

Common Course Syllabus Fall 2026

Department: Behavioral Sciences

Discipline: Psychology

Course Number: PSYC 2301

Course Title: General Psychology

Credit: 3 **Lecture:** 3 **Lab:** 0

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

Prerequisites: TSI compliance in Reading

Available Formats: Conventional, INET, ITV

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

Textbook: Open Stax Psychology Text or Noba Psychology

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

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

Course Purpose/Rationale/Goal: 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: See the instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in evaluating student performance.

Attendance Policy: Whenever absences become excessive and in the specific instructor's opinion, minimum course objectives cannot be met due to absences, the student may be withdrawn from the course. Each instructor will have additional information about attendance on his/her course information sheet.

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.

Here is the link to all syllabus statements:

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

AI (Artificial Intelligence) Use the SPC site to get guidelines at using AI.

(<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>) You can use AI but must use it appropriately and put terms into your own words to show that you understand the concepts

For information regarding official South Plains College statements about intellectual exchange, disabilities, nondiscrimination, Title V Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE Team, and Campus Concealed Carry, please visit

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

Instructor's Course Information: Dr. Skinner

Course Information: PSYC 2301 – Fall 2025
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Office Hours: AD 146, MTWTH 7:30 to 8:00 am; MTWTR 11:00-12:00 F 7:30 –9:00 Other times by appointment

Email Address: pskinner@southplainscollege.edu
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Phone Number: 806 716-2455

Course Websites: Blackboard (southplainscollege.blackboard.com)
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Classroom Policies:

- **Respect for Fellow Students:** All students will maintain respect for fellow classmates' personal beliefs, values, morals and life situations. Insensitivity concerning race, religion, sex/gender, sexual orientation, mental/physical disability, psychological disorders, age, or socio-economic status (family situation) will not be tolerated.
- **Electronic Devices:** The **use of cell phones** is not permitted in the classroom; they should be silenced and put away while in the classroom. Devices used for note-taking are permitted, but should be used responsibly and should not create distractions for you or others.
- **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. I will give a quiz at the beginning of class and you will miss it if you are late or absent. These cannot be made up.
- **Disruptive Behavior:** "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)

- **Use of AI –Artificial Intelligence**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) programs (such as ChatGPT) may be used in this class to generate ideas and brainstorm for assignments. For example, ChatGPT might be used to generate a thesis statement for an introductory paragraph while the individual independently writes the rest of paragraph. However, you should note that the material generated by AI programs may be incorrect, incomplete, or otherwise problematic. Overuse or incorrect use of AI programs may also decrease individuals' independent thinking, creativity, and learning.

You may not submit any work generated by AI programs as your own original work. Using AI to create an assignment or even the majority of an assignment is considered to be a form of plagiarism in this class. If you include material generated by an AI program, it should be cited in the same manner as any other outside materials/references. Here is a link with information on how to cite AI using APA Citation Style: <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>

Misuse of AI or any other violation of academic integrity will be dealt with according to the policies outlined in this syllabus.

- • **Attendance & Administrative Drop Policy:** Attendance will be taken during each class session. 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 complete two major grades **may** be dropped from the course with ‘X’.

Late Work and Missed Work: The work is due on the dates assigned and will have late penalties if that date is missed. You cannot wait till the end of the semester to do the work.

Text Book: You will use Open Stax [Psychology](https://openstaxcollege.org/textbooks/psychology). OpenStax (Rice University/Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation)
<https://openstaxcollege.org/textbooks/psychology> Follow the link above for the following options: FREE View the interactive book on-line. -\$4.99 Download the book in iBooks to your computer or phone, or tablet. -\$40 purchase a hard copy printed version of the book through the bookstore, Amazon or other sources

Grading Policy and Method of Evaluation: It is possible to earn up to 900 points in this course, as follows:

	Possible Points	Your Scores
10 Assignments @ 30 points	300	

1 paper/project	100	
4 Exams @ 100 points	400	

Final Grades will be determined by calculating the total amount of points earned by you this semester.

These points are percentages of the scores in the previous chart.

Exams (4 exams @ 100 points each or 400 points total): Throughout the semester 4 (four) exams will be given. Exams may contain multiple choice questions and an essay question. Exam 4 which is also the final exam, will not be cumulative. **See Class Schedule for Exam Dates.** 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, and purses. No hats or “headgear” of any kind will be worn, including headphones.

Psyc 2301 General Psychology Fall 2026 Course Calendar

Week	Start Date	<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Textbook Chapters</u>	<u>Assignments and D</u>
1	Aug 24	Assignment 1	Chapter 1	Due Sunday, August
2	Aug 31	Assignment 2	Chapter 1	Due Sunday, Sept 7
3	Sept 7	Assignment 3	Chapter 2	Due Sunday, Sept 1 Labor Day Septemb
4	Sept 14	Exam 1	Chapter 2	Exam 1 –in class
5	Sept 21	Assignment 4	Chapter 2	Due Sunday, Sept 2
6	Sept 28	Assignment 5	Chapter 3	Due Sunday, Oct 4
7	Oct 5	Assignment 6	Chapter 3	Due Sunday, Oct 11

8	Oct 12	Exam 2	Chap 2 and 3	Exam in class
9	Oct 19	No assignment this week, work on paper	Chapter 4	Due Sunday, Oct 25
10	Oct 26	Assignment 7	Chapter 5, 6	Due Sunday, Nov 1
11	Nov 2	Assignment 8	Chapter 6	Due Sunday, November 1
12	Nov 9	Paper Exam 3	Chap 4, 5, 6	Due Sunday, Nov 1 Exam 3 in class
13	Nov 16	Assignment 9	Chapter 7, 8	Due Sunday, Nov 2
14	Nov 23	Assignment 10	Chapter 9	Thanksgiving 25-27 Assignment due Su
15	Nov 30		Chapter 10	Sunday Dec 6 by m
16	Dec 7-10	Exam 4	Chapter 7-10	Follow exam sched