

**The College of Education and Behavioral Sciences**  
**School of Education**  
**Houston Baptist University**  
**Course Syllabus**

PSYC 1313-01, General Psychology  
Fall 2014

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An introductory course dealing with the major content areas in psychology. Topics may include heredity and environment, emotions and motivation, perception, learning, personality, and intelligence. This course may be taken to meet Smith College requirements and as an elective by non-psychology majors.

**COURSE SEQUENCE IN CURRICULUM AND PREREQUISITE INFORMATION**

This course is required for psychology majors.

**DATE AND TIME OF CLASS MEETINGS: (include room number)**

MWF 8:00-8:50     Hinton 202

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Name/Title: Vicki Alger, Assistant Professor

Email: valger@hbu.edu

Office Phone:

Office Location:

Office Hours: 10-11:30 MWF; 3:30-5 TR

**LEARNING RESOURCES**

Course Text(s):

Wood, S.E., Wood, E.G., and Boyd, Denise. (2014). Mastering the World of Psychology, 5th Edition. Pearson Education, New Jersey. ISBN-10: 0205968082; ISBN-13: 978-0205968084

**HBU Edition:** ISBN 126940461X

Required Online resource: <http://myspsychlab.com>

Available free resource: [www.abintropsychology.com](http://www.abintropsychology.com)

**RELATION TO THE PURPOSE STATEMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY**

The mission of Houston Baptist University is to provide a learning experience that instills in students a passion for academic, spiritual, and professional excellence as a result of our central confession, "Jesus Christ is Lord."

In relation to the mission of the University, this course will help:

- 1) provide a supportive atmosphere for students from all backgrounds which fosters intellectual and social interaction in the learning process,
- 2) encourage academic excellence, freedom, and objectivity
- 3) promote the development of critical and creative thinking, compassion, responsibility, and continuing interest in learning.

## **RELATION TO THE GOALS AND PURPOSES OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES**

The mission of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences is to prepare students to be effective citizens and professional educators, administrators, counselors, and researchers who reflect Christ in their work and service.

To accomplish this mission, we will provide students with the following:

- the courses and mentoring necessary for a solid pedagogical grounding in their discipline;
- essential learning experiences that will provide opportunities to develop knowledge, skills and wisdom; and
- an understanding of their Christian mission and calling to influence individuals and the larger society.

## **RELATION TO THE DEPARTMENTAL GOALS AND PURPOSES**

This course contributes to students pursuing an undergraduate degree in psychology by providing an education program that is “committed to academic excellence in an intellectually free and objective environment...” that provides “physical resources and a campus environment which acknowledges the uniqueness of the individual...and encourages the development of the whole person.” Thus, this course endeavors to:

- Provide students the opportunity to develop interpersonal communication skills,
- Promote the development of critical thinking skills,
- Create a learning environment based on constructivist teaching/learning strategies,
- Contribute to the student’s degree program by enhancing his/her basic understanding of the scientific and systematic study of behavior and mental processes.

## **COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of the science of psychology.
2. Recognize the key role that psychology plays in our lives and those around us.
3. Discuss the basic principles of psychology knowledgeably.
4. Have some understanding of the scientific method and how it applies to psychological research.
5. Verify knowledge of course materials and acquired skills by completing assignments and earning passing grades.

## **TOPICAL OUTLINE**

A course agenda is included at the end of this syllabus. It includes the following topics:

1. *Introduction to Psychology*
2. *Biology and Behavior*
3. *Sensation and Perception*
4. *Learning*
5. *Memory*
6. *Human Development*
7. *Health and Stress*
8. *Personality Theory and Assessment*

9. Psychological Disorders  
10. Therapies

The content of this outline and the attached schedule are subject to change at the discretion of the professor.

**TEACHING STRATEGIES**

A variety of learning methods will be used including the following: class discussion, lectures, demonstrations, projections, videos, written reports and small/large group activities. Students are encouraged to participate by asking questions, giving examples, offering opinions and sharing thoughts/ideas about the material.

**ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING**

**Course Requirements.** See the agenda at the end of this syllabus for due dates.

Assignment <sup>1</sup>	Learning Objective(s)	Standards <sup>2</sup>	Point Value <sup>2</sup>
<i>Exam I</i>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5		15%
<i>Exam II</i>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5		15%
<i>Exam III</i>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5		15%
<i>Exam IV</i>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5		15%
<i>Exam V</i>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5		15%
<i>Comprehensive Final Exam</i>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5		20%
<i>Additional Learning Activities</i>			
• <i>Online Study Plan (post-test only)</i>	3, 5		10%
• <i>Writing Practice</i>	3, 5		10%

<sup>1</sup> Descriptions and rubrics for assignments are included at the end of this document.

<sup>2</sup> Lowest test score for Exams I-V is dropped.

**Grading Standards**

**School of Psychology Undergraduate Grading Scale:**  
92-100 (A); 84-91 (B); 76-83 (C); 70-75 (D); <70 (F)

**Student Evaluation of Faculty and Course**

Students will complete faculty appraisal forms as regularly administered by the University.

**CLASS POLICIES**

ATTENDANCE: Absence and Tardy Policies . In the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, students must attend at least 75% of class sessions in order to receive

a passing grade in the course. This means that if more than 12 absences occur, the course grade will be "F" no matter what test and paper scores might be.

**Tardies** – You are expected to be on time to class. Your best chance of success is to attend class. And being punctual to class is an important element of attendance. Late arrival is disruptive to other students as well as instruction.

Attendance will be taken at the start of class daily and in random order. If you arrive after your name has been called, you will be counted tardy. 3 tardies = 1 absence. To prevent your tardy from becoming an absence, immediately after class you must turn into me a written explanation as to why you were late. If it is a doctor's excuse or some other university excuse from a staff or faculty member, I will excuse the tardy. Otherwise it will count.

#### ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS:

Students needing learning accommodations should inform the professor immediately and consult the Academic Accommodations section of the HBU Classroom Policy posted on Blackboard.

LATE WORK STATEMENT. Late work will be penalized. You should not miss any exams. If you are sick, you need to notify the professor in advance. The professor reserves the right to administer a different exam, deduct points for taking the exam late, and/or schedule the makeup for a later date. **Missing an exam without giving prior notice will result in a zero for that test, with no makeup.**

*All assignments, including online assignments, are expected to be completed in their entirety by the date due, even if the student is not in class. Late work will only be accepted if there is proper documentation for illness or other emergency situations beyond the control of the student. The work must then be turned in no more than **one week** after the student returns to class. No work will be accepted after the last day of class.*

Missed Tests. **Make-up exams will only be given for university excused absences.** It is advisable to take all in-class exams at the scheduled time. However, since your lowest grade will be dropped, you will be able to drop the zero for the test you missed. Since only one grade will be dropped, be careful to miss no more than one test.

*All the tests should be taken on the day and at the time when they are scheduled. Make-up tests will be given **ONLY** when the instructor is notified **prior** to the exam, and there is a documented excused reason for missing the exam. Any unexcused absence on the test day will result in a grade of zero for the particular test with no opportunity for a make-up test.*

*You can add additional policies such as this if you wish.*

**Use of Electronic Devices.** *Electronic devices (including laptops) are only to be used with permission by the professor. Other uses (texting, surfing the web, etc.) will result in the device not being allowed in the classroom. Absolutely no electronic devices will be allowed during exams. If your cell phone is observed during an exam, your exam will be taken and you will receive an automatic 0.*

#### **Academic Honesty**

Please refer to the current catalog for the university's policy and procedures regarding academic honesty. Note that the university utilizes "Turn-It-In" and other programs to investigate possible plagiarism activities. All papers for this course will be submitted to the plagiarism prevention software, **Turnitin.com** on or before a paper's due date. No paper will be graded without meeting this requirement beforehand. A separate handout

will be provided to give detailed instructions on this process which must include the class identification number and class password.

Cheating, collusion, or plagiarism in any form will result in a grade of "0" on the exam or project in question. A second violation will result in a grade of "F" for the course.

**Early Alert**

As an instructor, I am committed to your success, not only in this class, but in all aspects of HBU life. To ensure that every student takes full advantage of the educational and learning opportunities, HBU has implemented an *Academic Early Alert Referral System (EARS)*. If I think you would benefit from some of these special programs or services available to you, I will make the appropriate referral. You, in turn, will be expected to take advantage of the help offered to you. *Generally, I will refer a student to EARS after 3 absences if there has been no communication from the student regarding a reason for those absences.*

**Students are required to read the University Classroom Policy addendum to this course syllabus that is included on Blackboard. In addition to the class policies listed here, it includes basic class policies that apply in all HBU classes.**

**PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING SYLLABUS**

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Vicki Alger  
Assistant Professor

**PSYC 1313**  
**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

<b>DATES</b>	<b>Course Calendar and Test Schedule</b>
August 25	Introduction and Syllabus review
August 27-29	Chapter 1
Mon, September 1	No class – <b>Labor Day holiday</b>
September 3-5	Chapter 1-2
September 8-12	Ch 2 Biology and Behavior
<b>September 10</b>	<b>Last day to drop without a “W”</b>
September 15	<b>Test #1 – Chapters 1-2</b>
September 17-19	Chapter 3 Sensation and Perception
September 22-26	Chs 3 & 7 (Health and Stress)
Wednesday, Oct 1	<b>Test #2 – Chapters 3 &amp; 7</b>
October 3-10	Chapter 4 Learning
October 13-17	Chs 4-5 (Memory)
October 20	Ch 5
Wednesday, Oct 22	<b>Test #3 – Chapters 4-5</b>
Oct 24- Oct 31	Ch 6 Human Development
<b>Oct 31</b>	<b>Last day to drop with a “W”</b>
Nov 3-7	Ch 6, 8 (Personality)
Nov 10	<b>Test #4 – Chs 6, 8</b>
Nov 14-21	Ch 9 Psychological disorders
Nov 24-26	Ch 9, 10
<b>Nov 29</b>	<b>No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday</b>
Dec 1	<b>Test #5 – Chapters 9-10</b>
Dec 4-6	Review for Final Exam
Dec 10-13	<b>Final exams (time/date TBA)</b>

## MyPsychLab Assignments

*\*\*Please note that there is a discrepancy between how our text numbers the chapters and how the chapters are numbered on MyPsychLab. MPL chapters are noted in parentheses. Refer to the chapter titles for clarification.*

<b>DATES</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENT</b>
Sunday, August 31	Chapter 1 Intro to Psychology Study Plan
September 7	Chapter 2 Biology and Behavior Study Plan
September 14	Ch 1, 2 Writing Assignments due (2 of them)
September 21	Ch 3 Sensation and Perception Study Plan
September 28	Ch 7 (10) Health and Stress Study Plan
September 30	Chapters 3 & 7 Writing Assignments
Sunday, October 5	Chapter 4 (5) Learning Study Plan
Sunday, October 12	Ch 5 (6) Memory Study Plan
October 21	Chs 4 & 5 Writing Assignments
Oct 26	Ch 6 (8) Human Development Study Plan
Nov 2	Ch 8 (11) Personality Study Plan
Nov 9	Chs 6, 8 Writing Assignment
Nov 16	Ch 9 (12) Psychological disorders Study Plan
Nov 23	Ch 10 (13) Therapies
Monday, Dec 1	Chs 9, 10 Writing Assignments

## COURSE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### Syllabus Statement

I am aware of all topics described in the coursesyllabus. These include, but are not limited to the following:

- course description; course sequence in the curriculum and prerequisite information;
- instructor information and learning resources;
- relation to the mission of the University and to the goals and purposes of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences;
- course learning objectives;
- state and national standards covered (TExES competencies, IDA standards, etc);
- topical outline and learning strategies;;
- assessment for learning: requirements & grading standards;
- **HBU CLASS POLICIES: -the University document posted on Blackboard;**
- additional policies for this class: attendance, late work, missed tests and electronic devices;
- the possibility of changes to the syllabus. [The content of this syllabus and the attached agenda are subject to change at the discretion of the professor.]

### Professional Integrity Statement

To maintain and uphold the highest level of professional integrity and honesty, cheating and plagiarizing are not allowed. If a student cheats and/or plagiarizes, then the student will receive a “0” for the assignment and/or fail the course

Cheating is a catch-all term for not doing your own work. Any attempt during a test to consult with notes or another person or to look at another’s test constitutes cheating. If answers are shared in any way, both students will receive the same penalty for cheating. Using stolen tests or “borrowed” tests (any test that is not readily available to all members of the class) to study for an exam is cheating. Within the broader view of cheating is the idea of using someone else’s work in place of your own. This is called plagiarism and is not allowed.

### DO NOT:

- copy another person’s paper/project/work or part of that and turn it in as your own;
- copy a paper/project from the Internet and turn them in as your own;
- copy another paper/project (or cut and paste parts of Internet articles), make changes to it, and submit it as your own;
- include the work of others without documentation/reference (If seven or more words are taken directly from another source it must be quoted and referenced.);
- submit a paper/project or large parts of a paper/project you have done for another class at HBU or another institution to this class. (Always get a professor’s approval before using a prior work or topic from a different class.);
- have someone write parts or all of your paper/project/work
- share your work with others; and,
- change references or make up references.
- falsify fieldwork documentation

By signing this page, **I affirm** that I have read and understand the contents of this course **Syllabus Statement, the Professional Integrity Statement, and the University Class Policies.** I understand that at any time during the course, I may request clarification, if needed.

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Printed Name

Signature

Date

[After reading the course syllabus and this page, please **print and sign this** form then turn it in to the professor.]

## Assignment Descriptions and Rubrics.

### Exams:

There will be **5** in-class exams given in this course. The lowest of these 5 grades will be dropped. Each of the 4 remaining exams is worth 15% of the final grade. Scantrons/pencils are required. Each test will consist of 50 multiple-choice items. Most will be selected from the text, but some may come from class activities/lecture.

**Final Exam:** Your final exam is a comprehensive, departmental exam. There are 100 multiple choice questions. The final exam grade may NOT be dropped. The final is 20% of your grade.

**No make-up exams will be given.** It is advisable to take all in-class exams at the scheduled time. However, since your lowest grade will be dropped, you will be able to drop the zero for the test you missed. Since only one grade will be dropped, be careful to miss no more than one test.

### Online assignments

Through **MyPsychLab**, you will complete various study materials and writing assignments. These assignments will be noted on BlackBoard, but will be completed and submitted through MyPsychLab. An access code is required for MyPsychLab. If you purchase your textbook through the HBU bookstore, the access code is included.

The Course Name is.

The Course ID is

**1. Study Plans:** Through MyPsychLab, you will complete the **Study Plan** for each chapter. (**Due on Sunday nights.**) The Study Plan “provides you with an individualized learning experience that is based on your needs. May include a collection of two tests (pre-test and post-test) supported by study material. The pre-test checks your initial understanding of concepts. You then receive study materials to improve your understanding, prior to taking the post-test. Both pre- and post-test scores are recorded in the gradebook”, **but I will base your score on your post-test.** The post-test may be taken multiple times.

**YOU MUST SCORE AT LEAST A 70 ON THE POST-TEST FOR CREDIT.**

**Each post-test is worth 10 points.** The **Study Plan** for each chapter must be completed by the assigned date. No late work will be accepted.

**2. Writing Practice:** Throughout the semester you will be required to complete **10 writing assignments through MyPsychLab.** These assignments will be submitted and graded within MyPsychLab. You will watch a short video and then respond to the writing prompt. Responses must be at least 150 words and no longer than 950 words. Prompts within Writing Practice offer immediate automated feedback. **You can submit an essay multiple times.** You will receive a score with each submission as well as suggestions for improvement. Writing Space provides each student submission with detailed feedback based on the following traits: Development of Ideas, Organization, Conventions, Voice, Focus and Coherence. I can provide additional feedback and can adjust your auto-generated grade. (\*\*If you think your essay grade is unfair, I will use the same rubric as the program and grade your essay by hand.)

Submitted essays through Writing Practice are automatically checked for originality through Turnitin.com. **PLAGIARISM IS NOT TOLERATED**

Each essay is worth 10 points. **Writing Practice** essays are due by midnight before the exam. You must receive at least a 3 on the essay for credit.