

# Introduction to Psychology

Psyc 1315 Section 001

Summer II Session 2008

M/T/W/Th 8:00-10:00am

Life Science Room 102

**Instructor:** Melisa Holovics

**Office:** LS 430

**Office Hours:** Monday 11-12pm or by appointment

**Email:** [holovic@uta.edu](mailto:holovic@uta.edu)

**Required text:** *Psychology*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, James S. Nairne

**Website:** <http://www.uta.edu/webct/> (your grades will be posted here; make sure you can log on!!)

**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, July 10<sup>th</sup>. Students may drop the course with a grade of "W" until July 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **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, and class discussions. 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, 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). Students will have **one week** from the missed exam to provide the instructor with the university-approved documentation, otherwise they will receive a zero for the exam. 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**

The psychology department requires that all students taking introduction to psychology complete a 6-credit research requirement. The main way in which you will be able to complete this requirement will be by participating in experiments conducted by department faculty and their research assistants. In lieu of participating in experiments, you may choose to write reviews of approved research articles. Completing this assignment will be done via Sona (<http://uta.sona-systems.com/>). A departmental handout detailing this requirement (and important deadlines) can be found at [www.uta.edu/psychology](http://www.uta.edu/psychology) (under links). Any questions pertaining to this assignment that are not covered in the handout can be sent to [psycpool@uta.edu](mailto:psycpool@uta.edu).

**FAILURE TO COMPLETE THE REQUIREMENT WILL RESULT IN AN INCOMPLETE FOR THE CLASS.**

### **Electronic Devices**

**Please turn off** (not just put on vibrate) all pagers, beepers, and cell phones during class as these devices are disruptive to other students and to me. I will allow laptops for the purpose of note-taking. *However*, if I receive just **one** complaint that the laptops are disruptive to other students, they will be banned.

### **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](http://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

<b>Class</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading for the day</b>
Monday, July 7 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction to Psychology	Chapter 1
Tuesday, July 8 <sup>th</sup>	Tools of Psychological Research	Chapter 2
Wednesday, July 9 <sup>th</sup>	Biological Processes	Chapter 3
Thursday, July 10 <sup>th</sup>	Human Development	Chapter 4
<b><i>Monday, July 14<sup>th</sup></i></b>	<b><i>Exam #1</i></b>	
Tuesday, July 15 <sup>th</sup>	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 5
Wednesday, July 16 <sup>th</sup>	Consciousness	Chapter 6
Thursday, July 17 <sup>th</sup>	Learning from Experience	Chapter 7
<b><i>Monday, July 21<sup>st</sup></i></b>	<b><i>Exam #2</i></b>	
Tuesday, July 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Memory	Chapter 8
Wednesday, July 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Language and Thought & Intelligence	Chapter 9 Chapter 10
Thursday, July 24 <sup>th</sup>	Motivation and Emotion	Chapter 11
<b><i>Monday, July 28<sup>th</sup></i></b>	<b><i>Exam #3</i></b>	
Tuesday, July 29 <sup>th</sup>	Personality	Chapter 12
Wednesday, July 30 <sup>h</sup>	Social Psychology	Chapter 13
Thursday, July 31 <sup>st</sup>	Stress and Health	Chapter 16
Monday, August 4 <sup>th</sup>	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 14
Tuesday, August 5 <sup>th</sup>	Therapy	Chapter 15
Wednesday, August 6 <sup>th</sup>	Catch-up Day	
<b><i>Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup></i></b>	<b><i>Exam #4</i></b>	<b><i>8:00-10:00am</i></b>

***Important University Dates***  
*July 7<sup>th</sup> – First day of classes*  
*July 10<sup>th</sup> – Census date*  
*July 22<sup>nd</sup> – Mid-Session*  
*July 28<sup>th</sup> – Last day to drop classes*  
*August 6<sup>th</sup> – Last day of classes*