

**PSYCHOLOGY 1302:004 - INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY
Fall - 2015**

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. James W. Downing
FH 108, 837-8368
Office Hours: by appointment

E-MAIL ADDRESS: jdowning@sulross.edu

PREREQUISITE: There is no prerequisite for this course.

CLASS MEETINGS: T, 6:00 p.m.-8:50 p.m.
LH 300

REQUIRED TEXTS: Wood, S.E., Wood, E.G., & Boyd, D. (2011). The world of psychology (7th. ed.). Boston: Pearson/Allyn & Bacon.

Memo to: Students in PSY 1302:04, Sul Ross State University

From: Jay Downing

Introduction to Psychology! Ugh! What a distressing title for such a potentially interesting course. Fortunately, the title does imply a chance to do anything we wish that will add significantly to our own learning about psychology. It gives an opportunity for each of us to read about and think about such things as these: the origins of personality, the definition of abnormality and insanity, how we learn new behaviors, how to improve memory, the relationship between biology and psychology, how to actually do psychology, the nature of perception and consciousness, the nature of human development, the characteristics of human sexuality, how we feel emotion and become motivated, and how the social environment influences us. This is only a partial list based on the Wood & Wood text but it gives a notion of the broad range in which each can develop her or his own curriculum. I will be interested to see what you make of this semester in terms of your learning.

Here are some of my own thoughts for the course thus far. All of my plans are subject to change if you wish, within the limits of my own schedule and yours.

The First Meeting, Tuesday 8/25, 6:00 p.m. - 8:50 p.m.

This should be a long enough session to enable us to get acquainted, to consider plans for the remainder of the course, and to go over the reading list.

I would also like to use this time to draw out your own notions of other psychological issues which may be of even greater concern to you than those previously mentioned. For example, I have said nothing about the nature and measurement of intelligence, the origins of creativity, or the ways clinical and counseling psychology attempt to assist those in emotional distress.

The Group Experience, Tuesday 9/1 & 9/8, 6:00 p.m. - 8:50 p.m.

During these sessions we will have the chance to participate in an encounter group experience in which, among other goals, we will each have the opportunity to grow in the following areas: understanding and acceptance of ourselves, self-worth, and sensitivity in relationship to others. This group will be a place for us to be ourselves, to express our immediate feelings about ourselves and others.

Reading List

The Wood & Wood text is an enjoyable look at many of the different areas of study that make up psychology. Each chapter introduces you to the state of the research in the different fields that constitute psychology. It is a good place to peek at the heart of psychology. I encourage you to look up the papers that are referenced to get an even better idea of what is going on in the field.

I have tried to prepare a broad gauge reading list of topics in psychology. The list includes a wide range of writings from different theoretical perspectives—humanistic psychology, psychoanalytic theory, behaviorism, biological theories, and social theories. If these names scare you do not panic because the Wood and Wood text explains what each perspective involves. Because of my own interests I am sure the list is slanted in a social-humanistic direction, but I would be happy to have suggestions which would give it wider range.

The list represents instead a rich storehouse from which you may draw the kinds of things that have the most meaning to you. You may also want to go well beyond this list into other areas of psychology that have special interest to you. I look forward to hearing your impressions of the things you read.

In the following pages you will find the tentative topic schedule for the course. The specific days and topics are subject to change, but the schedule should prove relatively accurate with respect to order of coverage and test material.

Requirements

There are several aspects of the course which will be required. These are as follows: I wish to have a list of the readings you have done for the course turned in at the beginning of class on **Tuesday, October 6**. I want to have the updated list turned in again at the end of the course. In the lists you will write entries that indicate the way you have read the selection. For example, you might list a book and state “Chapters 3 and 6 were read thoroughly.” You might list another book and state “Skimmed the book and found it was over my head.” You might list another book and say, “I got so much out of this book that I read it twice and made careful notes on Chapters 5 through 12.” You might state, “I was repelled by the whole point of view and only read enough to become convinced that I was disgusted with the author.” In other words, **what is wanted is an honest account of what you have read and the depth to which you have read the material you covered.** The books or articles do not necessarily have to be on the reading list. **I do want to read entries for everything you read for this course during the fall term. As you get into the Wood and Wood text please write a separate entry for each chapter in it as you complete your reading log.**

The **second requirement** is that you write a paper, which I refer to as a “Personal Change Paper”. This paper may be as brief or as lengthy as you wish about your own ideas about the most significant areas of psychology to you and the ways those ideas have changed or not changed as a result of this course. **In general for students in the past this paper has run five to seven pages in length, not including a title page or references.**

A **third requirement** is that you write one reaction report every week based on any readings, any experience, or any discussion you may have had. This report can be as long or as short as you desire. It should, however, be limited to your reactions, by this I mean your feelings. I want you to feel as free as possible in these reports in expressing your feelings about anything you want to write about, whether or not it has anything to do with the course. Your first reaction report is due at the beginning of class on Thursday, September 1st. Subsequent reaction reports are due at the beginning of class on September 8th, 15th, & 22nd, October 6th, 13th, 20th, & 27th, November 3rd, 10th, 17th, & 24th.

The **final requirement** is to be your personal reaction to the course as a whole. I would like this turned in to me in a sealed envelope with your name on the outside. You are at liberty,

however, to mark on it, “please do not open until the final grades have been turned in.” If you mark the envelope in this fashion, I assure you I will honor your request.

In this reaction I would like you to state very honestly what the course has meant to you, both positively and negatively. I would like any criticisms you have to make of the course and suggestions of ways in which it might be improved. This in short is your opportunity to evaluate the course, the instructor, and the manner in which the course has been carried out. It will in no case have any influence on your final grade but if you are fearful that it might have such an influence please mark your envelope as suggested, and I will not open it until all the grades have been turned in.

Other activities will come up during the term and you are expected to complete them fully and on time.

Failure to complete any of the requirements will result in a failing grade being assigned for the course.

A passing grade in the course will not be turned in until all of these requirements have been fulfilled.

Attendance is very important in this class. I reserve the right to drop a student from the class with a failing grade if he or she misses six class days.

Please note: Every member of the class is assured of a passing grade if the basic requirements listed here are completed fully and on time. Whether the student obtains a “C,” “B,” or “A” depends upon his or her achievement on the objective examinations which will be based on the material covered in the course. The final letter grade assigned in the course does not represent a measure of achievement in the realization of any personal values other than knowledge of specific factual information. The most important self-evaluations will have to be made by you some time in the future, perhaps months from the end of the class.

I have made it a point to emphasize one rule concerning personal communication technology. Here it is:

Turn off all electronic equipment before you enter the classroom. This means cell phones, iPads, etc. I want to be able to count on your full attention during our time together.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE FOR PSYCHOLOGY 1302:004

DATE

TEXT READINGS
WEEK TOPIC

TO MASTER

8/25		1	Introduction, Course Overview, & Conversation	
9/1	2		Encounter Group, Day 1	
9/8	3		Encounter Group, Day 2	
9/15	4		Personality and Abnormal Psychology, <u>& 522-531</u>	<u>Chap. 13 &14</u> <u>Pages 510-513</u>
9/22				5 Personality and Abnormal Psychology Continued...
9/29		6 point)	EXAM 1 (Covers all material up to this	
10/6		7 <u>Chap. 5 & 6</u>	Learning and Information Processing	
10/13		8 Continued...	Learning and Information Processing	
10/20			9 a Science 1 & Appendix	Psychology as <u>Chap.</u>
			<u>Statistical</u>	<u>A-1,</u>
			<u>Methods</u>	
10/27		10 <u>Chap. 8</u>	Developmental Processes	
11/3		11 <u>Chap. 2</u>	Biology and Behavior	
11/10		12	Topic to be selected by students	
11/17	13		States of Consciousness	<u>Chap. 4</u>
11/24	14		Social Psychology	<u>Chap. 16</u>
12/1	15		Social Psychology Conclusions and Final Class Conversation	
12/8		300	FINAL EXAM, 6:00 p.m. – 8:50 PM, LH (Covers material from all texts & any other class materials)	

Below you will find the Program Learning Objectives (PLO) dealt with in this course. The student learning objectives follow and relate, to a greater or lesser extent, to each PLO dealt with in the course.

Program Learning Objective (PLO #1)

1. The graduating psychology student will attain a level of competency in the area of biological psychology that indicates value has been added over the course of their psychology education.

Program Learning Objective (PLO #2)

2. The graduating psychology student will attain a level of competency in the area of clinical-personality psychology that indicates value has been added over the course of their psychology education.

Program Learning Objective (PLO #3)

3. The graduating psychology student will attain a level of competency in the area of social psychology that indicates value has been added over the course of their psychology education.

Program Learning Objective (PLO #4)

4. The graduating psychology student will attain a level of competency in the area of experimental methodology in psychology that indicates value has been added over the course of their psychology education.

Student Learning Objectives

Required Task-Reaction Reports:

Goal One: The student will demonstrate the ability to engage in the self-expression of emotions by writing weekly reaction reports. (Affective Domain: Respond)

Goal Two: The student will demonstrate value development by reporting an emotion they experienced in the reaction reports. (Affective Domain: Value Development)

Required Task-Reading Log:

Goal Three: The student will write an evaluation of the readings they complete for the course that will be examined both at the mid-term and the end of the semester. (Cognitive Domain: Evaluation)

Goal Four: The student will demonstrate an awareness of their responsibility for their development as a life-long learner by taking personal responsibility for the volume of readings

they complete. (Affective Domain: Value Development)

Required Task-Personal Change Paper:

Goal Five: The student will write a critical evaluation of the issues they have learned about in the course. This evaluation will compare and contrast the state of their knowledge about psychology at the beginning of the course and towards its close. (Cognitive Domain: Evaluation)

Goal Six: The student will create an original paper that compares and contrasts the state of their knowledge about psychology at the beginning of the course and towards its close. (Psychomotor Domain: Creation)

Goal Seven: The student will freely express their opinion that demonstrates the student has been independently studying and thinking about issues in psychology. (Affective Domain: Value Development)

SPECIAL NOTATION FOR EDUCATION STUDENTS:

I know that some education students may take this course. This course addresses some of the objectives of the TExES Exam for the subject area of social science, which includes a psychology portion. Specifically, this course may address the following objectives, among others.

Domain III

Geography, Culture, and the Behavioral and Social Sciences

Competency 13 (Social, Anthropological, and Psychological Concepts and Processes)

The teacher applies sociological, anthropological, and psychological concepts and processes to understand cultural formation and change, intergroup relations, and individual development.

- Demonstrates knowledge of the history and theoretical foundations of psychology.
- Demonstrates knowledge of the behavioral, social, cognitive, and personality perspectives of human learning.
- Understands basic psychological principles and including those related to motivation, sensation and perception, personality, relationships between biology and behavior, and relationships between the self and others.

The interested student is informed that for full information concerning the TExES exam in education concerning psychology as a part of the social sciences, they should contact the SRSU Education Department for materials concerning test preparation and administration. It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of this course if he or she is a candidate for the exam. If so, the instructor can guide them to resources that will assist with their exam preparation