

South Plains College
Common Course Syllabus: PSYC 2301, Sections 457
Revised 08/2023
Spring 2024

Department: Behavioral Sciences

Discipline: Psychology

Course Number: PSYC 2301

Course Title: General Psychology

Available Formats: Conventional, INET, ITV, Flex

Campuses: Levelland, Reese, Lubbock Center, Plainview, and Dual Credit Campuses

Course Description: Survey of the essential subject areas, major theories and approaches to the scientific study of behavior and mental processes.

Prerequisites: TSI compliance in Reading

Credit: 3 Lecture: 3 Lab: 0

Textbook: OpenStax Psychology Text or Noba Psychology

Supplies: none unless specified in the specific instructor information

This course partially satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement:
Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Component Area (080)

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.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)/Competencies:

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

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment: Dr. Alicia Barr is the faculty member who is responsible for the assessment of the student learning outcomes. She will be sending a list of which SLOs will be assessed for each semester. There are 6 outcomes and these are rotated. Dr. Barr is also the person responsible to entry of the data into Task Stream for documentation.

Course Evaluation: See the instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in evaluating student performance. However, all courses will have multiple exams and a written assignment that is designated by the instructor.

Attendance Policy:

Instructors will create an attendance policy that is consistent with the "Class Attendance" policies stated below in the *SPC General Catalog*:

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.

Additional attendance information might be included in the specific instructor's part of the syllabus.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, examinations, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, a mail order term paper mill, or generated by an artificial intelligence tool;
2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or
4. Missing in-text citations.

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet, apps) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment;
4. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage;
5. Taking an examination for another;
6. Altering grade records;
7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment;
8. Rewriting another student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's;
9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

Student Code of Conduct Policy: Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others' behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

Students can find the Intellectual Exchange Statement, Disabilities Statement, Non-Discrimination Statement, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement, and CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation) Team Statement, and Campus Concealed Carry Statement on the following webpage:

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>

Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus and policies, as well as notify students of any changes, at any point during the semester.

Instructor's Course Information: PSYC 2301.457 – Spring 2024

PSYC 2301, General Psychology: Survey of the essential subject areas, major theories and approaches to the scientific study of behavior and mental processes.

Instructor: M. Miller, MA, Associate Professor of Psychology

Instructor Office: SS117, Student Services Building, Levelland Campus, 806-716-2967

I am available by phone or walk-in during the office hours listed below. I can be available for virtual meetings via Collaborate upon request during the following times as well.

Monday through Thursday: 9 am – 10:30 am

Friday: 9 am – 11 am

Email Address: mamiller@southplainscollege.edu

Blackboard: All assignments, quizzes, and exams will be submitted in Blackboard

(southplainscollege.blackboard.com). Many course resources can be found on our Blackboard course as well. You may contact me using Course Messages in Blackboard.

Textbook: OpenStax College, *Psychology 2e*. OpenStax College. 2018.

- It is recommended that you read from the FREE online version or download a PDF version, also for free, at <https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology-2e>
- You may download the book on AppleBooks for \$5.99-6.99
<https://books.apple.com/us/book/psychology/id1342320430>
- You may purchase a hard copy at the SPC bookstore or online

Instructor's Course Policies:

Attendance & Withdrawal Policy: It is in the student's best interest to "attend" class frequently. This course is completely online, and does not have a set time for class meetings. Student attendance, in this case, refers to frequently logging into the course on Blackboard and completing coursework by specified deadlines (See Course Calendar). The last day to withdraw/drop with a grade of "W" is **April 25**. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from this course if they wish. Otherwise, students will earn a letter grade at the end of the course based on their performance. For more information regarding drops/withdrawals, please visit <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/admission-aid/apply/schedulechanges.php>.

Technology Policy: Blackboard is the learning management system used to deliver this course (<http://southplainscollege.blackboard.com>). *It is essential that you have reliable access to the Internet, appropriate devices/software, and a working knowledge of Blackboard.* You should always have a backup plan in place should you encounter computer or internet problems. There are open computer labs available to all enrolled SPC students on all campuses. It is also the student's responsibility to have the required computer skills to complete this course. More information about online courses is available when you login to southplainscollege.blackboard.com by expanding the "On Demand Help" area. Should you

encounter technical difficulties contact your instructor immediately as well as **SPC technical support at blackboard@southplainscollege.edu** or call (806) 894-9611, ext. 2180. Be sure to include your full name, course number, section number and a number where you can be reached when contacting technical support. *Not knowing how something works or having personal computer or Internet difficulties will not suffice as an excuse for missed deadlines and will not constitute extensions or do-overs.*

Communication: You are expected to frequently check your SPC email, Blackboard Course Messages, and Blackboard Announcements. Your instructor will check SPC email & Course Messages each business day and will respond to communication within 1 business day.

Student Conduct & Online Behavior: In conjunction with the Student Conduct policy stated in the Common Course Syllabus, one must uphold proper and respectful communication with the instructor and fellow classmates at all times. All interactions will remain civil just as they would in a traditional classroom. Repeated violations of this policy may result in the student being dropped from the course with an 'X' or 'F.'

Written Work: All written work 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. This will relate to **any** written work done in the course.

Late work: Late work is not accepted in this course. All deadlines are provided on the Course Calendar document. All coursework must be submitted by the deadlines on the calendar to receive credit.

It is best to plan ahead and not wait until the last minute to submit any coursework. Most coursework can be submitted early, so take advantage and don't get stuck. However, in the event that you miss deadlines there are two options available:

1. **Discussions: The Freebie:** On one Discussion or Assignment you may use what I call a "Freebie," which means you can automatically receive full credit on that specific assignment (on discussions, this includes the full grade, 1 thread and 2 replies). **You can only do this once during the session**, so use it wisely. To use this option, you must email your instructor **in Blackboard within three days after that deadline occurs**, state that you would like to use your Freebie, and specifically state the coursework to which you would like it applied (e.g., "Dear Professor Miller, I would like to use my Freebie on the Unit 3 Assignment: Sleep. Sincerely, <Your Name>"). This doesn't happen automatically; no email, no credit, it's all on you. This option cannot be used on exams.
2. **Exams:** If you miss a deadline on an exam (or have technology issues, Wi-Fi issues, underperform, run out to time, etc.), keep in mind that your lowest exam score will be dropped. Late exams and make up exams are not permitted for any reason (See Exam policy for more information).

Course Calendar: At the end of this document a weekly list of coursework deadlines is provided. This document can also be found in your course on Blackboard. You are strongly encouraged to develop a system for keeping up with these deadlines. This might include printing out the Course Calendar document and hanging in your home. Other options include writing deadlines in your

own planner or calendar, adding reminders in your phone or on other devices, or adding the deadlines to the Blackboard calendar on your own. It should be noted that even on days when you are not submitting coursework, you should still be studying, reading, re-reading, reviewing course materials on your own.

Academic Integrity: In addition to the Plagiarism and Cheating policy in the Common Course Syllabus, it should be understood that students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism will earn a zero on the work in question for the first offense and will be dropped from the course with an ‘F’ should a second offense occur. Any amount of dishonesty is subject to these consequences, whether a lot or a little; this can include but is not limited to one copied sentence in an essay, a missing or incorrect citation, an entire paper copied from someone/somewhere else (including AI generated content), one plagiarized idea or post on a discussion board, one copied exam item or an exam, other coursework completed by someone other than yourself, or dishonestly using Internet searches and sites to complete your work. You have also committed academic dishonesty when sharing course content, assignments, items, or answers. This includes sharing course content with classmates or future students as well as sharing or posting course content on websites such as Quizlet, Course Hero, or similar “study applications.” The information and assignments in this course are proprietary and are not yours to share. For further information and examples please see the Catalog, Student Guide, or refer to www.plagiarism.org

Grading Policy & Method of Evaluation:

All grades and feedback on coursework will be delivered in Blackboard. You will find these posted in the My Grades area of our Blackboard course.

It is possible to earn up to 515 points in this course. Your grade will be determined by a cumulative point total based on the following grades:

	Amount to be completed	Total Points Possible	Points earned by you this semester
Syllabus Assignment & Discussion: Introductions	2 items of work	15	
Weekly Discussions	4 @ 25 points each	100	
Weekly Assignments	4 @ 25 points each	100	
Exams	3 @ 100 points each (lowest exam dropped)	300	
Total	-----	515	

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

- A= 461 – 515 points
- B= 410 – 460 points
- C= 358 – 409 points
- D= 307 – 357 points
- F= 0 – 306 points

Discussions (25 points each): For each unit you will be required to engage in a discussion related to course material. You will be given a prompt with a topic and specific instructions for how the discussion should be conducted. For each discussion, you will first post a **thread**, which will contain an original response to the prompt (you will not be able to see the posts of other students until you post a thread). Once you have posted your thread, you are to **reply** to a minimum of 2 threads on the discussion board. See the Course Calendar for specific posting deadlines; keep in mind that threads and replies will have different deadlines.

The primary goal for this portion of the course is to discuss what you are learning and how it applies to various situations. Treat this as you would any other written assignment; it is an opportunity to demonstrate your ability to understand the information. Therefore, you will be evaluated based on your ability to post useful, meaningful, and valuable information that demonstrates your understanding of the course material. Some discussion no-no's to keep in mind include:

- Showing little originality or thought in your posts. Remember that these should demonstrate that you understand what you're learning in class. Each post should add a new idea, perspective, example, or explanation of the content.
- Repeating yourself or someone else. If you repeat yourself or others in postings you will not receive full credit.
- Agreeing with and praising others. Stating "I agree" or "I love the way you said that" (or any similar comment) is not detailed or complex enough to earn points.
- Using poor spelling/grammar. Keep in mind that a discussion is a written assignment, which means that spelling, grammar, and proper writing will be factored in to your score.

Assignments (25 points each): For each unit you will be required to complete an Assignment. Each Unit Folder will contain a Word Document that will contain all of the assignment instructions. You are to download the Word Document and save it to your device, complete each part of the assignment within the saved Word Document, and upload/submit the completed Word Document using the Assignment link in the Unit Folder. Deadlines are specified in the Course Calendar.

Exams (100 points each): This session you will take 4 exams (1 exam per Unit). The exams will contain 50 multiple choice questions over the assigned chapters. You will be provided with materials to help you prepare for each exam and it is in your best interest to read all related chapters and spend time preparing. The exams are timed (1 hour), so be sure you are ready to complete the exam in one sitting before you begin an exam. I advise you to complete all coursework in a given unit and review any feedback given before attempting to complete an exam.

- **At the end of the session your lowest unit exam score will be dropped**

Weekly Coursework to be Completed	Deadline: Midnight (11:59 pm)
Week 1: Welcome to the Course (begins on first day of class, January 16) Syllabus Assignment Discussion: Introductions (post at least 1 thread & 2 replies)	Friday January 19 Friday January 19
Week 2: Chapter 1 (begins Jan 21) Discussion: Modern Perspectives in Psych. – Thread Post	Thursday January 25
Week 3: Chapter 2 (begins Jan 28) Discussion: Modern Perspectives in Psych. – Reply Posts (2) Assignment: Research in Psychology	Thursday February 1 Thursday February 1
Week 4: Exam Week (begins Feb 4) Exam 1: Chapters 1 & 2	Thursday February 8
Week 5: Chapter 3 (begins Feb 11) Discussion: Biopsychology – Thread Post	Thursday February 15
Week 6: Chapter 4 (begins Feb 18) Discussion: Biopsychology – Reply Posts (2)	Thursday February 22
Week 7: Chapter 5 (begins Feb 25) Assignment: Sleep	Thursday February 29
Week 8: Exam Week (begins Mar 3) Exam 2: Chapters 3, 4, & 5	Thursday March 7
Week 9: Chapter 6 (begins Mar 17) Discussion: Memory & Study Strategies – Thread Post	Thursday March 21
Week 10: Chapter 7 (begins Mar 24) Discussion: Memory & Study Strategies – Reply Posts (2)	Thursday March 28
Week 11: Exam Week (begins Mar 31) Assignment: Conditioning	Thursday April 4
Week 12: Chapter 8 (begins Apr 7) Exam 3: Chapters 6 & 8	Thursday April 11
Week 13: Chapter 9 (begins Apr 14) Discussion: Online Therapy – Thread Post	Sunday April 18
Week 14: Chapter 10 (begins Apr 21) Discussion: Online Therapy – Reply Posts (2)	Thursday April 25
Week 15: Exam (begins Apr 28) Assignment: Stress & Coping	Thursday May 2
Week 16: Final Exams Week (begins May 5) Exam 4: Chapters 11, 15, & 16	Wednesday May 8