

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: At instructor's discretion you will use **one** of the following open source textbooks:

- OpenStax College, *Psychology*. OpenStax College. 8 December 2014.

(<http://cnx.org/content/col11629/latest/>)

OR

- R. Biswas-Diener & E. Diener (Eds), *Noba Textbook Series: Psychology*. Champaign, IL: DEF Publishers. DOI: nobaproject.com (specific URL provided by your instructor)

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

Course Description: Survey of major topics in psychology. Introduces the study of behavior and the factors that determine and affect behavior.

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 for Student Affairs, South Plains College - 1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336, 806-894-9611

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.

Topical Course Schedule
(subject to change according to individual section needs)

Weeks 1-5

- Chapter One: Introduction to Psychology
- Chapter Two: Psychological Research
- Chapter Three: Biopsychology

Weeks 6-10

- Chapter Four: Consciousness
- Chapter Six: Learning

Weeks 11-16

- Chapter Ten: Motivation & Emotion
- Chapter Thirteen: Social Psychology
- Chapter Fifteen: Psychological Disorders

Mr. Archer's General Psychology Course Information

COURSE TITLE: General Psychology 2301
INSTRUCTOR: Jim Archer, M. Ed., LPC
OFFICE LOCATION: Lubbock Center 125H
OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday 9-9:30am, 12:15-1pm
Fri 9-Noon (On Fridays, please e-mail prior to coming without an appointment to maximize your time and avoid schedule conflicts.)
PHONE: (806) 716-4668 (**I will respond more quickly to emails**)
E-MAIL: jarcher@southplainscollege.edu (**quickest communication**)
TEXTBOOK: OpenStax College, *Psychology*. OpenStax College. 8 December 2014.
<https://openstax.org/details/psychology>
Follow the link above for the following options:
-FREE View the interactive book on-line. It includes free interactive videos and learning exercises.
-FREE View, download, or print a PDF of this book.
-\$4.99 Download the book in iBooks to your computer, phone, or tablet.
-\$40 purchase a hard copy printed version of the book through Amazon.
ISBN: 978-1-938168-35-2

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Course Policies

Grading Policy:

Your final grade will be calculated based on the following percentages:

A	90% -100%		
B	80% -89%		
C	70% -79%		
D	60% -69%		
F	0% -59%		
Grade Opportunities		# of Opps	Percentage Toward Total Grade
Tests (3 multiple choice tests are mandatory. *The Optional Project Test score will be averaged into this percentage if you choose to complete it)		3-4	70%
BlackBoard Quizzes/Participation Exercises		12	30%

Attendance Policy:

I will take attendance daily. If you have over 4 unexcused absences, I may be forced to drop you from this course. Absences are excused only after I have seen some form of documentation, and that documentation must be presented by the beginning of the next class that you attend. I maintain the right to decide whether an absence is marked as "excused" or "unexcused" based on your documentation, the reason for your absence, your communication with me, and fairness to other students.

-Attendance Reward: If you complete the course with 2 or less absences of any kind, you will be able to drop your lowest test grade.

**Excused absences DO count against your Attendance Reward total. Only students who have 2 or less absences of any kind will earn the Attendance Reward.*

Make-Up Tests:

If you are not able to attend a scheduled exam for any reason, you must notify me **prior to the scheduled test date** in order to schedule a make-up exam that will typically take place before the time of the scheduled exam for the rest of the class. If you have an unforeseen major emergency and miss a scheduled exam without prior notification, this will count as your dropped grade if you have earned your Attendance Reward. If your attendance does not support dropping a test grade, please know that I only grant Make-Up exams in extreme cases. If you in any way expect for me to consider offering a Make-Up exam, you must contact me by e-mail on the **same day** of the exam and **provide documentation of the major emergency** if you expect any opportunity to make up the exam. **I reserve the right to deny a make-up exam to any student in order to maintain fairness to other students** and in order to maintain the class schedule. If I choose to allow a make-up exam based on the provided documentation of a major emergency, it must be taken **prior to the next class period**. Without documentation of a major emergency, you will not have the opportunity to make-up the exam. In order to maintain fairness to all students, your make up exam may not be the same exam administered to the rest of the class. If you simply show up to the next class period after missing an exam without making considerable efforts to contact me by email on the date of the missed exam, you will most certainly be denied a make-up exam regardless of your circumstances.

BlackBoard Quizzes & Participation Exercises:

BlackBoard Quizzes are opportunities to make sure you are learning the material as well as a means of preparing you for major exams. These are open book, open note quizzes, and you will have the opportunity to take each quiz twice. I will take the highest of the two scores. Reading the chapter and participating in class prior to the quiz will help you move through these more efficiently. Each quiz is automatically graded and the results are immediately available to you. You will also be able to track your progress on Blackboard quizzes on the My Grades page located on the course homepage. **To access your quizzes**, simply log into BlackBoard, select this course, and then click on the Quiz tab on the left side of the screen.

All quizzes will be due at 11:59pm on Sunday nights, and all quizzes will be posted at least two weeks prior to their due date. **Once a quiz due date has passed, I will not re-open the quiz.** Manage your time wisely to make sure that you have plenty of time to work through any technical difficulties that may occur. **Quiz due dates are located on the course calendar tab on BlackBoard.** Others quizzes/exercises on BlackBoard may be added throughout the semester to give you more opportunities to learn important material and contribute to your overall quiz grade. I will announce these in class and on your BlackBoard page if they are added. Quiz due dates are posted on BlackBoard under the Course Calendar tab.

Participation Exercises are presented spontaneously during class as a means of reinforcing assigned reading, encouraging class participation, and applying the concepts we are learning. These exercises will not appear on the schedule, and they may take many forms including traditional quizzes, homework assignments, group projects, and even in-class participation tasks. You need to contact me prior to any planned absence if you expect for me to consider offering you a make-up challenge. If you have not contacted me prior to the date of the participation exercise, and you cannot provide me with documentation of a major emergency prior to the next class period, I maintain the right to refuse offering you a make-up exercise. In a further effort to maintain fairness to all students, a make-up exercise may vary from what was offered in class, and it could be much more intensive. If you arrive late to class after a participation exercise, you are too late to complete it. I reserve the right to deny a make-up exercise.

*If I offer over 12 Quizzes/Participation Exercises, I will only average your top 12 which may allow you to drop a low or missed quiz/exercise grade.

Optional Project Test

-Due date is posted on BlackBoard under the Course Calendar tab-

This Optional Project Test is designed to give you an opportunity to demonstrate your *critical thinking and communication skills* regarding the practical applications of psychology. I have found that many students demonstrate their mastery of psychological principles well in projects like this rather than traditional multiple choice exams. These projects are graded on how well you utilize information from our course and text, so the text should be your primary reference. You are required to submit a hard copy of your project, and any project submitted after the required due date will not be accepted. I will not accept e-mailed projects. **The title page to all projects must include your name and section number.** Always save a digital or hard copy of any project that you submit to me in case of any submission discrepancies.

**This project is OPTIONAL. If you choose to complete one of these projects, your grade will be averaged with your multiple choice test scores to represent 70% of your grade in the course. Examples of these projects will be provided at many class meetings or during posted office hours.*

Psychology in Music

Choose **two** songs that are relevant to information covered in this psychology course. For **each** of these songs, write a **one page** response that explains how this song is connected or relevant to psychological terms or other information covered in this course. Audio copies of each song are not required, however, I strongly encourage you to attach a copy of the lyrics for each song for your benefit when I am grading.

If you are a songwriter, you may also attempt to compose your own original songs for this project. For original compositions, you must provide me with a recorded copy of the song as well as a one page response for each song. Songs must include both lyrics and music.

-Each song is worth 50 points (2 songs)

For each song, find four distinct aspects of the song that directly connect to information in OUR TEXT. Using those four points (or more), make sure to elaborate for one full page. Include within text citations.

For Each Song:

Communicate 4 different aspects of song relevant to text:	10 points per aspect
Text citation for each point discussed:	2 points each (4 citations per song)
Each summary must be one full page in length:	2 points per each summary

Professional Interviews

Conduct face to face interviews of **two** professionals in fields closely related to psychology. Submit the questions that you asked in the interview, as well as each of the professional's responses during the interview. After you have completed both interviews, complete a one page reaction to each interview that explains how psychology is used throughout these careers. **The professionals that you interview must be one of the following:** licensed psychologist, psychiatrist, licensed professional counselor, licensed master's level social worker, or a licensed marriage and family therapist. Only those with these qualifications are eligible to be interviewed. Interviews with ineligible people could result in no credit or a massive point deduction. You may **NOT** interview any employee of South Plains College unless you have pre-existing relationship with this employee (They are your advisor, counselor, or professor). **You must submit interview notes/audio recording for each interview, as well as your one page response to each professional interview in order for your project to be evaluated for full credit.**

Notes/audio recording from Each Interview:	(25 points per interview)
1 page response for each interview detailing what you learned regarding the use of psychology in that person's career:	(25 points per interview)

Psychology at the Library

Read or listen to audio versions of one of the following books. As you read/listen, take notes on anything that you observe as relevant to our course and text. Then, write at least a **2 page** paper citing and explaining at least 5 separate psychological concepts that you observed. You will be graded on your application of psychological concepts cited in our text and course. It is not a book report.

-*David & Goliath, Outliers, Tipping Point, or Blink* by Malcolm Gladwell -*Freakonomics or SuperFreakonomics* by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner

–*Why Beautiful People Have More Daughters* by Miller and Kanazawa

Fully Elaborated Concepts: 17 points each (5 Concepts)

Within Text Citations: 2 points per concept

Length: 5 points

Psychology on the Big Screen

Choose to watch **2 of the following movies** listed and write a one page response for each of your choices to explain how each movie is relevant to information discussed in this course.

1)*Spider Man: Homecoming* 2)*Wonder Woman* 3)*Beauty and the Beast (2017)* 4)*10 Cloverfield Lane*

5)*Rogue One: a Star Wars Story* 6)*Allied* 7)*The Emoji Movie* 8)*The Big Sick* 9)*The Lego Batman Movie*

10)*A Dog's Purpose* 11)*Lion* 12)*Free State of Jones* 13)*Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*

14)*Nacho Libre* 15)*Napoleon Dynamite*

Per Movie

4 Concepts per Movie: 10 points per concept

Within Text Citation for each concept: 2 points per citation

Length (full page response): 2 points per movie

Professor You

Choose one of the following topics and prepare a **twenty minute** lesson on the topic to be presented to your classmates. You will schedule this lesson to be presented to the class during a normal class meeting throughout the semester. **You must turn in a typed basic outline of your lesson plan to me prior to presenting the topic and at the time of project due date.** This outline should be one page in length and follow a traditional outline format. Power point notes can be used in place of an outline. This project will be evaluated based on your identification of relevant psychological concepts, the accuracy of your lesson, my perception of your preparation efforts, appropriate length, and the overall effectiveness of your presentation. If you believe that you can present on another topic that is closely related or covered in our course, you are welcome to discuss this with me for possible approval PRIOR to choosing this as your topic. Only approved topics will be accepted.

Pre-Approved topics: -Substance Abuse -Cultural Stereotypes and Stigmas of Mental Illness

-The Psychology of Political Campaigns -Psychological applications/dynamics related to all/any networking technologies of Face book, YouTube, Twitter, and text messaging -Psychological dynamics of Las Vegas and/or gambling –The Psychology of Romantic Attraction –Psychology of MMA Fighters and Spectators –Psychology of Spending and Financial Habits -Psychology Involved in Video Games –The Psychology of Religion/Spirituality

Identify and Explain 4 Psychological Concepts within our text: 10 points for each relevant concept

Prep and Presentation of every 5 mins of Course Relevant Info.: 10 points for each 5 mins

Citations at some point DURING presentation: 10 points

Hard Copy of Outline Provided at due date: 10 points

General Writing Tips for all Projects

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.

1. All work should be typed or computer generated, double spaced, with one inch margins in a standard 12 pt. font. Please include a title page with your name, course number, semester, **section time**, my name and the date you submit the paper. This should be centered on the page.
2. Any references used should be listed at the end of the paper using APA style and within the body of the text according to APA procedure. Using reference material without proper documentation constitutes plagiarism which is a serious academic offense and could result in a failing grade for the work in question. The following website gives examples of how to cite your sources according to the APA format: rlrc-proxy.elgin.edu/apa.htm
3. Be sure to proofread your work for grammatical and spelling errors. Also remember that "healthy" paragraphs are usually comprised of at least three sentences organized around a central idea.

Academic Integrity:

As stated in your college catalog, "Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgement, is plagiarism..." Students found guilty of plagiarism could fail or receive a zero on the work in question for the first offense and could be dropped from the course should a second offense occur. Cutting and pasting information directly from websites without citing your source also constitutes plagiarism. **I will check your paper for plagiarism if I suspect it has occurred.**

-If I determine that you are cheating on any phase of your course work, I will take action that could include giving you a "zero" on the course work or even possible dismissal from the course.

Electronic Devices:

Be responsible for your electronic devices. Make sure they are silenced. If your device is the cause of distraction to me or others, I have the right to confiscate and utilize any electronic device that causes a distraction to me, you, or your classmates. I will return the confiscated item at the conclusion of the class period. If you will not allow me to confiscate the offending electronic item, I will require you to leave the classroom and possibly take an unexcused absence. You may use a tape recorder to record lectures.

-Laptops and tablets are permitted for note-taking, in class discussion purposes, and exploration of information we are covering in class. Please make sure that nothing on your screen distracts your classmates, and only plug in the lap top if the cord does not provide an obstacle for pedestrian traffic. I will also ask you to sit on the front row of the classroom if you are using such a device so that I can assist in holding you accountable to participating in class. If I catch anything on your screen that is not related to our course or potentially distracting to others, I have the right to confiscate the device until the end of class and prohibit you from utilizing the device in the future.

-All electronic devices including **SMART WATCHES** should be turned off and put out of sight during exams. Failure to comply could result in a zero on the exam.

Equal Opportunity:

This instructor will not tolerate remarks or gestures that can be construed as sexist, racist, or in any way disparaging to another person in this classroom. Students who exhibit such behavior could be dropped from the class with a semester grade of "F" regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, or religion.

Please review the ADA Statement in the Common Course Syllabus. I have included links to accessibility resources below for the technologies you may use in this course.

Blackboard Accessibility:

<http://www.blackboard.com/platforms/learn/resources/accessibility.aspx>

Microsoft Office Accessibility

<http://www.microsoft.com/enable/default.aspx>

OpenStax Accessibility

<https://openstax.org/accessibility-statement>

Thank You:

I consider it an honor that you have chosen to be in my course. I want to thank you in advance for the time and hard work that you will put into this learning experience. One of the keys to being successful in college is to maintain communication with your instructor. Feel free to call, e-mail, or come by during office hours if I can help you be successful in this course. I wish you all the luck this semester and hope that the grade that you achieve in this course will reflect the effort you put into it. -Jim Archer