

South Plains College
Common Course Syllabus: PSYC 2301, Sections 002 & 003
Revised 08/2023
Spring 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 Psychology Text or Noba 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-** 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. Diane Wittie 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. Wittie 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 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.

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: <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.

Instructor's Course Information: PSYC 2301.002 &003 – Spring 2026

PSYC 2301, General Psychology: Survey of the essential subject areas, major theories and approaches to the scientific study of behavior and mental processes.

Instructor: M. Miller, MA, Associate Professor of Psychology

Instructor Office: SS117, Student Services Building, Levelland Campus, 806-716-2967

I am available by phone or walk-in during the office hours listed below. I can be available for virtual meetings via Collaborate upon request during the following times as well.

Monday through Thursday: 9:30 am – 10:45 am

Tuesday and Thursday: 1:30 – 2:00 pm

Friday: 9 am – 11 am

Email Address: mamiller@southplainscollege.edu

Blackboard: You may contact me using Messages in Blackboard.

Textbook: OpenStax College, *Psychology 2e*. OpenStax College. 2018.

- It is recommended that you read from the FREE online version or download a PDF version, also for free, at <https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology-2e>
- You may download the book on AppleBooks for \$5.99 - \$6.99
<https://books.apple.com/us/book/psychology/id1342320430>
- You may purchase a hard copy at the SPC bookstore or online (purchase is not required)

Instructor's Classroom Policies:

- **Respect for Fellow Students:** In this course, it is important to understand and respect that we may all have different perspectives and experiences. All students will maintain respect for fellow classmates regarding both our similarities and our differences. Be respectful and treat others with civility.
- **Disruptive Behavior:** Do your best to be respectful of others and their right to learn in a peaceful environment. "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)
 - **Be a Polite Classmate:** Avoid 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, such as phones. These behaviors are disruptive to your fellow classmates and are therefore subject to the same consequences listed in the Disruptive Behavior policy above.
 - **Be Responsible with Electronics:** Phones must be silenced and ideally put away during lecture. Devices used for note-taking are permitted, but should be used responsibly and must not create distractions for you or others.
 - **Be on Time:** Do your best to manage your time well and be on time to class. If you are tardy, please enter as quietly as possible and take a seat as close to the door as you can get. Being late

to class is disruptive to your fellow classmates and your instructor, and is therefore subject to the same consequences listed in the Disruptive Behavior policy above.

- **Attendance & Withdrawal Policy:** It is in the student's best interest to attend all class lectures when possible and to submit all coursework to the best of their ability. The last day to withdraw/drop with a grade of "W" is **April 30**. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from this course if they wish. Otherwise, students will earn a letter grade at the end of the course based on their performance. For more information regarding drops/withdrawals, please visit <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/admission-aid/apply/schedulechanges.php>.
- **Academic Integrity:** The expectation in this course is that students generate their own written ideas and work. It should be understood that students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism of any kind will earn a zero on the work in question for the first offense and will be dropped from the course with an 'F' should a second offense occur. **Any amount of dishonesty is subject to these consequences**, whether a lot or a little.

Violations of Academic Integrity can include but are not limited to one copied sentence in an essay, a missing or incorrect citation, an entire paper copied from someone/somewhere else (including AI generated content), one plagiarized idea or post on a discussion board, a copied exam or exam item, other coursework completed by someone other than yourself, or unethically using Internet searches or AI generated content to complete your work.

You have also committed academic dishonesty when *sharing* course content, assignments, items, or answers. This includes sharing course content with other students, sharing or posting course content on websites such as Quizlet, Course Hero, or similar "study applications," **and feeding course content into AI generators**. The information and assignments in this course are proprietary and are **not yours to share**. For further information and examples please see the Catalog, Student Guide, or refer to www.plagiarism.org.

- **Late work: Late work is not accepted for full credit in this course.**
 - On a case-by-case basis, *quizzes* and *assignments* may be submitted late for a maximum half credit. You will need approval from your instructor and may need to provide documentation.

Grading Policy and Method of Evaluation:

It is possible to earn up to 600 points in this course. At the end of the semester, all points earned by you this semester will be added up for a grand point total. Your Point Total will determine your final letter grade by using the following scale/point ranges:

A: 537-600 points
B: 477-536 points
C: 417-476 points
D: 357-416 points
F: 356 (or below) points

Blackboard Gradebook: All grades and feedback will be posted in the Blackboard Gradebook. Grades and feedback are available for each item of coursework. Students are responsible for staying informed about their grading progress throughout the term.

- **Overall Grade** provides an indication of how many points a student has earned out of how many they have attempted. For example, if a student's Overall Grade shows "312/400" this means that the student has attempted 400 points in the course and has earned 312 of those points, or about 78% of the attempted points. As the student completes more work, both numbers should increase accordingly (more attempted, more earned). If the same student later completed an exam, which is worth 100 points, and earns a 72 on that exam, their new Overall Grade will be "384/500."
- **Grading Color Scheme (Blackboard):** You will notice that each graded item presents in a color pill. The percentages represented by the color scheme are as follows: > 90% = green, 89–80% = yellow/green, 79–70% = yellow, 69–60% = orange, 59–50% = red (as shown below).



Coursework Items: All coursework will be submitted through Blackboard. Below is a brief description of all coursework that will be submitted for credit in this course:

- **Reading Quizzes (8 quiz grades; 10 points each):** A reading quiz will be assigned for each chapter covered this semester. Quizzes are designed to assess your understanding of the assigned reading. You will have the opportunity to take each quiz twice and keep your highest score. All quizzes are taken in Blackboard and are timed. See Course Calendar for all specific deadlines.
- **Assignments (4 assignments; 30 points each):** On 4 different occasions throughout the semester you will be required to complete an assignment on a specific topic pertaining to course content. Assignment guidelines will be provided in Blackboard. All assignments must be typed and correctly submitted through Blackboard. Your writing should follow the guidelines of standard written English. See Course Calendar for all specific deadlines.
- **Exams (4 exams; 100 points each):** Throughout the semester 4 exams will be administered. Exams will consist of multiple-choice items. All exams will take place in the classroom during scheduled class days. See Course Calendar for all exam dates. If a student misses a scheduled exam, they may be allowed one makeup exam. All makeup exams will take place during final exam week.