PSYCH 105: Introductory Psychology

**Due WEDNESDAY (12/04/2019)**

**DON’T FORGET TO SUBMIT A COPY ONLINE THROUGH BLACKBOARD & A HARD COPY IN CLASS!!!**

20 pts (10% of your course grade)

**The Integration Assignment**

**THE PURPOSE:**

**Knowledge:**

After completing this assignment, you will be able to:

1. Use the scope and diversity of psychology as a discipline to assess the strengths and weaknesses of various explanations for a given topic.
2. Explain how the Integration and/or competition between explanations from various perspectives helps psychology advance our understanding of human behavior and mental processing.

Learning Outcomes: This assignment is connected to the following learning outcomes for the course (listed in the table

on your syllabus: 1) ***knowledge of psychology***; 2) ***information literacy***; 3) ***personal and professional growth***

**YOUR TASK:**

Your task is to select ONE psychological topic you have found particularly interesting this semester. This may be a topic we covered in the class or a psychological topic you discovered as a function of taking the course. You will then examine this topic from three different philosophical or theoretical perspectives within psychology, including: *physiological*, *behavioral*, *cognitive*, *social*, *humanistic*, *evolutionary*, *psychoanalytic*, *developmental*, etc). Alternatively, you could opt to examine your topic more specifically using three different theories, which may or may not differ in their philosophical perspectives. For example, imagine that you choose “bullying” as your topic. You could examine how bullying is explained from a biological, behavioral, and social perspective (three different philosophical perspectives). Alternatively, you could choose to examine how three different theories attempt to explain bullying. Two of these theories might be theories from a “social” perspective and one might be a theorist from a “biological” perspective.

In either case, you must **utilize and cite original sources** for those perspectives in your analysis/discussion. *This means that you must research your topic to find three different explanations for your topic.* *Your analysis cannot be based on personal opinion alone.*

***Write-up:*** Your write-up should begin with a general overview of your topic and the reasons why it is particularly interesting or relevant to you. This introduction should be followed by an analysis of your topic from three different philosophical or theoretical perspectives. Your analysis should demonstrate a general understanding of your topic and the fundamental principles used by each philosophical or theoretical perspective to explain that topic (using at least three academic sources outside of your textbook as source material). In addition, you should discuss whether the explanations offered by the different perspectives are complimentary to one another or contradict one another. Finally, your analysis should include your own personal reflection of these perspectives and an informed assessment of what you see as the strengths and weaknesses of each based on your research of them.

**THE CRITERIA:**

Review the grading criteria for this assignment on the attached grading rubric (see page 3) to understand what you need to address in your case study to earn points on this assignment.

**Your Completed Assignment MUST Include:**

**1)** Identification and description of ONE psychological topic that interests you.

**2)** A 2-3 page write-up (12 point font, double-spaced and 1 inch margins) in which you examine this

topic from THREE different philosophical or theoretical perspectives within psychology (e.g., cognitive, behavioral, social, physiological/neuroscience, evolutionary, psychoanalytic, etc).

**3)** Full citations (in text and in a Reference list) for all research sources used in this assignment in APA

format.

**4)** A copy of the grading rubric (found at the end of this assignment). Be sure to sign the academic

integrity statement before submitting your assignment.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR THE ASSIGNMENT:**

Throughout the semester you have been introduced to a wide range of topics, demonstrating the diverse nature of psychology. You have also been exposed to a variety of philosophical and theoretical perspectives used to examine and explain those topics. Different philosophical and theoretical perspectives make different assumptions about human behavior and mental processing. Consequently, they often seek to understand human behavior by focusing on different aspects of that behavior and/or different causal variables.

The purpose of this final assignment is to help you better appreciate the scope of psychology by examining how different philosophical and theoretical perspectives seek to explain a given psychological topic. Doing so will help you understand how psychologists working from different philosophical and theoretical perspectives make different contributions to our understanding of particular psychological topics and how the integration and/or competition between these explanations helps the discipline (at large) advance its understanding of human behavior and mental processing.

**REMEMBER**: Your write-up should consist of complete, understandable sentences with proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Carefully proof-read your paper before submitting it to avoid losing points.

**PRINT THIS PAGE and staple it to your assignment for use during grading.**

As members of the Cougar community, all Psych 105 students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Please affirm your commitment to academic integrity by inserting your name and signature in the statement below.

***“I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, verify that this assignment is my original work.”***

**Your Signature**: *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**THE GRADING RUBRIC**

This grading rubric will be used to score this assignment. Addressing each element of the rubric well will ensure that you have included all critical aspects of the assignment.

**MECHANICS & STYLE** (25% = 5 points)

1) *Are there 3 or more errors in spelling, grammar, and/or punctuation? If so,*  -2 pts

2) *Are sentences logically related to one another? If not …*  -1 pt

3) *Is the paper’s overall organization consistent and logical? If not . . .*  -2 pts

**APA FORMAT** (20% = 4 points)

1) *Are the in-text citations in APA Format?*

Only 1-2 errors -1 pt

3 or more errors -2 pts

2) *Are the references on Reference page in APA format?*

Only 1-2 errors -1 pt

3 or more errors -2 pts

NOTE: Failure to include citations for references in your assignment is considered plagiarism so

please be sure to cite all resources you use.

**CONTENT** (60% = 11 points)

1. *Is the overview of the selected topic sufficiently complete so that someone unfamiliar*

*with the topic would have a general understanding of it?*  \_\_\_\_/2 pts

1. *Does the write-up provide a critical analysis of the explanations provided by THREE*

*different philosophical and/or theoretical perspectives?*

*Perceptive #1* \_\_\_\_/2 pts

*Perceptive #2* \_\_\_\_/2 pts

*Perceptive #3* \_\_\_\_/2 pts

1. *Does the write-up include an insightful discussion of what the student sees as the*

*strengths and/or weaknesses of the explanations provided by each perspective?* \_\_\_\_/3 pts

**Was the assignment late? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*(2 pt deduction per/day including the due date if assignment was submitted after class)*

**NOTE: Assignments submitted more than 3 days past their deadline will not be accepted.**

**FINAL GRADE** (Mechanics/Style + Format + Content minus any late deductions): **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/20 points**

**Overall Comments:**