

**PSY 131 Introduction to Psychology
Tentative Syllabus and Course Content
Fall 2010**

Be sure to read the section on deadlines.

Print out this syllabus and keep a copy of the deadlines and class schedule (page 3) posted next to your computer!!!!!!

Instructor: Dr. Morgan Office Hours: LA307 by appointment

Catalog Description of Psychology Courses

All psychology courses approach the study of human behavior systematically by using the techniques of science. Child (PSY 152), Lifespan (PSY 153), Aging (PSY 255), and Sexuality (PSY 161) are available for students with interest in the field. Social Psychology (PSY 254/SOC 254) requires that PSY 131 and SOC 131 be taken before enrollment. Educational Psychology with Practicum (PSY 256 and PSY 294) is available for those planning to enter the teaching profession.

Text: Visualizing Psychology by Siri Carpenter and Karen Huffman and the Miniature Guide by Paul and Elder

PSY 131 Course Objectives: Following completion of the course, students will have a basic understanding of the different approaches to psychology (the scientific study of behavior).

Your Grade

Your grade will be based on 8 test scores (multiple choice), unit assignments, and a critical thinking assignment.

TESTS [20 Points Each]

Each unit test will cover 1 or 2 chapters. Each unit will consist of assignments and 2 unit tests. The tests will be available five days before the expiration date (e.g., the first test will be available to take on 9/4).

THE ASSIGNMENTS [15 Points total for each unit]:

For each chapter (the assignments must be completed for all chapters in each unit):

1. Essay Questions [4.5 points for each chapter and 9 points for chapter 6]
2. Post at least one question or observation related to information presented in the unit on the discussion board [1.5 points and 3 points for chapter 6].
3. Post at least one response to another student is posting [1.5 points and 3 points for chapter 6].

CRITICAL THINKING ASSIGNMENT [70 Points]

A critical thinking assignment is divided into two parts. The Self Observation section is worth 20 points and the Critical Thinking Essay is worth 50 points for a total of 70 points toward your final grade. They are both due on Wednesday, October 6th.

Final Exam [50 Points]

The final exam will be available by Wednesday, December 15th at 8:00am and it expires on Saturday, December 18th at 5:00pm. This is a department wide cumulative exam that will have 100 multiple-choice questions, each worth ½ point (total of 50 points).

GRADING SCALE

The final grade will be determined based on the percentage of correct answers divided by the total possible number of points (350). The final grade will be determined as follows:

<u>GRADING SCALE</u>				
GRADE	PERCENTAGE	POINTS		
A	Over 90%	315	TO	350
B+	86 to 89%	301	TO	314
B	80 to 85%	280	TO	300
C+	76 to 79%	266	TO	279
C	70 to 75%	245	TO	265
D+	66 to 69%	231	TO	244
D	60 to 65%	210	TO	230
E	Below 59%	209	TO	0

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Check the announcements frequently. I will post times when I will be available to chat online and answer any of your questions. These times will change from week to week in order to allow equal access for all students. Of course, you can email me anytime to ask questions or schedule chat time.

VERY IMPORTANT: DEADLINES

This online class is all about meeting deadlines. See the chart on the next page for the deadlines. You are informed of these deadlines here and I will have reminders in the announcement section. Failure to meet a deadline will result in the loss of points.

When the test expires, it can no longer be submitted. You will have 35 minutes to take each test and it must be submitted before the time runs out. There are 40 questions so this gives you an average of 50 seconds to answer each question (some may take less time some may take more). The time limit is necessary to discourage the use of notes or referencing the textbook during exams. Those that do will run out of time and have to submit the exam with unanswered questions. **DO NOT PUSH THE LIMITS OF THE DEADLINES.**

MAKEUP DAYS

Some of you will miss deadlines or have computer trouble while taking the exam. I will reopen unsubmitted unit tests along with expired essays and discussion boards on the morning of Tuesday, December 14th and you will have until 5:00pm Wednesday, December 15th to finish any assignments. Keep in mind that only unit exams that have not been submitted can be taken at this time.

Drop Policy – anyone who does not complete more than 70% of the assignments will receive a drop at the end of the semester. I will consider any requests for a drop on an individual basis.

Class Schedule: PRINT AND KEEP BY YOUR COMPUTER

Unit	Information and Deadlines Chapters that are out of sequence are in bold and underlined
Unit 1	Chapters 1 and 2: Assignments and unit test are due by 5:00pm Wednesday, September 8 th .
Unit 2	Chapters 3 and 4: Assignments and unit test are due by 5:00pm Wednesday, September 22 nd .
Unit 3	Chapters 6 : Assignments and unit test are due by 5:00pm Wednesday, October 6 th . Critical Thinking Self-Observation and Essay due by 5:00pm Wednesday, Oct. 6 th .
Unit 4	Chapters 5 and 7 : Assignments and unit test are due 5:00pm Wednesday, October 20 th .
Unit 5	Chapters 8 and 11 : Assignments and unit test are due by 5:00pm Wednesday, November 3 rd .
Unit 6	Chapters 9 and 10 : Assignments and unit test are due by 5:00pm Wednesday, November 17 th .
Unit 7	Chapters 12 and 13: Assignments and unit test are due by 5:00pm Wednesday, November 24 th .
Unit 8	Chapters 14 and 15: Assignments and unit test are due by 5:00pm Monday, December 13 th .
Makeup Days	Some of you will miss deadlines or have computer trouble while taking the exam. I will reopen unsubmitted unit tests along with expired essays and discussion boards on the morning of Tuesday, December 14 th and you will have until 5:00pm Wednesday, December 15 th to finish any assignments. Keep in mind that only unit exams that have not been submitted can be taken at this time.

SUMMARY OF WORK REQUIRED FOR EACH UNIT

- ESSAYS QUIZZES

Complete all essay questions (for two chapters except units 4 and 6 that cover one chapter)

- DISCUSSION BOARD

Respond to my post and a student's post (for two chapters except units 4 and 6 that cover one chapter)

- TAKE AND SUBMIT THE UNIT TEST

Do this by the date and time listed above. All answers will be lost if you are still taking the test at 5:00pm on the day it is due.

TIPS

The unit tests are challenging so be prepared. I have a tendency to ask questions related to terms in each chapter so pay attention to vocabulary words found in the margins and listed at the end of each chapter (I also ask questions regarding concepts). Study for the test every day or several times a day if possible (set aside time and keep your study sessions short but frequent – we remember things best this way e.g., 10-20 minutes 2 or 3 times a day). This works much better than cramming for a test and, overall, you spend less time studying while doing better on tests.

You will get points for participating in the discussion boards so be sure to submit two posts, one to my posting and one to another student's post. Do your discussion boards and essay questions as soon as possible!!!

The essay questions are open book and you can resubmit these. Submit them early, that way if you lose points you can resubmit them. Keep in mind that to resubmit your answers you have to reset the test. Resetting the test eliminates answers to all of the questions. Therefore, if you have earned full points on one

question, copy that question and paste it in after the exam is reset. It is also a good idea to save the answers on your computer.