

Common Course Syllabus
Spring 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and in the specific instructor's opinion, minimum course objectives cannot be met due to absences, the student may be withdrawn from the course.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.

Disability Accommodations: While it is the faculty's responsibility to ensure that the learning environment is accessible, students must request accommodations. Faculty must include the following statements on their syllabus, which directs students with disabilities to the Disability Services Office. SPC Standard 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. Processing time could take up to 30 days once paperwork has been submitted. 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 Office) 806-7162577, Reese Center (Building 8) & Lubbock Center 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

Non-Discrimination Statement South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, marital status, sexual orientation, military status, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. All SPC courses meet federal regulations under Title II of the ADA, Sections 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, South Plains College -1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336, 806716-2360.

Title IX Pregnancy 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.

Academic Integrity: You are expected to do your own work. You may not work with another person to complete your assignments, discussions, or when taking your exams. You may not copy another student's work and present it as your own. You may not allow another student to copy your work. Complete honesty is required of the student in the presentation of any and all phases of course work. If the instructor determines an assignment to be plagiarized, the result can range from a zero for that assignment to failure of the course. The result will be determined by the instructor. See SPC College Catalog for additional information.

Equal Opportunity: South Plains College strives to accommodate the individual needs of all students in order to enhance their opportunities for success in the context of a comprehensive community college setting. 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. In short, "Bigotry will not be tolerated." (Student Guide)

Instructor's Course Information: Coach Braziel

Course Information: PSYC 2301 – Spring-2026

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 2:16-3:06 Wednesday 2:30-3:13

Email Address: jbraziel@southplainscollege.edu

Course Websites: Blackboard (southplainscollege.blackboard.com)

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.
- **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. Disruptive behavior will be handled in compliance with the Levelland High School and LISD code of conduct. "Repeated violations of disrupting a class will result in the student being dropped from the course."
 - **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 (10 points per day) 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 960 points in this course, as follows:

Description	Possible Points
10 Assignments @ 40 points	400
12 Discussion/Responses @ 5 Points	60
1 paper/project @100 Points	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.

A=90% of 960 which is 864 to 960

B=80% of 960 which is 768 to 863

C=70% of 960 which is to 672 to 767

D=60% of 960 which is 576 to 671

F=less than 60% below 576

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

Discussion questions will be given weeks 2-15 for a total of 60 points

Week	Dates	Assignment/Exam	Points
1.	Jan 19	Mental Health	40
2.	Jan 26	Theories	40
3.	Feb 2	Research	40
4.	Feb 9	Exam	100
5.	Feb 16	Nervous System	40
6.	Feb 23	Neurotransmitters	40
7.	Mar 2	Brain and Sleep	40
8.	Mar 9	Exam	100
9.	Mar 23	Learning	40
10.	Mar 30	Intelligence and Memory	40
11.	Apr 6	Exam 3	100
12.	Apr 13	Paper Due	100
13.	Apr 20	Lifespan Development	40
14.	Apr 27	Stress and Defense	40
15.	May 4	Psychological Disorders	40
16.	May 11	Final Exams	100
		TOTAL	960 points

Discussion expectations:

You will be required to make an initial post of a minimum of 250-300 words, using a credible citation. (To be posted by Wednesday of each week.)

You will also be required to make a response to one of your peers post, furthering or creating conversation based on the substance of the post. This response post is a minimum of 150-200 words. (To be posted by Friday of each week.)