

## Common Course Syllabus

**Department:** Behavioral Sciences

**Discipline:** Psychology

**Course Number:** PSYC 2301

**Course Name:** General Psychology

**Credit:** 3 Lecture: 3 Lab: 0

**Satisfies a core curriculum requirement?** Yes, Behavioral or Social Science

**Prerequisites:** TSI reading compliance for INET

**Available Formats:** conventional; INET; ITV

**Campuses:** Levelland, Reese, Lubbock Center, Plainview,  
INET

**Textbook:** R. Biswas-Diener & E. Diener (Eds), *Noba Textbook Series: Psychology*.

Champaign, IL: DEF Publishers. DOI: nobaproject.com (specific URL provided on Blackboard)

**Course Specific Instructions:** Internet – go to Blackboard. Each instructor will attach his/her course specific instructions.

**Course Description:** General Psychology is a survey of the major psychological topics, theories and approaches to the scientific study of behavior and mental processes.

**Course Purpose:** To acquaint students with the diverse field of psychology including major theoretical concepts. In addition, introduce methods of research used and how it contributes to the body of knowledge in psychology, promotion of critical thinking, generation of new ideas, and consideration of alternate explanations when evaluating information.

**Course Requirements:** To maximize the potential to complete this course, a student should attend all class meetings and/or login to internet courses at least twice weekly. In addition, satisfactorily complete all homework assignments and examinations in a timely manner, and satisfactorily complete all other projects or papers as assigned in the course specific instructions.

**Course Evaluation:** Please see the instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in Evaluation of student performance.

### Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)/Competencies:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Identify various research methods and their characteristics used in the scientific study of psychology.
2. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thoughts that shaped the field of psychology.
3. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology
4. Use terminology unique to the study of psychology.
5. Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation.
6. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior.

### **Core Objectives addressed:**

- **Communication skills**- to include effective written, oral and visual communication.
- **Critical thinking skills**- to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- **Empirical and Quantitative skills**- to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
- **Social Responsibility**- to include the demonstrated intercultural knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities.

CIP # 42.0101

### **Course Policies:**

**Attendance Policy:** Students are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in a course. The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined in the course syllabus.

When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor may permit the student to make up work missed. It is the student's responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period of time as determined by the instructor. Students are officially enrolled in all courses for which they pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Should a student, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, absences will be attributed to the student from the first class meeting.

Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. A student who does not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of "X" or "F" as determined by the instructor. Instructors are responsible for clearly stating their administrative drop policy in the course syllabus, and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of that policy.

It is the student's responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through MySPC using his or her student online account. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated, the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.

**Academic Integrity:** The attempt of any student to present as his or her own any work which he or she has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension. This policy relates to all forms of cheating and plagiarism. See Instructor's Course Information for additions to the academic integrity policy.

**Student Conduct:** A high standard of conduct is expected of all students. Students are subject to federal, state and local laws, as well as South Plains College rules and regulations. Any student who fails to perform according to expected standards may be asked to withdraw. Failure to comply with lawful direction of a classroom teacher relative to maintaining good order is considered misconduct on the part of the student. Repeated violations of disrupting a class may result in the student being dropped from that course (See Catalog/Student Guide for full policy). See Instructor's Course Information for additional policies related to student conduct.

**Appeal Process:** The process of appeal is outlined in the college catalog. Basically you would need to talk to the instructor, the department chair, and then the dean if the problem is not resolved. Be sure to always start with your instructor.

**Diversity & Equal Rights:** South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President of Student Affairs.

All students are entitled to equal rights under the affirmative action and equal opportunity laws. Students are also protected against unjust or biased academic evaluation, but at the same time, they are responsible for maintaining standards of academic performance established for each course in which they are enrolled. (See Catalog/Student Guide for full definitions and policies)

**ADA (Disability) Statement:** Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Reese Center (Building 8) & Lubbock Center 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

## Instructor's Course Information: Dr. Harris (405F)

Course Information: PSYC 2301 – 201

Monday and Wednesday: 11:00am-12:15pm

Office Hours: Monday 9am-11am, Tuesday 3pm-4pm, Wednesday 9am-11am, Thursday 9am-11am and 3pm-4pm

Email Address: [jharris@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:jharris@southplainscollege.edu)

Textbook: Lifespan Development: Biswas-Diener & E. Diener (Eds), Noba Textbook Series: Psychology. Champaign, IL: DEF Publishers. This is an OER (open resources) textbook that is available on Blackboard at no cost to the student.

Student Conduct: The student handbook clearly defines appropriate classroom conduct. A student can be asked to leave the class for inappropriate conduct. You should not disrupt the class since you interfere with the learning process for your peers. Talking, sleeping, cell phones ringing, or other disruptive behaviors will result in a warning and then can result in the student being dropped from the class. If you must have a phone for sick children or emergency reasons, please put the phone on vibrate because a ringing/singing phone is very disruptive to the class.

Late Work and Missed Assignments: Work is due on the dates assigned and cannot be made up if missed. The paper is due on the date assigned and there is a late penalty for each day the work is late. You may turn in your paper early and do the Learn Smart assignments early.

Appeal Process: The process of appeal is outlined in the college catalog. Basically you would need to talk to the instructor, the department chair, and then the dean if the problem is not resolved. Be sure to always start with your instructor.

Diversity Statement: In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be. (Faculty Handbook 4.1.1.1)

Equal Opportunity: South Plains College strives to accommodate the individual needs of all students in order to enhance their opportunities for success in the context of a comprehensive community college setting. It is the policy of South Plains College to offer all opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability or age. In addition, this instructor will not tolerate remarks nor gestures that can be construed to be sexist, racist, heterosexist or in any way disparaging to another person in this classroom.

ADA Statement: Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland Student Health & Wellness Center 806-716-2577, Reese Center (also covers ATC) Building 8: 806-716-4675, Plainview Center Main Office: 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611, or the Health and Wellness main number at 806-716-2529.

Attendance Policy: You can check the school policy in the college catalog. In addition to the catalog policy, roll will be taken at each class session and a record of attendance maintained. You are expected to attend class. The material presented in class is not a duplication of the material in the textbook, and you will be responsible for all topics discussed in class as well as the assigned chapters in the text. You may be dropped from the class with an X after five absences, regardless of your grade.

Writing Style: All written assignments should be presented using the conventions of Standard Written English. South Plains College requires all students to become proficient in "academic English," a form of English that is typically used in academic, professional, and business contexts. While slang, regional idioms, and informal kinds of self-expression are appropriate in some contexts, they are out of place in academic writing. Writing instructors and professors in courses across the campus expect all students to demonstrate proficiency in using the conventions of academic English in their written work, whether it is in-class exams or take-home essays.

Academic Integrity: See College Catalog "Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgement, is plagiarism..." Students found guilty of plagiarism will fail the work in question for the first offense and will be dropped from the course should a second offense occur. For further information and examples please see [www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org)

Grading Policy/Procedure: You will have four exams worth 200 points each, an article presentation worth 50 points, and a final project worth 150 points for a total of 1000 points. Other grades may be added with daily papers that may be assigned. Your grade will be based upon a percentage of the total points with 90%=A; 80%=B; 70%=C; 60%=D; 59% and below = F.

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>EXAM/ASSIGNMENT</b>
08/26	WELCOME	
08/28	HISTORY OF PSYCHOLOGY	
09/02		LABOR DAY: NO CLASS
09/04	HISTORY OF PSYCHOLOGY	
09/09	HISTORY OF PSYCHOLOGY	
09/11	BIOLOGICAL BASIS	
09/16	BIOLOGICAL BASIS	
09/18	BIOLOGICAL BASIS	
09/23		EXAM I
09/25	COGNITION	
09/30	COGNITION	
10/02	COGNITION	
10/07	DEVELOPMENTAL	
10/09	DEVELOPMENTAL	
10/14	DEVELOPMENTAL	
10/16		EXAM 2
10/21	SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY	
10/23	SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY	
10/28	SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY	
10/30	LEARNING	
11/04	LEARNING	
11/06	LEARNING	
11/11		EXAM 3
11/13	PERSONALITY	
11/18	PERSONALITY	
11/20	PERSONALITY	
11/25	DISORDERS	
11/27		THANKSGIVING BREAK
12/02	DISORDERS	
12/04		EXAM 4
12/06	FINAL PROJECT DUE BY EMAIL	DUE BY 11:59PM
12/09	FINAL	10:15AM-12:15PM

**Special Requirements:** If you miss an exam, you cannot make it up, but your optional CUMULATIVE final exam can be used to replace either your lowest score or an exam you missed. You can take an exam with another class if you must miss class for a valid reason. If you miss more than two exams, you will be asked to drop the class.

**FINAL EXAM:** You may take your exam with another class that is scheduled for an earlier time if you have no conflicts. If you want to take the exam at a later date you must notify me of your intentions so I do not hand in grades without your exam

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**Grading Policy & Method of Evaluation:**

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It is possible to earn up to 1000 points in this course. Your grade will be calculated on a cumulative point total based on the following grades:

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At the end of the semester, all points earned by you this semester will be added up for a Grand Point Total. Your Point Total will determine your final letter grade by using the following scale/ranges:

- A: 900 to 1000 points
  - B: 800 to 899 points
  - C: 700 to 799 points
  - D: 600 to 699 points
  - F: Below 599 points
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**Projects/Assignments:**

**Article (50 points):** You will present a relevant article over a topic presented within the chapter. This assignment is worth 50 points. You will go to Google Scholar and do a search for the topic of your choice. Find an article published after 2015 relevant to your topic. For example, if you want to find an article about Attachment Theory, you would search “Attachment Theory” and find a recent article that includes a PDF link. Provide a brief (1-2 pages) summary of the article and your reaction to reading (i.e. what did you find interesting, what surprised you, what would you share with a friend or family member about the article). A rubric will be provided on Blackboard.

**Final Project (150 Points):** Choose a topic **NOT** covered in this class and create a PowerPoint presentation. In the presentation include two (2) relevant video clips (can come from Youtube). Include **at least** five (5) discussion questions you would pose to the class. Typically, the discussion question would follow informational slides about the topic. Must have between 10-15 slides. All information within the presentation must come from valid sources. A sample presentation will be included on Blackboard. The PowerPoint presentation is due by email ([jharris@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:jharris@southplainscollege.edu)) by 11:59PM on Friday December 6<sup>th</sup>.