

**South Plains College
Common Course Syllabus: PSYC 2301, Section 007
FALL 2026**

Department: Behavioral Sciences

Discipline: Psychology

Course Number: PSYC 2301

Course Title: General Psychology

Available Formats: Conventional, Online

Campuses: Levelland, Lubbock Downtown 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 College, *Psychology*, 3e. OpenStax College. 8 December 2018.
(<http://cnx.org/content/col11629/latest/>)

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: 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 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.

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment: Dr. Whittie 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. Whittie is also the person responsible for the entry of the data into Weave 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. Students can find the Intellectual Exchange Statement, Disabilities Statement, Non-Discrimination Statement, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement, and CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation) Team Statement, and Campus Concealed Carry Statement on the following webpage: <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>

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: [Syllabus Statements](#).

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: General Psychology

Name: Mr. Kellen Winslow	Phone Number: 806-716-4732
Office: Levelland - Administration Room 144 Lubbock Downtown Campus - Room 2005	Email Address: kwinslow@southplainscollege.edu
Course Website: Blackboard (southplainscollege.blackboard.com)	Preferred Contact Information: Because I teach on both the Levelland and Lubbock campuses, email is typically the fastest way to contact me.
Final Exam Time: Students must take the final exam during Finals Week	
Office Hours: Mon: 8:30-9:30 a.m. and 2:15-3:45 p.m. (Lubbock Downtown Center) Tue: 3:45-4:15 p.m. (Levelland Campus) Wed: 8:30-9:30 a.m. and 2:15-3:45 p.m. (Lubbock Downtown Center) Th: 3:45-4:15 p.m. (Levelland Campus) Fri: 9:00-12:00 p.m. by Appointment (Lubbock Downtown Center or Levelland Campus)	

Textbook Information: All reading materials are posted on Blackboard. You will not need to purchase a textbook for this class.

Student Access to Office 365

Microsoft Office 365 is now available to all SPC students. Students will have access to email, file storage, and Microsoft Office applications including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Publisher, Outlook, Skype and OneDrive by logging into <https://office.com> or <http://portal.office.com/account/#installs> for more apps.

All new student correspondence will be sent to their new Microsoft Office 365 email account (student1234@southplainscollege.edu) and forwarded to their Gmail account that will remain active.

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.

Attendance & Administrative Drop Policy: Due to South Plains College attendance policies, any student who fails to attend/be active in Blackboard for three consecutive weeks during the semester or fails to attempt a minimum of two major grades may be dropped from the course with an 'X' or 'F.'

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)

Artificial Intelligence: There are now websites that will generate semi-unique material that somewhat resembles original material. Since technology is available to create this content, technology is also available to detect this content. Make no mistake, this is plagiarism. The instructor is not asking AI to write any written portion of this course’s requirements, but is asking you the student, to create this content.

If the student submits work obtained by using AI or is suspected of utilizing AI, it will be considered plagiarism and receive a grade of zero for the work. This course policy will be provided as feedback for said coursework, letting the student know that AI is suspected, or plagiarism has occurred. It is the student’s responsibility to follow up with the instructor within 7 days (one week) of the posted grade if work has been incorrectly flagged for AI use. The student can discuss the coursework in question with the instructor by virtual appointment in order to earn credit. In these cases, the student will need to verbally provide mastery of concepts related to the work in question. Any further attempts at using artificial intelligence as one’s own work will continue to earn zeroes for those attempts or may result in a course drop with an F by the instructor. The incidents may also be detailed to the Dean of Students for disciplinary actions.

Late work: 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. Assignments other than the Final Exam will not be accepted after the last official day of class.

It is the student’s responsibility to plan ahead to submit assignments on time. 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!

At times, extraordinary circumstances (death in the family, verified illness, etc.) 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. If you feel your circumstances warrant an extension, please email the instructor within one week of the original due date.

Methods for Assessing Expected Student Learning Outcomes: Quizzes, major assignments (2), midterm exam, final paper/presentation, and final exam.

Assignments will not be accepted after the last official day of regular classes. Regular class assignments will not be accepted during the week of Final Exams.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS/GRADING INFORMATION:**Attendance/Participation/Engagement in Class Activities (worth up to 100 points or 16.6% of the course grade):**

Participation includes being involved in class each week (attending class, being on time for class, participating in class activities, etc.). Part of this grade requires you to participate in discussion and activities.

In-Class Quizzes/Journals (worth up to 100 points of 16.6% of the course grade):

At the beginning of each class period there will be a group-review quiz. These are not formal quizzes; they are group discussion quizzes over the reading and material covered in class. The grade consists of being present for the quiz and providing content in the group discussion. For the last 10 minutes or so of class, each student will be asked to write in their journal. The group quizzes and journaling require your attendance; therefore, if you are not present that day you will not be awarded quiz/journal points.

Quantitative Assignment (worth up to 50 points or 8.3% of the overall course grade):

For this assignment, students will analyze a psychological study. This analysis involves being present in class for the review of the study as well as a Blackboard assignment related to the analysis. More details on this assignment will be provided in class.

Case Study Portfolio Assignment (worth up to 50 points or 8.3% of the overall course grade):

For this assignment, students will analyze a case from the instructor's clinical practice (details have been changed and identities have been de-identified for confidentiality). This analysis involves being present in class for the review of the case. Students will then use the information learned in this class to identify different psychological bases for the behavior in the case. More details on this assignment will be provided in class.

“Psychology Of” Paper and Accompanying Assignments (worth up to 100 points or 16.6% of the overall course grade):

This paper is a paper of your choosing. It is a paper exploring the psychology of the topic of your choosing. The final paper is worth 50 points. During the semester we will build up to the final paper. We will have a 10-point research question assignment, in which you will submit three possible research topics for your paper. We will have a 15-point Bibliography assignment, in which you will choose one of the questions to study and submit the sources you will use for your paper and provide a summary of your sources. We will have a 25-point Check-in assignment, in which you will submit your rough draft of the paper. After turning in the final draft, you will give a brief (5-10 minute) presentation in class about your topic. This presentation will take place during finals week. **YOU WILL NOT GET CREDIT FOR YOUR PAPER IF YOU DO NOT PRESENT.** More details on this paper and presentation will be provided in class. See the course schedule for the due date.

Midterm Exam (worth up to 100 points or 16.6% of the overall course grade) and Final Exam (worth up to 100 points or 16.6% of the overall course grade): You will have one Midterm Exam and one Final Exam in this course. These objective (true/false, matching, multiple choice, etc.) exams will assess your knowledge related to the significant concepts, theories, frameworks, and information from course readings, videos, and

discussions. There will also be short answer questions on each exam to assess personal internalization of the material as well. It is your responsibility to take these exams at the appropriate time and place.

Make-up exams: Students should make every possible effort to take each exam on the scheduled date and time. If necessary, students may only take one make-up exam during the entire semester. If you will be missing an exam, you must inform the instructor at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled exam time. If students fail to notify the instructor 24 hours prior to the exam, the make-up exam will automatically be scheduled during finals week. If you fail to attend your scheduled make-up, your grade for that exam will be a zero, no exceptions.

Grading Policy & Method of Evaluation:

Summary of Assignments

Assignment	Possible Points
Attendance/Participation/Engagement in Class	100
In-Class Quizzes/Journals	100
“Psychology Of” Research Question	10
“Psychology Of” Bibliography	15
“Psychology Of” Rough Draft	25
“Psychology Of” Final Paper/Presentation	50
Case Study Portfolio	50
Quantitative Assignment	50
Midterm Exam	100
Final Exam	100
Total Points Possible =	600

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 = 540-600 points

B = 480-539 points

C = 420-479 points

D = 360-419 points

F = 359 (or below) points

TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR/OUTLINE		
Calendar Week/Dates	Course Topics and Assigned Readings	Assignments <i>(due in Blackboard by 11:59 PM on Sundays unless otherwise noted)</i>
Week One Monday, Aug. 24—Sunday, Aug. 30	Introduction	
Week Two Monday, Aug. 31—Sunday, Sept. 6	History of Psychology Reading materials are posted in Blackboard	“Psychology Of” Question Submission
Week Three Monday, Sept. 7—Sunday, Sept. 13	Psychological Research Reading materials are posted in Blackboard	Quantitative Assignment
Week Four Monday, Sept. 14—Sunday, Sept. 20	Biopsychology and the Brain Reading materials are posted in Blackboard	
Week Five Monday, Sept. 21—Sunday, Sept. 27	Consciousness and Memory Reading materials are posted in Blackboard	“Psychology Of” Bibliography
Week Six Monday, Sept. 28—Sunday, Oct. 4	Midterm Review/Exam (Weeks 1-5) Due to a professional conference, I will be out of town this week. The Midterm will be taken via blackboard.	MIDTERM
Week Seven Monday, Oct. 5—Sunday, Oct. 11	Learning, Thinking, and Intelligence Reading materials are posted in Blackboard	
Week Eight Monday, Oct. 12—Sunday, Oct. 18	Lifespan Development Reading materials are posted in Blackboard	
Week Nine Monday, Oct. 19—Sunday, Oct. 25	Emotion and Motivation Reading materials are posted in Blackboard	“Psychology Of” Rough Draft
Week Ten Monday, Oct. 26—Sunday, Nov. 1	Personality and Social Psychology Reading materials are posted in Blackboard	

Week Eleven Monday, Nov. 2— Sunday, Nov. 8	Stress and Positive Psychology Reading materials are posted in Blackboard	
Week Twelve Monday, Nov. 9— Sunday, Nov. 15	Psychological Disorders, Therapy, and Treatment Reading materials are posted in Blackboard	“Psychology Of” Final Draft
Week Thirteen Monday, Nov. 16— Sunday, Nov. 22	Final Review/Exam (Comprehensive)	FINAL EXAM
Week Fourteen Monday, Nov. 23— Sunday, Nov. 29	Case Studies	
Week Fifteen Monday, Nov. 30— Sunday, Dec. 6	Case Studies	Case Study Portfolio
Final Exam Time Period Monday, Dec. 7—Thursday, Dec. 10	Presentations of Papers	

IMPORTANT DATES:

First day of class	August 24
Labor Day Holiday (all campuses are closed)	September 7
12th class day (non-attending students will be dropped)	September 9
Fall Break (all campuses are closed)	October 16
Thanksgiving Break (all campuses are closed)	November 25-27
Last day to drop/withdraw from a class	December 3
Final Exams Week	December 7-10

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.