

Introduction to Psychology
Psyc 1315 Section 007
Spring 2008
T/TH 7:00-8:20pm

Instructor: Melisa Holovics

Office: LS 430

Office Hours: Tuesday 5:30-6:30pm

Email: holovic@uta.edu

Required text: *Psychology*, 4th Edition, James S. Nairne

Website: <http://www.uta.edu/webct/>

Book Website: <http://psychology.wadsworth.com/nairne4e/>

Course Description & Goals

As a survey in psychology, this course will teach students contemporary psychological principles, theories, and approaches. Specifically, students will be exposed to various psychological approaches, including social, personality, neurological, cognitive, developmental, and clinical psychology via class lectures, guest speakers' presentations, audio/visual media, class discussions, activities, homework, and/or handouts.

Upon completion of this course, students will have a fundamental knowledge of principles and approaches related to human and animal psychology. Additionally, students will be able to apply psychological principles to their everyday lives.

Attendance and Participation

Class attendance and participation are vital to grasping the course content. Students who miss class are required to find out what they missed and to acquire class notes, assignments, and missed material from another student **prior** to the next class period. I encourage you to exchange emails and/or phone numbers with at least two others students in this section.

Research has clearly demonstrated that students involved in the learning process are more likely to retain the information and have greater success than those who do not. Students should participate in class discussions and respect other students' opinions and contributions, regardless of whether these beliefs are contrary to their own beliefs.

I expect you to be on time for all class meetings. If you are late, you risk missing important, announcements, directions, discussions, and extra credit opportunities. You are still responsible for any information that is covered and I will not spend time repeating information. Be courteous, be on time, and do not socialize during class.

Be prepared by completing the assigned readings and assignments prior to class. I will be operating on the assumptions that students completed the assigned readings prior to class.

Drop Policy

No grade will be assigned if students drop before the census date, January 30th. Students may drop the course with a grade of "W" until March 28th.

Examinations

Students will have four formal opportunities throughout the semester to demonstrate their knowledge and their ability to critically think about and apply class material. Students will take three non-comprehensive examinations and a non-comprehensive final examination.

Examinations will cover information from the text, class lectures, audio/visual media, exercises, guest speakers' presentations, class discussions, homework, and handouts. Students may drop the lowest grade of the first THREE exams (the final exam **MUST** be taken).

Students who wish to find out what questions they missed on examinations may meet with me in my office up to one week after the examination. In the event students wish to dispute their exam grades, they may do so in my office **for one week only after that examination**. However, once the week after the exam has passed, examination grades will be final and will not be changed.

Tardy or Absent on Exam Day

If students are tardy the day of an examination, they will not be permitted to take the exam if any class member has already turned in a completed exam. Please be sure to arrive on time. If students miss an examination due to a **university-approved** absence of which they provide **written** approval to the instructor, they will be given a make-up and will be required to take it at a time approved by the instructor (*not* during class time). If students miss an examination due to unapproved reasons per UTA's absence policy, *they will not be able to make up the examination and will receive a zero on the examination missed.*

Extra Credit

There will be extra credit opportunities throughout the semester. I will discuss these opportunities in the beginning of class. You will need to be at class in order to hear about extra credit opportunities. As it will be extra credit, I will not go out of my way to ensure that you have heard about such opportunities. Be sure to be on time for class so you can hear announcements regarding extra credit. You can earn up to 4 extra credit points *added to your final grade.*

Grading Distribution

Final grades will be computed by averaging the highest two scores out of the first three exams, along with the grade on the final exam. Again, the lowest score will be dropped out of the first three exams, and the final **MUST** be taken.

A = 90-100%	D = 60-69%
B = 80-89%	F = 59% and below
C = 70-79%	

Other Graded Assignments

Departmental Research Requirement: Completion of **six** experimental credit hours or completion of a series of short papers based on research articles is a departmental requirement for this class. The Subject Pool Coordinator will describe this requirement. **FAILURE TO COMPLETE THE REQUIREMENT WILL RESULT IN AN INCOMPLETE FOR THE CLASS.** You will then need to complete your requirement during the next semester or the incomplete will turn into an F regardless of your academic standing. *In order to satisfy this requirement, you MUST have an account in Sona REGARDLESS if you participate in research or write reviews.*

Any questions: contact psycpool@uta.edu

Beepers & Cell Phones

Please turn off (not just vibrate) all pagers, beepers, and cell phones during class as these devices are disruptive to other students and to me.

Communication and Email

For anyone having a difficult time comprehending reading material or any other course content, please meet with me to discuss strategies on how to succeed in this course. I also welcome student feedback and suggestions as to ways to improve this course.

All students are assigned an email account and information about activating and using it is available at www.uta.edu/email. New students (first semester at UTA) are able to activate their email account 24 hours after registering for courses. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active as long as a student is enrolled at UT-Arlington. Students are responsible for checking their email regularly. I will only use your UTA email account when sending you information.

When sending an email to me, please put the class name in the subject line of the email. Inside the email include your full name. I will do my best to respond to messages in a prompt manner; however, please realize that I do not always have access to a computer.

Americans With Disabilities Act

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference 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. As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodation" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty at the beginning of the semester and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels.

Academic Dishonesty

It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University. "Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of 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).

Student Support Services Available

The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

Tentative Class Schedule

Class	Topic	Reading for the day
Tuesday, January 15 th	Introduction to Class	
Thursday, January 17 th	Introduction to Psychology and SONA	Chapter 1
Tuesday, January 22 nd	Tools of Psychological Research	Chapter 2
Thursday, January 24 th	No class	No class
Tuesday, January 29 th	Biological Processes	Chapter 3
Thursday, January 31 st	Human Development	Chapter 4
Tuesday, February 5 th		
Thursday, February 7th	Exam #1	
Tuesday, February 12 th	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 5
Thursday, February 14 th		
Tuesday, February 19 th	Consciousness	Chapter 6
Thursday, February 21 st		
Tuesday, February 26 th	Learning from Experience	Chapter 7
Thursday, February 28 th		
Tuesday, March 4 th	Memory	Chapter 8
Thursday, March 6 th		
Tuesday, March 11 th	Language and Thought	Chapter 9
Thursday, March 13th	Exam #2	
Tuesday, March 18 th	SPRING BREAK	No class
Thursday, March 20 th	SPRING BREAK	No class
Tuesday, March 25 th	Intelligence	Chapter 10
Thursday, March 27 th	Motivation and Emotion	Chapter 11
Tuesday, April 1 st		
Thursday, April 3 rd	Personality	Chapter 12
Tuesday, April 8 th		
Thursday, April 10 th	Stress and Health	Chapter 16
Tuesday, April 15th	Exam #3	
Thursday, April 17 th	Social Psychology	Chapter 13
Tuesday, April 22 nd		
Thursday, April 24 th	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 14
Tuesday, April 29 th		
Thursday, May 1 st	Therapy	Chapter 15
Thursday, May 8th	Final Exam	8:15-10:45pm

Important University Dates

January 14th – First day of classes

January 30th – Census date

March 7th – Mid-Session

March 17th-24th – Spring Break

March 28th – Last day to drop classes

May 2nd – Last day of classes