

South Plains College
Common Course Syllabus: PSYC 2301, Sections 452
Revised 01/2025
Fall 2025

Department: Behavioral Sciences

Discipline: Psychology

Course Number: PSYC 2301

Course Title: General Psychology

Available Formats: Conventional, Online

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: None

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 thought 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.

South Plains College policies concerning Disabilities, Non-discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy and Parenting Accommodations, CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation), Intellectual Exchange, Campus Concealed Carry, COVID-19, and AI (Artificial Intelligence) can be found here: <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 2301.452 – Fall 2025

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: 9:30 am – 10:45 am

Monday & Wednesday: 2:15 – 2:45 pm

Friday: 9 am – 11 am

Email Address: mamiller@southplainscollege.edu

Blackboard: This is an online course and will be conducted completely on Blackboard (southplainscollege.blackboard.com). All assignments/coursework must be submitted in Blackboard. In addition to the methods above, you may also contact me using 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 **December 4**. 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 on the Institution Page. 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 Messages, and Blackboard Announcements. Your instructor will check SPC email & 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 all 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 here is what you need to know:

1. **Discussion or Assignment: 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 response and 2 replies). **You can only do this once during the session**, so use it wisely. To use this option, you must contact your instructor **in Blackboard Messages within one week 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. **Exam:** If you miss a deadline on an exam (or have technology issues, Wi-Fi issues, underperform, run out of 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: The expectation in this course is that students generate their own written ideas and work. It should be understood that students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism of any kind 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.

Violations of Academic Integrity can include but are 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, a copied exam or exam item, other coursework completed by someone other than yourself, or unethically using Internet searches or AI generated content to complete your work.

You have also committed academic dishonesty when *sharing* course content, assignments, items, or answers. This includes sharing course content with other students, sharing or posting course content on websites such as Quizlet, Course Hero, or similar “study applications,” **and feeding course content into AI generators**. 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:

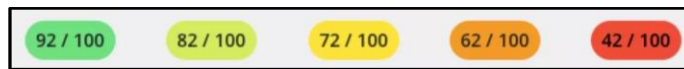
It is possible to earn up to 660 points in this course. At the end of the semester, all points earned by you this semester will be added up for a grand point total. Students enrolled in a dual credit course will also earn a numerical grade, which will be determined by the percentage of points earned in the course.

Your Point Total will determine your final letter grade by using the following scale/point ranges:

A= 591 – 660 points
B= 525 – 590 points
C= 458 – 524 points
D= 393 – 459 points
F= 0 – 392 points

Blackboard Gradebook: All grades and feedback will be posted in the Blackboard Gradebook. Grades and feedback are available for each item of coursework. Students are responsible for staying informed about their grading progress throughout the term.

- **Overall Grade** provides an indication of how many points a student has earned out of how many they have attempted. For example, if a student's Overall Grade shows “312/400” this means that the student has attempted 400 points in the course and has earned 312 of those points, or about 78% of the attempted points. As the student completes more work, both numbers should increase accordingly (more attempted, more earned). If the same student later completed an exam, which is worth 100 points, and earns a 72 on that exam, their new Overall Grade will be “384/500.”
- **Grading Color Scheme (Blackboard):** You will notice that each graded item presents in a color pill. The overall grade does as well: > 90% = green, 89–80% = yellow/green, 79–70% = yellow, 69–60% = orange, 59–50% = red (as shown below).



Coursework Items: All coursework will be submitted through Blackboard. Below is a brief description of all coursework that will be submitted for credit in this course:

Week 1 Coursework, Syllabus Assignment & Discussion: Introductions (5 points each): During Week 1 you will complete these two items of coursework. Though they will both have firm deadlines, these will be the only two items of coursework that you can submit as many times as you need to in order to earn full credit. They are both designed to ensure that you are familiar with the course policies, procedures, and tools before working on more high-stakes coursework. The two items will account for about 2% of your final grade.

Discussions (25 points each): For each remaining 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 **Response**, 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 Response). Once you have posted your Response, you are to submit **a minimum of 2 Replies** on the discussion board. See the Course Calendar for specific posting deadlines; keep in mind that Responses and replies will have different deadlines. Discussions will account for about 19% of your final grade.

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 in a college course; it is an opportunity to demonstrate your ability to understand the assigned topics. Therefore, you will be evaluated based on your ability to post useful, meaningful, and valuable information that demonstrates your understanding of the course material. Below are some tips to help you be successful on discussions:

- **Be original:** You should show originality and independent thinking 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 assigned topics.
- **Be original, part 2:** You should avoid repeating yourself or someone else. If you repeat yourself or others in postings you will not receive full credit as repeating yourself shows limited understanding and repeating others shows nothing about your own understanding.
- **Do more:** You should avoid simply agreeing with or 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. You'll need to add more to meet the requirements.
- **Write well/Proof-read:** You should avoid using poor spelling grammar, capitalization, and punctuation. Keep in mind that a discussion is essentially a written assignment, which means that spelling, grammar, and proper writing will be factored in to your score.

Assignments (25 points each): On five (5) occasions this semester you will complete assignments. These are detailed in the units/weekly folders. See the course calendar for specific due dates. Your work on these assignments will be evaluated based on your ability to incorporate the information you are learning in the course and demonstrate your understanding of the assigned topics. All assignments will be completed in Blackboard. Always double check to your submission after you're

done make sure your work is saved and submitted properly. Assignments will account for about 19% of your final grade.

Exams (100 points each): For each unit you will complete an exam. 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. Overall, exams will account for about 60% of your final grade.

- **Honorlock:** All exams will utilize Honorlock, SPC's proctoring service. While taking an exam, the browser extension will restrict your ability to copy/paste, limit browser activity (only specific URLs will be allowed), and disable printing abilities. This does **NOT** require the use of a webcam and will not record your activity, but will require use of a computer device, use of Google Chrome, and the Honorlock extension to be downloaded.
- **At the end of the course your lowest unit exam score will be dropped**

Course Calendar: PSYC 2301 Section 452 – Fall 2025

Weekly Coursework to be Completed	Deadline: Midnight (11:59 pm)
UNIT 0: Welcome to the Course	
Week 1: Begins Unit 0 - Welcome to the Course	
Syllabus Assignment	Friday Aug 29
Discussion: Introductions (post at least 1 Response & 2 Replies)	Friday Aug 29
UNIT 1: Introduction to Psychology	
Week 2: Begins Unit 1 – Introduction to Psychology	
Discussion: Modern Perspectives in Psychology – Response Post	Thursday, Sept 4
Week 3	
Discussion: Modern Perspectives in Psychology – Reply Posts (2)	Thursday, Sept 11
Assignment: Research in Psychology	Thursday, Sept 11
Week 4	
Unit 1 Exam	Thursday, Sept 18
UNIT 2: Biological Basis of Behavior and Thought	
Week 5: Begins Unit 2 –Biological Basis of Thought & Behavior	
Discussion: Biopsychology – Response Post	Thursday, Sept 25
Week 6	
Discussion: Biopsychology – Reply Posts (2)	Thursday, Oct 2
Assignment: Sleep	Thursday, Oct 2
Week 7	
Unit 2 Exam	Thursday, Oct 9
UNIT 3: Memory & Learning	
Week 8: Begins Unit 3 – Memory & Learning	
Discussion: Memory & Study Strategies – Response Post	Thursday, Oct 16
Week 9	
Discussion: Memory & Study Strategies – Reply Posts (2)	Thursday, Oct 23
Assignment: Conditioning	Thursday, Oct 23
Week 10	
Unit 3 Exam	Thursday, Oct 30
UNIT 4: The Person & The Situation	
Week 11: Begins Unit 4 – The Person & The Situation	
Discussion: Personality Assessment – Response Post	Thursday, Nov 6
Week 12	
Discussion: Personality Assessment – Reply Posts (2)	Thursday, Nov 13
Assignment: Prosocial Behavior	Thursday, Nov 13
Week 13	
Unit 4 Exam	Thursday, Nov 20
UNIT 5: Mental & Physical Health	
Week 14: Begins Unit 5 – Mental & Physical Health	
Discussion: Online Therapy – Response Post	Thursday, Nov 27
Week 15	
Discussion: Online Therapy – Reply Posts (2)	Thursday, Dec 4
Assignment: Stress Assessment & Coping	Thursday, Dec 4
Week 16	
Unit 5 Exam	Tuesday, Dec 9