

**South Plains College**  
**Common Course Syllabus: PSYC 2301**  
Revised 01/2025

**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:** At instructor's discretion you will use **one** of the following open source textbooks:

OpenStax College, *Psychology*, 3e. OpenStax College. 8 December 2018.

(<http://cnx.org/content/col11629/latest/>) OR

R. Biswas-Diener & E. Diener (Eds), *Noba Textbook Series: Psychology*. Champaign, IL: DEF Publishers. DOI: nobaproject.com (specific URL provided by your instructor)

**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 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/>

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.

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### **Instructor's Course Information**

**Instructor:** Dr. Serena Mangano

**Course Information:** PSYC 2301-153, PSYC 2301-454, Spring 2026

**Modality:** Online

**Office Hours (In Person and Online – Link on Blackboard):**

- Monday: 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
- Wednesday: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
- Friday: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
- By appointment

**Office Location:** Lubbock Downtown Center, Room 2004

**Email Address:** [smanzano@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:smanzano@southplainscollege.edu)

**Phone:** (806)716-4668

**Course Websites:** Blackboard (<https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com/>)

**Textbook:** Psychology 2e, Open Stax, available for free on Blackboard

**Grading Policy and Method of Evaluation:** It is possible to earn up to 500 points in this course, as follows:

	Points	%
Syllabus and Blackboard Contract	2.5	0.50%
Introductions on Blackboard	2.5	0.50%
Weekly Assignments	225	45.00%
Exams	225	45.00%
Movie Critique	45	9.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

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 500, meaning you earn between 450 and 500 points  
 B = 80% of 500, meaning you earn between 400 and 449 points  
 C = 70% of 500, meaning you earn between 350 and 399 points  
 D = 60% of 500, meaning you earn between 300 and 349 points  
 F = less than 60% of 500, meaning you earn between 0 and 299 points

**Syllabus and Blackboard Contract:** This low-stake assignment is meant to encourage your knowledge of the syllabus and of Blackboard. See Class Schedule on Blackboard for due dates.

**Introductions on Blackboard:** Yes, you read it correctly! In this assignment, each student will introduce themselves to the class and me. See Class Schedule on Blackboard for due dates.

**Weekly Assignments:** They are worth 225 points. There will be one weekly collaborative activity in which you and your classmates will work together, offering comments, asking for clarifications, and adding your personal contribution. For these activities you will use Perusall, linked on Blackboard. Weekly assignments are available for seven days until their due date. Once the due date has passed, weekly assignments are no longer visible. See Class Schedule on Blackboard for due dates.

**Exams:** They are worth 225 points. Throughout the semester you will take five non-cumulative exams in class. Exams may contain multiple choice, true/false questions, and short answers, and will be largely based on material covered in class and in the chapters. Exams will become available 48 hours before they are due, and allow 1 attempt. Once you access the exam, you will have up to 60 minutes to take it. See Class Schedule on Blackboard for exam due dates and contents.

**Movie Critique:** This is worth 45 points. You will watch one of the movies suggested, and discuss it collaboratively with your classmates in the light of what you have learned in the course. The links to the movies are provided on Blackboard, and you will use Perusall to write your critique. See the Class schedule on Blackboard for due dates. Late work is not accepted.

**Academic Integrity:** As stated in your college catalog, "Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgement, is plagiarism..." Students found guilty of plagiarism could fail or receive a zero on the work in question for the first offense and could be dropped from the course should a second offense occur. Cutting and pasting information directly from websites without citing your source also constitutes plagiarism. **I will check your assignments for plagiarism if I suspect it has occurred.** If I determine that you are cheating on any phase of your course work, I will take action that could include giving you a "zero" on the course work or even possible dismissal from the course. Check out the following resources for more information on plagiarism and how to avoid it: <http://www3.southplainscollege.edu/plagiarism/> or <http://ltl.its.psu.edu/plagiarism/tutorial>.

**Artificial Intelligence (AI) Resources:** There are now websites that 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. I am not asking AI to write assignments, *I am asking you, the student, to write your comments and reflect on what you are learning.* Personally, I could not care less about what AI writes. I am interested in what YOU, the student, have to say 😊 Having said this, if you submit work that I suspect it is not your own, original material, I will assign a grade of zero and will request a meeting with you. That zero can be replaced with a higher grade if you prove to me that said work was your own. Otherwise, the zero will stay, and the incident will be detailed to the Dean of Students for disciplinary actions.

**Late Work and Missed Work:** The work is due on the dates assigned and late submissions will not be accepted unless you have valid and verifiable documentation presented within 5 working days from the date. Documentation provided later will not be accepted. It is your responsibility to inform me of emergencies and provide me with the necessary documentation.

Please remember that in college you cannot wait until the end of the semester to do the work.

For the **Schedule**, please see Blackboard (<https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com/>).

**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](#).**

#### **CLASSROOM POLICIES:**

**Respect for Your Professor and Your Classmates:** All students will maintain and expect respect for professor's and fellow classmates' personal beliefs, values, morals and life situations. Insensitivity concerning race, language/accent, religion, gender, sexual orientation, mental/physical disability, psychological disorders, age, or socio-economic status (family situation), etc. will not be tolerated and will have consequences on the student's academic standing.

**Proper Manners:** Please be mindful of the required netiquette to interact online and in person with your classmates and with me. When you email me, you will use proper salutation (Dr. Mangano, not Miss, Mrs., Serena, or anything that is unprofessional), greetings, and the necessary formal register that is appropriate for communications with your professors. If you fail to do that, I will ask you to properly reword your emails before I answer you. This is college, and it is important that you learn to be professional in all your interactions. Inappropriate and rude behavior will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and will have serious consequences on your grades.

When you email me, please include your full name and the course you are taking, so that I can more readily understand your situation. Please only use your SPC email address for institutional communications.

I will email you back as soon as possible, but please allow 24 hours for my response. If you email me during the weekend, I will reply by the next working day.

**Grading Timeframe:** I will grade your assignments as promptly as I can, but please allow up to two (2) weeks after the due date to see your points updated in the Blackboard gradebook.

**General 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).

#### **DISCLAIMER:**

##### **Sensitive Nature of Humanities and Behavioral Science Courses**

Given the dynamics of individual, relational, familial, societal, and cultural development and issues, behavioral studies courses address many sensitive issues; this course is no exception. Lifespan and relational issues occur in the context of sexual, racial/ethnic, political, religious/spiritual, economic/social class, and disability/challenge concerns. The discussion of such issues will increase the student's knowledge of developmental conditions in the modern world, but the information can be emotionally charged. It is also likely that the student will be exposed to diverse viewpoints; some viewpoints might differ from the student's personal views. If a student chooses to remain in class, then they will be expected to respect the diverse viewpoints represented in course material, as well as the viewpoints of their classmates. If the student is easily offended by discussion of such issues, then should consider whether to remain enrolled in the course.

##### **Disclosure of Personal Information**

This course addresses topics that are personal in nature. Students are encouraged to participate in class discussion/presentations but are not required to share personal information with classmates. It is recommended that students use discretion in self-disclosure with classmates and the instructor. While it is expected that fellow classmates will be respectful and not disclose information that is shared in class, the instructor cannot guarantee confidentiality of information. Thus, students are responsible for the information that they share and should not share information they do not want others to know.