

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, ATC, 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/>)

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 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 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.

Instructor's Course Information: Mrs. Miller

Course Information: PSYC 2301 – Summer I 2017 – Internet Course

Course Website: Blackboard (southplainscollege.blackboard.com)

Preferred Email Contact: 'Mail' within Blackboard Course

Alternative Email Contact: mamiller@southplainscollege.edu

Instructor Office Hours: SS117 (Levelland Campus) by appointment

Instructor Office Phone: 806-716-2967 (always leave a message if I miss your call)

Textbook: OpenStax College, Psychology. OpenStax College. 8 December 2014.

- You may use the free online version or download a PDF version, also for free, at <http://cnx.org/content/col11629/latest/>
- You may also purchase a hard copy at the SPC bookstore or online from OpenStax or Amazon

Instructor's Course Policies:

Attendance & Drop Policy: Since this course is a virtual classroom, attendance will be taken based on coursework submission (i.e., discussions, exams, written assignments). A student who fails to submit any 4 items during the semester may be dropped with a grade of 'X' or 'F' for the course.

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 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 on online courses is available at southplainscollege.blackboard.com by accessing the On Demand Help & Learning Center. Should you encounter technical difficulties contact the instructor immediately as well as the 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. For support using Connect you can go to <http://mpss.mhhe.com/>. Not knowing how something works or having personal computer difficulties will not suffice as an excuse for missed deadlines.

Student Conduct & Online Behavior: In conjunction with the 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.

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 all written work done in the course including discussions and written assignments.

Late work: Late work is not accepted in this course. All coursework must be submitted by the deadlines on the calendar to receive full 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 a deadline there are two options available depending on what you missed:

1. On a Discussion or Written Assignment you may use what I call a "Freebie," which means you will automatically receive full credit on that specific assignment. **You can only do this once during the session**, so use it wisely. To use this option, you will 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 (i.e., "Dear Professor Miller, I would like to use my Freebie on the Unit 3 Written Assignment: Sleep"). This doesn't happen automatically; no email, no credit, it's all on you. This option cannot be used on exams.

2. If you miss a deadline on an exam, keep in mind that your lowest exam score will be dropped at the end of the session (See policy on Exams below).

Academic Integrity: In addition to the 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 of a written assignment, a missing citation, an entire paper copied from someone else, one plagiarized post on a discussion board, one copied exam item or an entire exam by someone other than yourself. For further information and examples please see the Catalog, Student Guide, or refer to www.plagiarism.org

Grading Policy & Method of Evaluation:

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

	Amount to be completed	Total Points Possible	Points earned by you this semester
Unit 0 Assignments	2 items of work	15	
Discussions	4 @ 25 points each	100	
Written 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 semester 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.

Written Assignments (25 points each): For each unit you will be required to compose a short written assignment related to the course material. You will be given a prompt with a topic and specific instruction for what is to be included in the assignment. Each assignment will require a minimum of 250 words. Assignments will be graded based on demonstration of understanding of the course material, inclusion of accurate/relevant/well organized content, and grammar/spelling. Be sure to discuss each required point and cite any sources used (including at least the textbook). 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**

Tentative schedule (see course calendar for specific deadlines)

Unit 0	June 5 – June 9	Welcome to the course
Unit 1	June 10 – June 16	Chapters 1, 2
Unit 2	June 17 – June 23	Chapters 3, 4, 5
Unit 3	June 24 – June 30	Chapters 6, 7
Unit 4	July 1 – July 11	Chapters 12, 15, 16