

PSYCHOLOGY 1302:001: INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY
FALL 2016/SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY

Instructor: Rebecca Greathouse Wren, M.Ed., LPC-S

Office hours: by appointment (432-386-6973)

Email: rgw14dl@sulross.edu

Class Meetings: M/W/F: 10:00 – 10:50 am

LH 309

Required Text: The World of Psychology, 7th Edition, Wood.

Purpose of Course: This course is an overview of Psychology. It includes biology, behavior, sensations, consciousness, learning, memory, language, intelligence, human development, motivation & emotion, sexuality (human) & gender, health/stress, personality theories, psychological disorders, therapies, and social psychology. Each of these topics is a course or study of its own, however, this semester the student (you) will look at each, and understand ‘the tip of the iceberg’ for each area.

Grading: Grades will be based on:

- 1) a) Attendance; b) Weekly Discussion Board Comments; & c) Suicide Prevention Course (online) (1/5 grade);
- 2) Class Presentation (1/5 grade);
- 3) Two Research Papers (1/5 grade);
- 4) Mid-Semester Exam (1/5 grade);
- 5) Final Exam (1/5 grade).

Class participation will be considered for students whose final grade is on the ‘cusp’ between two major grades.

GRADE SCALE: 90–100 = A; 80–89 = B; 70–79 = C; 60–69 = D; 0–59 = F

- Activities Explained:**
- 1) a) **Attendance:** Each class day students will sign their own names on the roll sheet that is passed around the class. The names are in alphabetical order (by last name), so find your name and sign there. Attendance is important, so make sure your name is on the roll sheet each day you are in attendance. It is the student’s responsibility to make sure you sign your name on the roll sheet if you are present for class. **Having another student ‘sign-in’ for you (when you’re missing a class) will result in disciplinary action for BOTH students (so don’t do it!).** Students will be dropped from the class after missing nine class periods (university policy), unless discussed with Wren, is considered a university excused absence, and the reason must be documented (proof required).
 - b) **Discussion Board Comments:** Due every Fridays by MIDNIGHT. These are your thoughts about what you learned throughout that week. You will be graded on your personal reflection/reaction to what you learned. Responding to other students’ comments will get you some bonus points IF it is acceptable thoughts. **I will NOT accept late work.**
 - c) **Suicide Prevention Course:** Complete the Kognito Suicide Prevention course at <https://texas.kognito.com/> Make an account for yourself: put in your first name, last name, and Sul Ross email address, then make your own password. After that is completed go to the drop-down menu under, “Choose Your Training POV” and click on ‘University or College Students/RA,’ and complete the Student Training. When completed, print or save a downloaded ‘completed certificate,’ and either hand in (hardcopy you printed) to Wren, or **POST IT ON BLACKBOARD: ASSIGNMENT.**

- Activities Explained:** 2) Class Presentation: Each student will participate in a group presentation when assigned to do so. Presentations will cover the subject chosen, and **incorporate audio and visual** (from Internet or other sources) examples, may include power-point presentations, etc. Presentations will be for 20-30 minutes. A written outline of the presentation will be given to Wren at the start of the presentation. Wren will discuss this in further detail in class.
- (Continued)
- 3) Two Research Papers: The first is due **Monday, September 19, 2016**, and the second is due **Monday, October 31, 2016**. These papers will be over a subject in psychology. Please email Wren (see above) with the subject for approval before you get started. Three (minimum) to five (maximum) pages each paper, double spaced, no larger than 12 pt. font. Post your papers as an attachment to Blackboard/Assignments by NOON on the dates due. You may turn them in sooner, if you wish. **I will NOT accept late work.**
- 4) Mid-Semester Exam: Monday, October 17, 2016.
- 5) Final Exam: Comprehensive. Exact date and time will be announced later (December 2, 5, 6, or 7).

Student Learning Objectives (SLOs):

The graduating psychology student will attain a level of competency in the areas of:

- a. Biological psychology indicating that value has been added over the course of their psychology education.
- b. Clinical-personality psychology indicating that value has been added of the course of their psychology education.
- c. Social psychology indicating that value has been added over the course of their psychology education.
- d. Experimental methods indicating that value has been added over the course of their psychology education.

Students with Special Needs:

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the Student's responsibility to initiate a request. Please contact Ms. Mary Schwartze, Counselor, Accessibility Services Coordinator, Ferguson Hall (Room 112) at 432.837.8302; mailing address is P.O. Box C-171 Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Students should then contact the instructor as soon as possible to initiate the recommended accommodations.

Classroom Respect and Disruptions:

You are encouraged and expected to openly engage in class discussions, ask questions, share ideas, and express your thoughts. Please treat each other with dignity and respect and avoid disruptive behaviors. You are responsible for knowing what behaviors are acceptable versus unacceptable as referred to in the Student Conduct and Discipline section of the SRSU Student Handbook (http://www.sulross.edu/sites/default/files//sites/default/files/users/docs/stulife/student_conduct_discipline.pdf).

Academic Integrity:

Any instance of academic misconduct such as turning in an identical written assignment for another course without approval, cheating and plagiarizing written assignments, collusion, or misrepresenting facts will be punished to the full extent of the university's disciplinary policy and/or through legal action if indicated. You are responsible for reading the statement on Academic Honesty in the SRSU Student Handbook (http://www.sulross.edu/sites/default/files//sites/default/files/users/docs/stulife/student_conduct_discipline.pdf). The faculty considers academic dishonesty to be a serious matter and will act accordingly. Students caught engaging in any form of academic dishonesty will receive no credit for assignments/exams and more severe penalties may be pursued, including but not limited to failing the course.

Technology Policy:

Out of respect for your fellow students, your professor, and the educational process, all technology devices (cell/smart phones, I-pods, tablets, laptops, etc.) must be powered down and put away, not on the desk or in your pocket, or on your lap, during class. **Do not come to class if texting, using social media, and attending to tasks other than the class material is more important than being fully present** (this is NOT an excused absence). If you feel you have an emergency situation that requires your phone to be on vibrate, please inform me before class begins. Students who disregard the policy will be asked to leave class.

PLEASE READ: *During the course of this class, Students may have strong emotional/psychological reactions to the course material and/or discussions. If you feel that you are having difficulty with the learning environment, please discuss this with me immediately before continuing the course. Counseling and Accessibility Services (<http://www.sulross.edu/section/2408/counseling-accessibility-services>) can provide brief, short-term individual and group counseling or refer you to off-campus providers. You have already paid for these services through your Student Service Fee, whether you use them or not. If you have any issue or concern, I would appreciate you speaking with me first. If you feel we cannot come to a reasonable resolution, know that you can speak with the BASS Department Chair, Dr. Mark Saka (432.837.8157) regarding your concerns. I endeavor to maintain a safe as possible learning environment for all and expect the highest standard of conduct from each one of us and the collective. I welcome constructive feedback in the service of this goal. This syllabus is accurate to the best of my ability, but I reserve the right to modify it at any time and will inform you as soon as possible. If I do make any changes, I aspire to do so for the reasons of student fairness and/or circumstances beyond my control.*