research credits by the end of the last class day in order to complete the PSYC 1315 requirement.

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**Student's name and ID #**

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**Student's Signature**

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**Date**