PSYC 2301 Sections 601, 602, 605, 651 Spring 2026

The first 2 pages cover the policies common to *all* sections of PSYC 2301, for *all* professors teaching the course. **Beginning on page 3, you will find information that is specific to Dr. Barr's PSYC 2301 class.**

Common Course Syllabus, Revised August 2023

Department: Behavioral Sciences
Discipline: Psychology
Course Number: PSYC 2301
Course Title: General Psychology
Available Formats: Conventional, INET, ITV
Campuses: Levelland, Lubbock Downtown, 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: TSI compliance in Reading
Credit: 3 **Lecture**: 3 **Lab**: 0
Textbook: Open Stax Psychology Text or Noba Project 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**- effective written, oral and/or visual communication.
- **Critical thinking skills**- creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, synthesis of information.
- **Empirical and Quantitative skills**- manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
- **Social Responsibility**- 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 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.

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment:
Dr. Diane Witte 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. Witte is also the person responsible to 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' attendance policies will be consistent with the *SPC General Catalog* "Class Attendance" policies; specific instructor attendance policies are found in the later part of the syllabus.

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.

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, or downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, or a mail order term paper mill;
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: A 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 disrespectful or threatening will not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

Other Important SPC Policies: Found here https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/:

- Intellectual Exchange Statement
- Disabilities Statement
- Non-Discrimination Statement
- Title IX Pregnancy and Parenting Accommodations Statement
- Care Team Contact (Campus Assessment, Response and Evaluation)
- Campus Concealed Carry Statement
- COVID-19
- Use of Artificial Intelligence

Welcome to General Psychology, PSYC 2301, with Dr. Barr!

Spring 2026: sec. 601 & 651 MW 9:30-10:45; 602 MW 11-12:15 pm; sec. 605, TTh 11-12:15 pm;

HOW DO I CONTACT DR. BARR FOR HELP?

Face-to-Face Office Hours

My face-to-face office hours are at the Downtown Lubbock Campus, in room 2011. If you are unable to meet during my regularly scheduled office hours, *we can also meet by appointment*. My regularly scheduled office hours are:

- Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:30-9:30 am and 2:15-2:45 pm
- Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:15-2:15 pm
- Fridays, 9-10 am

Email

The BEST way to contact me for help is email. Please send me an email at abarr@southplainscollege.edu. Please be aware that if you send me an email between Monday morning and noon on Friday, I will do my best to reply within 24 hours. However, if you send an email after noon on Friday or during the weekend, it may take a bit longer for me to reply.

Blackboard Messages

You may also send me a message or a request for help through Blackboard. Again, if you send me a message between Monday morning and noon on Friday, I will do my best to reply within 24 hours. However, if you send a message after noon on Friday or during the weekend, it may take a bit longer for me to reply.

Phone

You may reach me at (806)716-4641 during my normal office hours (see above). If you call and reach my voicemail, please leave a message including your full name, your phone number, and a brief reason for your call. I will return your call ASAP.

TIPS FOR USING SPC STUDENT EMAIL

Email (and Blackboard Message) Etiquette

For your success as a student, and as a professional, you need to learn email etiquette. All emails should include:

- A brief subject line that explains your reason for emailing (e.g., "Subject: Question about the syllabus"),
- Your full name, class and section (e.g., Alexis Rose, PSYC2301, sec. 151), and
- *The use of standard English skills* (e.g., correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar).

Here is a useful guide about emailing your professors: https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2015/04/16/advice-students-so-they-dont-sound-silly-emails-essay

YES! You have FREE access to SPC Email, MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint & One Drive!

South Plains College provides students with free access to an SPC Google email account, Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and One Drive. You can access your SPC email and these Microsoft apps by going to https://office.com and using the username and password provided in your SPC acceptance letter to sign in. You can also access SPC/Outlook email through MySPC. If needed, contact the **help desk** at helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu or (806)716-2600.

Because email is one of the main forms of communication in college, you should check your SPC email at least twice a week. Please use your official SPC Student email account (NOT your personal email account, e.g., yahoo) if you are contacting me about confidential matters (e.g., grades, registration in the course, etc.).

WHAT TECHNOLOGY & MATERIALS ARE REQUIRED FOR THIS COURSE?

Blackboard

Your reading assignments, quizzes and other course resources are located on Blackboard. You can access Blackboard at https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com, and log in with your SPC username and password. Once logged in, you will see a list of classes in which you are enrolled (including PSYC2301). Click on the class whose Blackboard page you want to enter.

Noba Project Textbook *and* Perusall Reading App

The FREE textbook we will use is *Noba Textbook Series: Psychology*, R. Biswas-Diener & E. Diener (Eds), Champaign, IL: DEF Publishers. DOI: nobaproject.com. I have copied each assigned chapter into an app that you will use to complete the assignments. *To access the assigned and graded readings in the app*, *you must* **1)** log onto Blackboard and click on PSYC2301 in your "Courses" list, then **2)** click on the "Perusall" link that opens the reading app called Perusall (found in each Unit folder under the "Content" tab). Note: Perusall links are symbolized with a rocket ship icon: 🚀.

Perusall is a free app that automatically records and grades your work on reading + discussion assignments. Again, you will access the Perusall app by *first* logging onto Blackboard, and *second* clicking on Perusall links found in our course. *Do NOT log into Perusall from their homepage—if you do, your work will not sync into the Blackboard gradebook*. You can find detailed information about "How Perusall Works" in the "Start Here" module on Blackboard.

Access to a working computer with internet connection

Because your graded reading assignments and quizzes are found on Blackboard and completed online, you must have regular access to a computer with the following characteristics:

- A modern operating system; class content is compatible with Mac OS and Windows 8 or later
- A modern web browser. It is recommended that students use Google Chrome to access Blackboard. Students have reported more problems using Internet Explorer, thus it is *not* recommended.
    - Link: download Google Chrome.
- A reliable internet connection. High-speed internet (e.g., Cable, DSL, fiber) is the most reliable.
- In addition, the **Blackboard app for smartphones** can be used to access announcements, readings, videos, podcasts, quizzes, and grades on Blackboard.

HOW THIS COURSE IS STRUCTURED

This is a 16-week course, divided into 4 Units or sections of material. For 3-4 weeks our class meetings focus on discussing the material in each unit. In Blackboard, you will find Unit folders that contain links to the assigned readings/discussions (these are required and graded), and the comprehension quiz for each unit. At the end of each unit, you will take an in-class exam over the material.

REQUIRED COURSEWORK AND GRADES

Perusall Interactive Reading + Discussion Assignments

PURPOSE: Reading and discussing each chapter will introduce you to foundational topics in psychology. By actively discussing chapter topics with classmates, you will understand reading material better and be able to apply these topics to your life. Additionally, by completing these assignments, you will:

- acquire knowledge and improve recall of material that is key to successfully completing quizzes and exams,
- benefit from social interaction and connections with classmates,
- improve your reading, writing and discussion skills, helping you meet SPC's communication skills objective

TASK: Log in to Blackboard and use the Perusall App to read and discuss assigned chapters with classmates. To do this:

- click on a Perusall link in Blackboard, which "launches" you into the Perusall app and into a specific chapter

- as you read, highlight SMALL sections of the text (not entire sentences or paragraphs). This will open a text box where you type comments or questions about the reading for your classmates to read and reply to
- as you read, reply to and/or upvote (e.g., "like") the comments and questions posted by your classmates

GRADING CRITERIA:

- Each Perusall assignment is worth 5 points.
- Your Persuall points (or your Perusall grades) are based on:
    - the quality of comments and questions you post (see handout re: high-quality Perusall comments),
    - the quantity (#) of your posts—aim to post 4-5 *high quality* comments/questions, but no more than 7-8,
    - how much you reply to &/or upvote your classmates' posts,
    - how much classmates reply to &/or upvote your posts,
    - active time spent on the assignment, and
    - reading and posting comments throughout the *entire* chapter
- There are 13 Perusall assignments this semester
- Your 2 lowest Perusall assignment grades will be dropped
- The highest possible point total on your top 11 Perusall assignments X 5 points = 55 points (10% of your final grade)

Four Comprehension Quizzes (completed on Blackboard)

PURPOSE: These quizzes will help you test your memory for and understanding of the material in each unit. In addition, the quizzes will enhance your test-taking abilities. Finally, and most importantly, *the quizzes will prepare you for the exams which cover the same material and include similar questions*.

TASK: When we finish (or almost finish) discussing the material in a unit, go to Blackboard and take the quiz by the due date.

- For each quiz, you have three attempts; your highest quiz attempt will count toward your grade.
- I advise you to **take all three attempts**, because the 20 questions on the quiz are *randomly drawn* from a set of 35-45 questions, so the questions for your first attempt will *not* be identical to the questions on your second or third attempt. Thus, the more attempts you complete, the more questions you are exposed to, and you have a better idea of what the exam questions will cover.
- While you are taking your quiz, you are free to use your notes
- Review the correct and incorrect answers from your last quiz attempt(s) before taking your next quiz attempts
- Before the exam, **review all** your quiz attempts to see the correct answers and ensure you understand the material.

GRADING CRITERIA:

- There are 4 comprehension quizzes, each quiz contains 20 multiple choice questions and is worth 20 points.
- You get *three attempts* on each quiz, and your highest attempt counts as your grade for the quiz.
- The highest possible point total on your 4 quizzes X 20 points = 80 points (or 15% of your final grade).

Four Exams (completed in class)

PURPOSE: Each exam is a *summary* of your understanding and memory for the material covered in each unit.

TASK: Take the in-class exam on the scheduled exam day.

- You get **one attempt** on exams, so make sure you are prepared by reviewing your quiz attempts, the readings and your notes.
- During the exam, you are allowed to use a 4X6 notecard as a "support sheet".

GRADING CRITERIA:

- Each exam contains 35-45 multiple choice questions and is graded on a 100-point scale.
- There are 4 exams, each worth 100 points, for a total of 400 points, or 75% of your final grade.

Late Work or Missing Work

Because I drop everyone's two lowest Perusall assignment grades, *Perusall assignments cannot be made up if missed*, regardless of the reason for missing the assignment. I drop the two lowest grades in case a student is too sick to complete an assignment or has an emergency that requires their time and attention

Please remember, the purpose of quizzes is to help you prepare for exams. Thus, quizzes will be open and available on Blackboard *at least 48 hours prior to exams*. Pay attention to due dates and intentionally work quizzes into your schedule.

The only accepted excuse for missing a quiz or an exam is illness or personal/family emergency. A make-up for a missed quiz or exam will be granted *if* a student provides official documentation (e.g., doctor's note or similar). Make-ups must be completed within one week of the original due date, or one week of a student's return to class (if ill or hospitalized).

NOTE: The only computer issue that warrants a make-up is if the entire class is unable to access Blackboard at the time a Perusall assignment or quiz is due. If this occurs, I will extend the due date for the entire class. Because other computer issues are not an excepted reason for a make-up, you should carefully read about how to prevent and deal with technology problems in the sections below.

FINAL GRADE CALCULATION

Graded Coursework	**Total possible points**
Top 11 Perusall Assignments, 5 pts each	**55 points**
4 Comprehension Quizzes, 20 points each	**80 points**
4 Exams, 100 pts each	**400 points**
	Total possible points in class = 535

Grading Scale for Final Course Grade:

- 90% or more of total possible points (463+ points) = A
- 80% or more of total possible points (412-462 points) = B
- 70% or more of total possible points (360-411 points) = C
- 60% or more of total possible points (309-359 points) = D
- 59% or less of total possible points (308 or fewer points) = F

OTHER IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION:

Attendance, Drops, and Withdraws:

You have registered for a face-to-face class which means that the vast majority of course material will be presented in the classroom. Thus, I expect students to attend regularly, and I will take roll each day. To minimize distractions and maximize learning, I require student to silence their phones and store them out of sight in a bag, purse or backpack (*not* in your lap, chair or on desk). I also ask everyone to please arrive on time and take care of personal needs (e.g., visit the restroom, get a drink, make a call or text, etc.) either before or after class.

I have the right to drop a student for non-attendance, incomplete work, and/or disruptive behavior; however, I let students chart their own destiny. Approach your courses with honesty, responsibility and maturity, and recognize if you cannot put appropriate effort or time into passing a course, or if your grade is beyond repair. In these cases, it is up to you to withdraw.

If you are struggling, please reach out to discuss your grade average. Based on our conversation, you can decide whether to remain enrolled or withdraw from the course. I cannot assume that a student's missing work or lack of attendance is a request to be dropped. If you choose to withdraw from the course, you may do so by completing the "Student Drop Form" found at this link: https://www.southplainscollege.edu/admission-aid/apply/schedulechanges.php .

Perusall and Classroom Expectations:

While differing opinions are welcome in Perusall and classroom discussions, I expect respectful communication among students and with me. Disagreement is acceptable as long as discussions focus on understanding and being curious about other's viewpoints, rather than convincing the other person that you are right. Furthermore, do your best to ground discussions in the *science of psychology, or science in general*, rather than personal opinions, because science provides the most accurate and unbiased understanding of human behavior and thought.

TECHNOLOGY PROBLEMS AND HOW TO GET HELP:

Keep in mind that if a computer issue affects only you and not the entire class, it will not qualify for an extension on quizzes, exams or Perusall assignments. To avoid unnecessary stress, you can plan for potential problems. By reviewing the solutions below, you will be less stressed and more prepared if/when an issue arises!

Technology Contingency (Backup) Plans

Problem(s)	**Solution**
"Argh! My internet is down!" "OMG! My computer is not working!" "Ugh! I'm out of town, and I don't have a computer [or access to the internet]."	- Free WiFi is available at many local businesses (Starbucks, McDonald's, Chick-fil-A, United Supermarkets) and in the buildings and parking lots of many schools, including SPC campuses. - Create a list of friends, family, classmates, or neighbors who may allow you to borrow their computer, WiFi, or printer if needed. - If you're an SPC student within driving distance, computer labs with computers, printers, and internet access are available at every campus: • SPC Downtown Campus: 1625 13th, Lubbock, First Floor • SPC Levelland Campus: Technology Building • SPC Lubbock Center: Room 109 and Room 138 • SPC Plainview Center: 1920 W. 24th St., Plainview, Texas - Public libraries in your area typically have computers available for public use. - If your computer breaks down, contact a local repair service (e.g., Best Buy, Office Depot) or consider buying an inexpensive computer from sites like Newegg, Amazon Marketplace, or eBay. For financial assistance in Levelland/Lubbock, check [West Texas financial assistance](insert link). You can also meet with SPC Health and Wellness staff for support (call 806-716-2529 for an appointment). - While traveling, check if your hotel has a computer lab for guests or if your host has a computer with internet access. If not, aim to complete your work before you leave.

Technical Support

For Blackboard issues, contact the SPC Tech Support staff at 806-716-2180, Mon-Fri, 8 am – 4 pm; or email blackboard@southplainscollege.edu or go to https://help.blackboard.com or call Blackboard Support at (800)424-9299.

For Perusall issues, follow this link to find answers to frequently asked questions: https://support.perusall.com/hc/en-us/categories/360002173133-Students, or contact Perusall Support at: https://support.perusall.com/hc/en-us/requests/new

For SPC email or other technology issues, contact the SPC help desk at helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu or (806)716-2600.

COURSE CALENDAR PSYC 2301, Face-to-face, Spring 2026

Face-To-Face Schedule	In- Class Discussions	DUE DATES for Perusall Assignments, Quizzes (on Blackboard), and Exams (in class);
First Class Day	Syllabus and Introductions	
UNIT 1:	History of Psychology Psychological Perspectives Research Designs Healthy Life	**Perusall #1**: History of Psychology *and* Psychological Perspectives due by 11:59 pm on Sunday 1/18 **Perusall #2**: Research Designs due by 11:59 pm on Sunday 1/25 **Perusall #3**: The Healthy Life due by 11:59 pm on Sunday 2/1 **Quiz #1** *opens* on Blackboard Mon. 2/2; *closes* Sun 2/8 at midnight. **Exam #1** in class on Thursday 2/5 for sec. 605 **Exam #1** in class on Monday 2/9 for sec. 601, 651 & 602
UNIT 2:	The Brain and Nervous System States of Consciousness Conditioning and Learning Memory (Encoding, Storage, Retrieval)	**Perusall #4**: The Brain & Nervous System due by 11:59 pm on Sun 2/15 **Perusall #5**: Consciousness due by 11:59 pm on Sun 2/15 **Perusall #6**: Conditioning & Learning due by 11:59 pm on Sun 2/22 **Perusall #7**: Memory due by 11:59 pm on Sunday 3/1 **Quiz #2** *opens* on Blackboard Thurs. 3/5; *closes* Wed. 3/11 at midnight. **Exam #2** in class on Wednesday 3/11 for sec. 601, 651 & 602 **Exam #2** in class on Thursday 3/12 for sec. 605
UNIT 3:	Personality Traits Persuasion Conformity and Obedience Prejudice, Stereotyping and Discrimination	**Perusall #8**: Personality Traits due by 11:59 pm on Sun 3/22 **Perusall #9**: Persuasion due by 11:59 pm Sun 3/29 **Perusall #10**: Conformity & Obedience by Sun 4/5 **Perusall #11**: Prejudice, Stereotyping and Discrimination due by 11:59 pm on Sunday 4/5 **Quiz #3** *opens* on Blackboard Thur. 4/9; *closes* Wed. 4/15 at midnight. **Exam #3** in class on Wednesday 4/15 for sec. 601, 651 & 602 **Exam #3** in class on Thursday 4/16 for sec. 605
UNIT 4:	Introduction to Disorders and Therapy; and Mood Disorders Anxiety Disorders	**Perusall #12**: Mood Disorders due by 11:59 pm on Sunday 4/19 **Perusall #13**: Anxiety Disorders due by 11:59 pm on Sunday 4/26 **Quiz #4** *opens* on Blackboard Wed. 4/29; *closes* Tues. 5/5 at midnight. **Final Exam for *sec. 602* is Monday May 4th at 10:15 am** **Final Exam for *sec. 605* is Tuesday May 5th at 10:15 am** **Final Exam for *sec. 601 & 651* is Wed. May 6th at 8 am**