General Psychology 133.006
Spring 2020

Instructor: Ms. Julie Brotzen, M.A.

Classroom & Time: ED 263 MW 2:30 – 3:45

Contact: jbroten@sfasu.edu

Office & Office Hours: ED: 238 (MW 10:00 – 1:00) (Friday 9:00 – 11:00)

Department: Psychology

Office Phone: (936) 468-4402


Course Description: General Psychology is a survey of fundamental principles of behavior including physiological, perceptual, developmental, learning, motivational, cognitive, social, historical, and methodological perspectives.

PSYC 133 “General Psychology” (3 credits) is designed to introduce students to the field of psychology by covering psychological concepts and principles typically including physiological, perceptual, developmental, learning, motivational, cognitive, social, historical, and methodological perspectives. The course typically meets 150 minutes a week in two 75-minute segments or three 50-minute segments for 15 weeks. There is no final examination in this class. There are four equally-weighted exams. Students typically have significant weekly reading assignments, writing assignments, voluntary research participation, and are expected to take regular tests. These activities average at a minimum 6 hours of work each week to prepare outside of classroom hours. Online course sections contain extensive written content that includes the same information students in a face-to-face lecture sections receive, requiring students to engage the online modules for at least three hours per week. For every hour a student spends engaging with the online content, he/she spends at least two hours completing associated activities and assessments.

Program Learning Outcomes:
This is a general education core curriculum course and no specific program learning outcomes for this major are addressed in this course.
General Education Core Curriculum:

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six core learning objectives: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. SFA is committed to the improvement of its general education core curriculum by regular assessment of student performance on these six objectives.

By enrolling in General Psychology 133 you are also enrolling in a Core Curriculum Course that fulfills the Communication Skills requirement. You will see this course on your D2L list.

At one point during the semester, you will receive an assignment that fulfills both the requirements of this course and the needs of Stephen F. Austin State University’s Core Curriculum Assessment Plan with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. When you complete this one assignment, you need to upload the assignment to both your standard course Dropbox determined by your Instructor and the “Core Curriculum” Dropbox. The Core Curriculum Dropbox will be identified by the Objective for which work is being collected.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Course Assignment Title</th>
<th>Date Due in D2L</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Skills</td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
<td>Core Curriculum Writing Assignment</td>
<td>Due December, 7th 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empirical and Quantitative Skills</td>
<td>To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teamwork</td>
<td>To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Responsibility</td>
<td>To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Responsibility</td>
<td>To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Written Communication Core Curriculum Writing Assignment: The written communication assignment is a paper of approximately 250 to 1000 words. It will directly assess each student’s level of mastery of the core element: written communication. The paper must be in American Psychological Association (APA) formatting (Times New Roman 12-point font, double spaced with one-inch margins. Additional writing resources are available through the AARC.
Based on the prompt provided below, students must (1) **clearly state the main directive of the prompt and identify the audience for the paper** (2) provide sources to support their position, (3) organize and present the paper around the given prompt, and (4) proofread the paper for proper grammar and syntax. *(No writing assignment this semester)*

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon completion of this course, students should be able to do the following things at a basic level:

- Identify, compare, and contrast the application of historic and modern theories in psychology.
- Apply psychological knowledge in a variety of settings.
- Utilize critical thinking skills to determine valid methods of scientific investigation to examine psychological concerns focused at the individual, group, cultural, and global levels of analysis.
- Demonstrate critical thinking and quantitative reasoning skills to evaluate research to determine methodological strengths and weaknesses that may affect internal and external validity.

**Academic Integrity (A-9.1)**

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)
Acceptable Student Behavior

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Attendance Policy: Students are required to attend class. Failure to do so places students at risk for falling behind, and prevents them from obtaining relevant information discussed in class. I do not post notes, nor do I provide notes to students who miss class (regardless of the reason) as that might provide them an unfair advantage.

Course Calendar/Exam Schedule:

All four exams are to be taken online, at the SFASU Library computer lab, on one of the computers in the lab. Students may not take exams on their personal computers. I periodically check IP addresses, and those students who fail to follow these guidelines will receive a ten (10)
point grade deduction for each infringement. Additionally, all four exams are closed book, no
notes. Discussing answers with classmates is also considered cheating. Once it becomes obvious
students have been cheating on an exam(s), those students will receive a zero (0) on the exam(s)
on which they cheated.

**There is no final exam in this class.**

**Exam # 1 (Wednesday, February 12th) Chapters:** (What Is Psychology?), (Scientific
Methods), & (Biological Psychology)

**Exam # 2 (Wednesday, March 18th) Chapters:** (Development), (Learning), & (Intelligence)

**Exam # 3: (Wednesday, April 8th) Chapters:** (Consciousness), (Motivation), & (Social
Psychology)

**Exam # 4: (Wednesday, April 29th) Chapters:** (Personality), (Abnormal Psychology: Disorders
and Treatment)

Exam dates occasionally change. I will announce these changes in class and post a message on
D2L. Regular class attendance is helpful in keeping abreast of any potential changes in the exam
schedule.

**R Point Requirements:**

Students in 100-level psychology courses are encouraged to earn 12 research points (R-Points)
by participating in psychological studies or completing a comparable alternative assignment.
The purpose of this requirement is to allow students the opportunity to participate in and learn
about real research to help them better understand theories and principles described in class.
Students should sign up for research participation R-Points through the Department of
Psychology’s SONA Software (http://sfasu.sona-systems.com). Participants earn 1 R-point every
30 minutes of participation. Students who have an objection to participating in psychological
research or who will not turn 18 before the end of the semester may opt to complete the
alternative assignment to fulfill their R-point requirement.

**Some important notes about research participation:**

1. It is essential that you sign up only for studies for which you are eligible (if it says
‘psychology majors only’ but you are a physics major, you are NOT eligible). There are a variety
of studies from which to choose. Pick ones that you are interested in and that fit your schedule.

2. It is not acceptable to miss class due to participation in a study.

3. If you sign up for a study, you are expected to attend that study. If you’d like to cancel,
please do so online at least 24 hours in advance.
**Extra Credit Option:** Some students may opt for earn up to ten (10) points which will be added to an exam grade NOT the total grade. To do so, the student may write a literature review over several articles related to a topic discussed in class, and approved by me. Students must obtain topic approval no later than Friday, March 6th, and the paper is due no later than the last day of classes (Friday, April 29th). The paper must be between five and seven pages in length. Students must use standard twelve-point font, doubled-spaced lines, and normal-width margins. All articles used must be properly referenced. I will only accept hard copies of the literature reviews. MLA is fine.

**Grading Policy:** Finals grades will be calculated based on the total number of points the student obtained from the four exams, the required R-points, and attendance (412 points).

A = 89.5-100  B = 79.5-89.4  C = 69.5- 79.4  D = 59.5-69.4  F = 59.4 and below

This grade breakdown is final. Please do not request a change in grade.

Make Up Policy: There will be no makeup exams. The only exception to this rule is for students who have a formal (in writing) university excused absence.

If a student misses an exam due to illness or personal emergency, that student’s final grade will be calculated based on three exams and the other required points only if the student provides documentation to support the reason for the absence. If a student misses more than one exam, the final grade will be an F.