

INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY
PSYC 1302

FALL 2014

PROFESSOR: Dr. Andrea L. Powers

REQUIRED TEXT: Understanding Psychology, 10th edition, by Morris and Maisto: ISBN: 978-0-205-84596-5.

COURSE OBJECTIVE: To begin to learn about the scientific study of behavior. The course will include reading chapters from your text, watching "Discovering Psychology" videos, and summarizing articles about behavior. Your devotion to learning the material will be instrumental in obtaining a good grade for the course.

By the end of the semester you should have a basic understanding of the main factors that determine behavior, be able to define common terms, recognize the names and theories of those who contributed to the growth of psychology, assess behavior from a variety of perspectives, and understand how all development is an interaction between biological and environmental factors.

READINGS & EXAMS: The semester will be divided into 7 sections. During each section, you will read 2 chapters from your text and view two videos. Weekly assignments can be found by clicking on the appropriate folder. There will be 7 multiple choice exams. Each will be worth 100 points (50 questions). Exams will be given Fridays on the following dates: 9/5, 9/19, 10/31, 10/17, 10/31, 11/14, and 12/5. How well you do on exams will be determined by how much time you spend memorizing the material in the chapters. More reviewing = better score! You will have from 7:00 A.M. to 11:00 P.M. to access your exam and 50 minutes to complete it. For every minute you go over that time, you will lose 2 points. You will not have time to look up answers while taking the tests. Questions are randomly selected from the publisher's test bank so that no 2 students will receive the same exam.

WRITING ASSIGNMENT: Several times during the semester, you will be expected to submit a summary of a recently published article on any issue involving human or animal behavior from a news site, or popular magazine (not a professional journal). You should briefly summarize the article, putting the information into your words, then include related information from your text. Approximately 3/4 of your summary should include information from your article, and about 1/4 should come from your text. The summaries must be in YOUR words, not the author's. If I find you have used the exact words of the author, you will receive a zero.

These assignments should be 2 typed pages, (double-spaced, size 12 font) and are worth a possible 20 points each. Summaries will be due: 9/12, 10/10, and 11/7, and you will have from 7:A.M. on the day before the due date until 11:00 P.M on the due date to submit them. It is strongly recommended that you try to submit everything on the day before so that if you have problems you will have time to get help from librarian Jacob Galindo. If you do the first 2 summaries, the 3rd one will be extra credit points. You must provide a link to the article so that I may read it. Appropriate sites include, but are not limited to Psychcentral, Psychology Today, Scientific American/Mind, Health, CNN, Science Daily, and The New York Times. Summaries and direct links to your articles must be submitted through Blackboard. See Library Resources for directions on submissions. Follow these instructions and you will have no problems. Note that your link must be blue and include the name of the source of your article. If your link says Sul Ross, you have done it wrong. Assignments sent incorrectly or to my e-mail address will not be graded.

GRADES: Your grade for the course will be based upon the points you have earned. You will not receive a letter grade until the end of the semester. Total possible points are as follows:

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| Exams (7): | 700 points |
| Summaries (2) | 40 |
| | 740 total |

For this class, to earn an A, you must have at least 629 points (85% of the total possible points). For a B, you must have at least 555 points (75%). For a C, you must have at least 481 points (65%). For a D, you must have at least 407 points (55%).

ASSISTANTS FOR THIS COURSE: Joe Renieri is an assistant for anything related to using Blackboard. If you have any problems using the Blackboard site, or are unable to access or submit an exam, you should contact him immediately at rrenieri@sulross.edu or call him at extension 8489. Librarian Jacob Galindo is available if you need help in learning how to submit your summaries according to the instructions under Library Resources. You can reach him at extension 8414 or see him in his office (109) in the library.

DOING WELL IN THIS COURSE: Some students decide to take an online course because they think it will be easier. It is true that you will not have to sit in a classroom several times a week, but you will not find that this course is easier. If you are not extremely responsible and motivated, you will not do well. You must spend many hours memorizing the information in your text and plan ahead to be sure your summaries are done and submitted correctly to earn a good grade.