

**THIS IS YOUR COURSE SYLLABUS –
KEEP IT HANDY and REFER TO IT OFTEN.**

Welcome to PSY 301!
Introduction to Psychology - Honors
Fall 2011 Unique # 43020
MWF 10:00-10:50 a.m., SEA 2.108

Instructor: Kirsten Bradbury, Ph.D.
Office (Hours): SEAY 4.316 (WF 11:00-12:00 and by appointment)
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TA: Yasisca P. Khouri
Office (Hours): SEAY 3.112D (M 8:00a – 9:30a and M 12:00p – 1:30p)
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We are here to help you – please take advantage of our office hours. Come see us!!

Required Texts:

The Science of Psychology: An Appreciative View, 2nd edition. By Laura King (2011).
With Connect Plus Psychology Access Card. Published by McGraw-Hill.
ISBN: 978-0-0774-7091-3

Psychology and the Real World. Edited by Gernsbacher, Pew, Hough and Pomerantz (2011).
Worth Publishers. ISBN: 978-1-4292-3043-8

Additional readings may be assigned; these will be posted to Blackboard and/or distributed in class.

Graded Work:

1. Exams (80%): There will be four exams, each worth 20% of your course grade. Exams will be comprised of both multiple-choice items and open-ended items that require written responses. The first three exams will be given during regular class times (see Course Calendar). The fourth exam will be given at the official final exam time for the course, during finals week (see Course Calendar), but is otherwise the same as the first three (e.g., format, value). The emphasis of each exam will be on the readings and class material covered since the previous exam. However, all exams are cumulative, in that you are expected to learn the course material meaningfully, not just memorize facts for retrieval soon afterward. Some exam items will require you to integrate and/or apply material from previous sections of the course. You are responsible for readings whether or not they are covered in class and for lecture material whether or not it is covered in the readings. **Make-up exams are given only in cases of documented need (see below for more on make-ups).** Information about any curve, dropped items, etc., will be provided following each exam. We do not drop your lowest exam grade.

2. Written Assignments (10%): You will complete five written assignments, each worth 2% of your course grade. These assignments will vary in format, but generally will require generating 500-word (about one double-spaced page) responses to specific writing prompts. Some written assignments may entail responding to assigned readings, while others may require students to engage in an activity and then describe their experience. Written assignments may require students to contemplate, introspect, critically examine, empathize, or persuasively opine. Specific instructions for each assignment will be provided in class and posted to Blackboard. See Course Calendar for due dates.

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3. Connect Assignments (5%): Connect is an electronic learning system that is designed to complement and extend your primary textbook (King). You will complete 10 on-line homework exercises, each worth .5% (½ a percentage point) of your course grade. Details on these assignments, as well as more information on how to use the Connect system, will be provided in class. See the Course Calendar for due dates.

4. Attendance and Participation (5%): This class is a small learning community and you are expected to contribute actively and appropriately. Numerous participatory exercises will be conducted in class, with at least 10 opportunities (each worth .5% (½ a percentage point) of your course grade, up to 5% total) to earn credit for being present and engaged, being a good teammate or cooperative colleague, and/or completing some quiz or experiential exercise. Typically, these activities will not be announced in advance. I expect you to attend class unless you are ill or engaged in documentable, unavoidable activities. *If you miss an attendance/participation day and want to make up the points, the same policies apply as for make-up exams.*

No extra credit is planned. There is enough work for you to do as it is!!

Make-Up Exams and Late Work:

If you hope to reschedule an exam ahead of time, or you hope to take a make-up exam, or you hope to be given credit for assignments you turn in late, you **MUST** convince Yasisca that you have a legitimate/important/compelling/unavoidable reason for your request. The best way to be convincing is to *provide documentation supporting your request*. In most cases of legitimate need to reschedule an exam or turn in late work, documentation is very simple to obtain.

Research Requirement:

All students enrolled in PSY 301 must fulfill a departmental research requirement consisting of either participation in psychological research (as a subject) or writing a paper on psychological research, in addition to class work. If you fail to complete the research requirement, you will receive an (X) Incomplete in the course (and will need to complete the requirement later).

<http://www.psy.utexas.edu/psy/undergrad/courses/info/301experiment.html>

If you have questions, contact Abby Black, at

301research@psy.utexas.edu or stop in and see her in Seay 2.216.

Grades:

Your course grade is based on your performance on graded work as described above under “Graded Work.” We assign weights to your scores according to the % values given above (i.e., 80% Exams + 10% Writing assignments + 5% Connect assignments + 5% Attendance/Participation = 100% of course grade) to yield an overall percentage score. This percentage score is represented as a letter grade for the course, according to the following grade distribution:

A = 92 and up

A- = 90-91

B+ = 88-89

B = 82-87

B- = 80-81

C+ = 78-79

C = 72-77

C- = 70-71

D = 60-69

F = 59 and down

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Percentage course grades are calculated to two decimal places and rounded to the nearest whole number, such that, for example, the lowest A- is 89.50 (rounds to 90).

Borderline Grades Stay Borderline: Every semester, some students score just below the borderline of the next highest grade. I have great sympathy for people who find themselves in that position, but I have also found that raising those grades simply uncovers a new group of people whose grades are near the new borderline. This situation makes everybody edgy. Therefore, my policy must be that borderline grades stay as they are. Thus, for example, an 89.49 is a B+. **ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS.**

IMPORTANT NOTICES:

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY.

The UT Honor Code applies to all aspects of your work in this course. We report suspected plagiarism and all other forms of academic dishonesty to the Honor Board. Don't risk your academic career!!
