

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY
PSYC 1302

PROFESSOR: Dr. Andrea L. Powers

REQUIRED TEXT: Understanding Psychology, 11th edition, by Morris and Maisto; ISBN: 978-0133 908 923

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Students will 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 psychological terms, recognize the names and theories of those who contributed to the growth of psychology, assess behavior from a variety of perspectives, and think critically about the roll of scientific research in understanding and predicting behavior .

READINGS & EXAMS: Each week you will read 2 chapters from your text and view Discovering Psychology videos. Weekly assignments can be found by clicking on the appropriate folder.

There will be 5 multiple choice exams. Each will be worth 120 points (60 questions). Exams will be given on Thursdays. Exam dates are as follows: 7/14, 7/21, 7/28, 8/4, & 8/11 . How well you do on exams will be determined by how much time you spend memorizing the material in the chapters. You will have from 7:00 A.M. to 11:00 P.M. to access your exam and 60 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. On Exam days, click on the folder for the appropriate week and you will find where to take your exam.

WRITING ASSIGNMENT: On 2 Mondays, 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, newspaper, or popular magazine (not a professional journal). You should briefly summarize the article, putting the information into your own words, while adding related information from your textbook. Indicate which information is coming from your text. Your thoughts, feelings, and experiences do not belong in this summary. Understand that if I see that you have used the exact sentences of the author(s), you will receive a zero. These assignments should be 3 typed pages, (double-spaced, size 12 font) and are worth a possible 25 points each. Use no more than 2 lines of size 12 font for your name and title of the article at the top of the first page. Due dates are 7/18 and 8/1. You may submit your summaries beginning 7:00 AM on the day before they are due, until 11:00 PM on the due date

You must provide a direct link to the article so that I may read it. Examples of appropriate sites include Psychcentral, Psychology Today, Scientific American/Mind, Health magazine, CNN, Science Daily, and The New York Times. Summaries and links to articles should be submitted through Blackboard. Assignments submitted incorrectly or sent to my e-mail address will not be graded. Be sure you have thoroughly read all of the information under Library Resources ahead of time so you know how to correctly submit everything on the due dates.

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 course. Total possible points are as follows:

Exams (5):	600 points
Summaries (2)	50
Total	650

For this class, to earn an A, you must have at least 561 points (85% of the total possible points). For a B, you must have at least 495 points (75%). For a C, you must have at least 429 points (65%). For a D, you must have at least 363 points (55%).

DOING WELL IN THIS COURSE: If you are not someone who is highly motivated to do well and able to work independently, this course is not for you. You must spend many hours memorizing the information in the text to do well on exams, and must plan ahead to be sure your written assignments are completed and submitted on time.

Distance Education Statement: Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software according to the needs and requirements of the course.

Americans with Disabilities Act: Sul Ross is committed to equal access in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students should contact Mary Schwartz in Counseling and Accessibility services in Ferguson Hall, Room 112. 432 837-8691.