

## General Psychology (PSYC 2301) - Common Course Syllabus Fall 2019 – Section 273

<b>Department:</b> Behavioral Sciences	<b>Prerequisites:</b> TSI reading compliance for INET
<b>Discipline:</b> Psychology	<b>Available Formats:</b> Conventional, INET, ITV
<b>Course Number:</b> PSYC 2301	<b>Campuses:</b> Levelland, Reese, Lubbock, Plainview, and INET
<b>Course Title:</b> General Psychology	<b>Credit:</b> 3 Lecture: 3 Lab: 0

*Does this course satisfy a core curriculum requirement? Yes – Behavioral or Social Science*

**Course Specific Instructions:** For Internet classes, go to Blackboard. For face-to-face classes, each instructor will attach his/her course specific instructions.

**Textbook:** At instructor's discretion you will use one of the following open source textbooks: OpenStax College, Psychology. OpenStax College. December 2014) OR R. Biswas-Diener & E. Diener (Eds), Noba Textbook Series: Psychology. Champaign, IL: DEF Publishers. DOI: nobaproject.com. (SEE THE INSTRUCTOR SYLLABUS FOR MORE INFORMATION)

**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, students should attend all class meetings and/or login to internet courses at least twice weekly. In addition, satisfactorily complete all homework assignments and examinations on time, and satisfactorily complete all other projects or papers as assigned in the course instructions.

**Course Evaluation:** See instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in evaluating student performance.

### Student Learning Outcomes/Competencies:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify various research methods and their characteristics used in the scientific study of psychology.
2. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought 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- includes effective written, oral and visual communication.
- Critical thinking skills- includes 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 demonstrated intercultural knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities.

**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.

**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).

**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. 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). The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President of Student Affairs. **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 806-716-2529; Reese Center (Building 8) and Lubbock Center, 806-716-4675; or Plainview Center Main Office, 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611. **Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement:** If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, Under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To activate accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Director of Health and Wellness. Once approved, notification will be sent to the

student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact Chris Straface, Director of Health and Wellness at 806-716-2362 or email [cstraface@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:cstraface@southplainscollege.edu) for assistance.

**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 that offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension. This policy applies to all forms of cheating and plagiarism. See Instructor's Course Information for additions to the academic integrity policy.

**Campus Carry Policy:** The 84th Texas legislature passed Senate Bill 11, commonly known as the "campus carry" bill went into effect on August 1, 2017. Individuals holding a licensed to carry (LTC) or concealed handgun license (CHL) holders will have the legal right to carry a concealed handgun onto community college campuses; however, they cannot openly carry the handgun. South Plains College's detailed policy required by Senate Bill 11 can be found at this link: [Policy HHC - Concealed Carry of Handgun \(Campus Carry\)](#).

*What Concealed Carry Allows:*

- The law permits only licensed to carry (LTC) holders or concealed handgun license (CHL) holders to carry concealed handguns on campuses.
- Allows an institution to adopt rules or regulations that prohibit license holders from carrying concealed handguns on certain areas of campus, in a building or portion of a building as long as the rules and regulations do not have the effect of generally prohibiting a license holder from carrying a concealed handgun on campus. Effective notice must be provided with respect to any place where handguns may not be carried.

*What Concealed Carry Does Not Allow:*

- The law does not allow "open carry" on college campuses. Open carry means the intentional display of a handgun, including the carry of a partially or wholly visible handgun stored in a shoulder or belt holster. □ The law does not allow the carry of rifles or shotguns on college campuses.

**Instructor’s Course Information: PSYC 2301: General Psychology – Fall 2019**

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<b>Office:</b> Administration Room 127	<b>Email Address:</b> <a href="mailto:amccourt@southplainscollege.edu">amccourt@southplainscollege.edu</a>
<b>Course Website:</b> Blackboard (southplainscollege.blackboard.com)	<b>Preferred Contact Information:</b> Because I teach on both the Levelland and Lubbock campuses, email is typically the fastest way to contact me.
<b>Section 273 Meeting Time</b> Tuesdays & Thursdays from 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Lubbock Center Room 116	<b>Section 273 Final Exam time:</b> December 10 <sup>th</sup> from 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Lubbock Center Room 116
<b>Office Hours:</b> <b>Office Hours:</b> Mondays: 8:45-9:30 a.m.; 2:15-5:00 p.m. (Levelland Campus) Tuesdays: 8:30-11 a.m.; 2:15-3:00 p.m. (Lubbock Center) Wednesdays: 8:45-9:30 a.m. (Levelland Campus) Thursdays: 2:15-2:45 p.m. (Lubbock Center)	

**COURSE INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS:**

Textbook: OpenStax College, Psychology. OpenStax College. (December 2014) or you may access the free PDF version of the textbook on Blackboard.

**CLASSROOM POLICIES:**

**Respect for Fellow Students:** It is the policy of South Plains College to offer all educational and employment opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability or age. All students will maintain respect for fellow classmates’ personal beliefs, values, morals and life situations. In short, “Bigotry will not be tolerated.” (Student Guide)

**Electronic Devices:** Cell phones must be silenced and put away while in the classroom. Devices used for note-taking are permitted, but should be used responsibly and must not create distractions for you or others. Headphones will not be allowed during class.

**Tardiness:** Please do your best to manage your time well and be on time to class. If you are tardy, please enter the room quietly and take a seat as close to the door as you can get. Being late to class is disruptive to your fellow classmates. Being late to class is disruptive to your fellow classmates and is therefore subject to the same consequences listed in the Disruptive Behavior policy.

**Disruptive Behavior:** Do your best to be respectful of others and their right to learn in a peaceful environment in all aspects of classroom behavior. Disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to creating distractions, talking out of turn, talking with classmates during lecture, wandering in and out of class, chronically showing up late, chronically leaving early, or improper use of technology. “Failure to comply with lawful directions of a classroom teacher relative to maintaining good order is considered misconduct on the part of the student. Repeated violations of disrupting a class will result in the student being dropped from the course.” (See Student Guide)

**Attendance & Administrative Drop Policy:** Attendance will be taken during each class meeting. Students will be responsible for material presented and discussed in class. Due to South Plains College attendance policies, any student who fails to attend 5 classes during the semester or fails to attempt a minimum of two major grades may be dropped from the course with an ‘X’ or ‘F.’

**Academic Integrity:** See College Catalog “Offering the work of another as one’s own, without proper acknowledgement, is plagiarism...” For further information and examples please see [www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org). Handing in work that was submitted for completion of another course will not be permitted. Students found guilty of such academic dishonesty in any form will receive a zero the work in question and will be dropped from the course with an ‘F’ should a second offense occur.

**Late work:** Please note that it is the students’ responsibility to plan ahead to submit assignments on time. I do not typically grant extensions. If you are traveling, etc. and are unsure of your access to the internet, it is strongly recommended that you plan ahead and submit assignments and take quizzes early. If for some reason the Blackboard system is down and the class has trouble accessing the quiz (this is rare but has been known to happen) I will work with the class to create a new due date. The key is this: internet access is required for this course, if you are unsure of your potential access submit early! Generally, lack of internet access and computer issues are not acceptable excuses for late assignments.

At times, extraordinary circumstances may occur in student’s lives that impact their assignment submission. In these circumstances, course assignments (e.g., quizzes, written assignments, etc.) might be granted an extension from the instructor. Extensions are granted for extraordinary circumstances such as death in the family, illness, etc. If you feel your circumstance may warrant an extension, please contact the instructor within one week of the original assignment due date to request an extension. Please note that failure to plan ahead and allow time to complete a project does not usually warrant an extension. You are welcome to turn the assignment in late, it will just have a late penalty (please see the following paragraph for more information on the course late policy).

All assignments are considered late if they are not submitted by 11:59 PM CST on the day they are due. For each week that assignments are late, a 10% deduction in the overall grade for that assignment will be enforced. Assignments will not be accepted after two weeks past the original due date, except with instructor permission. Instructor permission will be granted at the instructor’s discretion only for extraordinary circumstances, provided the student contacts the instructor within one week of the original discussion post due date to request the extension.

Assignments will not be accepted after the last official day of class

**Methods for Assessing Expected Student Learning Outcomes:** Quizzes, writing assignments, final exam.

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS/GRADING INFORMATION:****Quizzes (each quiz is worth up to 50 points for a total of 500 points or 50% of the overall course grade):**

There will be thirteen (13) quizzes over the assigned readings and course materials. Quizzes are designed to assess your understanding of the course materials. You will have the opportunity to take each quiz two times and keep your highest score. The lowest three quiz grades (including zeros for any missed quizzes) will be dropped at the end of the semester. This means that ten quiz scores will be used to calculate your final grade in the course.

All quizzes are taken in Blackboard and are timed. Once you start a quiz, you must complete it. You will not be able to log back into a quiz once you have opened it. Please make arrangements to take each quiz on a computer with a secure internet connection. You must take the quizzes individually.

Please see the course schedule for due dates. Generally speaking, you should expect to have one quiz each week that is due in Blackboard by 11:59 pm on Sunday evening.

**Writing Assignments (each writing assignment is worth up to 100 points for a total of 300 points or 30% of the overall course grade):**

On three different occasions throughout the semester you will be required to complete an assignment on a specific topic pertaining to course content. Each assignment should be at least 2 full pages (roughly 500 words), but not exceeding 4 pages (roughly 1000 words) in length. All papers should be double-spaced with 12-point font and use 1 inch margins. Content of the assignment should be an in depth explanation/discussion of the assigned topic.

Including personal experience with the topic is optional, but it must be relevant to the topic if it is included and it should not be the main focus of the composition. Assignments must be typed and correctly submitted through Blackboard. Your composition should follow the guidelines of standard written English, and should follow basic essay format including an introduction, logical paragraph flow, and a conclusion. Papers cannot be submitted through email.

See Course Calendar for all specific deadlines. More specific instruction will be given in class during the semester.

**Final Exam (worth up to 200 points or 20% of the overall course grade)**

During exams everything you brought to class that day will be kept out of sight the entire time. This includes all electronic devices (i.e., cell phones, tablets, laptops, etc.), notebooks, backpacks, purses, etc. No “headgear” of any kind will be worn, including headphones. All you need is a pencil.

This objective (true/false, matching, multiple choice exam will be taken during the time allotted for final exams. This exam will be cumulative.

During exams everything you brought to class that day will be kept out of sight the entire time. This includes all electronic devices (i.e., cell phones, tablets, laptops, etc.), notebooks, backpacks, purses, etc. No “headgear” of any kind will be worn, including headphones. All you need is a pencil.

**Grading Policy & Method of Evaluation:****Summary of Assignments**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
Online Quizzes	500
Writing Assignments	300
Final Exam	200
<b>Total Points Possible =</b>	<b>1000</b>

Final Grades will be determined by calculating the total amount of points earned by you this semester. Using the scale below, your instructor will determine the corresponding letter grade.

A = 900-1000 points

B = 800-899 points

C = 700-799 points

D = 600-699 points

F = 599 (or below) points

<b>TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR/OUTLINE</b>		
<b>Calendar Week/Dates</b>	<b>Course Topics and Assigned Readings</b>	<b>Assignments</b> <i>(due in Blackboard by 11:59 PM on Sundays unless otherwise noted)</i>
<b>Week One</b> Monday, August 26 – Sunday, September 1	Introduction to Psychology <b>READ:</b> Chapter 1	Quiz 1
<b>Week Two</b> Monday, September 2 – Sunday September 8	Psychological Research <b>READ:</b> Chapter 2	Quiz 2
<b>Week Three</b> Monday, September 9 - Sunday, September 15	Biopsychology <b>READ:</b> Chapter 3	Quiz 3 <b>Writing Assignment #1</b>
<b>Week Four</b> Monday, September 16 – Sunday, September 22	States of Consciousness <b>READ:</b> Chapter 4	Quiz 4
<b>Week Five</b> Monday, September 23 – Sunday, September 29	Sensation and Perception <b>READ:</b> Chapter 5	Quiz 5
<b>Week Six</b> Monday, September 30 – Sunday, October 6	Learning and Thinking <b>READ:</b> Chapters 6 & 7	Quiz 6
<b>Week Seven</b> Monday, October 7 – Sunday, October 13	Intelligence and Memory <b>READ:</b> Chapters 7 & 8	Quiz 7 <b>Writing Assignment #2</b>
<b>Week Eight</b> Monday, October 14 – Sunday, October 20	Lifespan Development <b>READ:</b> Chapter 9	Quiz 8
<b>Week Nine</b> Monday, October 21 – Sunday, October 27	Emotion, Motivation, and Personality <b>READ:</b> Chapters 10 & 11	Quiz 9
<b>Week Ten</b> Monday, October 28 – Sunday, November 3	Social Psychology <b>READ:</b> Chapter 12	Quiz 10
<b>Week Eleven</b>	Industrial-Organizational Psychology	Quiz 11

Monday, November 4 – Sunday, November 10	<b>READ:</b> Chapter 13	<b>Writing Assignment #3</b>
<b>Week Twelve</b> Monday, November 11 – Sunday, November 17	Stress, Lifestyle, and Health <b>READ:</b> Chapter 14	Quiz 12
<b>Week Thirteen</b> Monday, November 18 – Sunday, November 24	Psychological Disorders <b>READ:</b> Chapter 15	Quiz 13
<b>Week Fourteen</b> Monday, November 25 – Sunday, December 1  Happy Thanksgiving! No Classes on November 27	Psychological Disorders <b>READ:</b> Chapter 15	
<b>Week Fifteen</b> Monday, December 2 – Sunday, December 8	Therapy and Treatment <b>READ:</b> Chapter 16	
<b>Final Exam Week</b> December 9-12		<b>Section 273 Final Exam: December 10<sup>th</sup> from 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.</b>

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

Labor Day Holiday	September 2
12th class day (non-attending students will be dropped)	September 11
Last day to drop/withdraw from a class	November 14
Thanksgiving Break	November 27-29
Last Regular Day of Class	December 4
Fall Final Exams Week	December 9-12