

**PSYCHOLOGY 111: INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY**  
**Paper Assignment**

**Fall 2009**  
**Dr. Wagman**

A required text for this course is Baird, A., et al. (2009). *Current Directions in Introductory Psychology*. Pearson: Upper Saddle River, NJ. This book presents a number of articles providing short overviews of a particular research area (e.g., false memory, peer relationships, or stereotyping). The articles are organized into six sections (1. Developmental Psychology; 2. Cognitive Neuroscience; 3. Health Psychology: Body and Brain; 4. Clinical Psychology: Investigation and Interpretation; 5. Individual Differences; and 6. Social Psychology). After each section, there are a series of Critical Thinking Questions that pertain to the articles presented in that section.

Your assignment is to read the articles in a given section and answer the critical thinking questions that appear at the end of the section. Your answers should be typed and double-spaced. **Multiple pages must be stapled together.** Although there is no strict page requirement, one double-spaced page per question is a good goal. Number each question so that it is clear to me which question you are answering.

Your answers must reflect your own writing. Be very careful not to commit plagiarism. Plagiarism is claiming someone else's work as your own. In order to avoid plagiarism, you **MUST CITE YOUR SOURCES**. This means that when you discuss another person's work, you have to give them credit. In psychology, this means that after you discuss someone else's work, you need to list their last name(s) and the year that the paper or book that they wrote was published in parentheses. You will see numerous examples of this in the articles that you read. Since the book we are using was published in 2009, this should be the year that you use when you cite articles in the book.

However, it is important to keep in mind that although citing sources can help you avoid plagiarism, you must also be careful not to simply restate or reword sentences from the articles to include in your paper. This is also plagiarism. A good rule of thumb is not to use more than 5 words in order from a particular article. **DO NOT USE DIRECT QUOTES IN YOUR PAPER EVEN IF YOU CITE THE AUTHOR. If you have a question about what constitutes plagiarism or how to cite sources, please see me.** Plagiarized assignments will receive a grade of 'F.' See examples of plagiarism (and not plagiarism) on the next page.

There will be two papers throughout the course of the semester. For each paper, you will have a choice of two different sections of articles to read. For each paper, pick one of the sections listed, read the articles presented there, and answer the critical thinking questions at the end of the section.

PAPER #1: (DUE October 2):

Section 1: Developmental Psychology **OR** Section 2: Cognitive Neuroscience

PAPER # 2. (DUE November 16):

Section 4: Clinical Psychology **OR** Section 6: Social Psychology

Each paper will be worth 150 points. Primarily, I will be grading the assignment based on the accuracy, thoughtfulness, and support for your answer to each question. However, I will also consider grammar, punctuation, spelling, and proper citation of sources.

## EXAMPLES OF PLAGIARISM AND NOT PLAGIARISM

Here is an excerpt from an article that you will not be reading. It is entitled "Gender Differences in Depression" and was written by Susan Nolen-Hoeksema. It is included in the section Individual Differences. The excerpt begins on page 194:

"Most explanations for the gender difference in depression have focused on individual variables, and studies have attempted to show that one variable is better in explaining the difference. In three decades of research, however, no one variable has single-handedly accounted for the gender difference in depression. In recent years, investigators have moved toward more integrated models, taking a transactional, developmental approach."

One way to discuss this point that IS PLAGIARISM is:

"Most investigations of the gender differences in depression have focused on single variables, and research has tried to show that one variable better explains the difference. However, in three decades of research no single variable has accounted for gender difference in depression single-handedly"

One way to discuss this point that IS NOT PLAGIARISM is:

"Researchers have investigated whether individual variables are responsible for differences in depression between men and women but have been unsuccessful (Nolen-Hoeksema, 2009)."

There are two differences between the first and second examples. In the second example, the source is cited properly, but more importantly, the concept is discussed in a way that is not simply a reordering of the words from the original article. Writing about research in a way that avoids plagiarism is not easy. If you have questions, feel free to ask me or the TA for the course.