

**South Plains College**  
**Common Course Syllabus: PSYC 2301**  
**Spring 2026**

**Department:** Behavioral Sciences

**Discipline:** Psychology

**Course Number:** PSYC 2301

**Course Title:** **General Psychology**

**Available Formats:** Conventional (Fully Face-to-Face), Fully Online

**Campuses:** Levelland, Reese, Lubbock Center, Plainview, and Dual Credit Campuses

**Course Description:** General Psychology is a survey of the major psychological topics, 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 manipulate and analyze 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 be able to:

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.
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 to entry of the data into Task Stream 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/Engagement Policy:**

*Students are expected to engage in class each week in order to be successful in a course. "Engagement" includes learning activities such as attending class, submitting weekly assignments, completing make-up work, etc. Due to South Plains College attendance policies, any student who fails to engage in three consecutive weeks during the semester or fails to attempt a minimum of two major grades may be asked to withdraw or "drop" from the course.*

*Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, may also be asked to drop the course. 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. See instructor's Course Information Sheet for additions to the attendance policy.*

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, or downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, or 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: [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: Diane Wittie, M.Ed., Ph.D.

### Course Information: PSYC 2301, Sections 004 and 008 (F2F)

#### General Psychology – Spring 2026

**Course Website:** Blackboard ([southplainscollege.blackboard.com](https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com))

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

**Blackboard:** This course is 100% conventional (face-to-face), although Blackboard may be utilized for some material and assignment submissions.

**Instructor Office:** Administration Building, #119

#### Office Hours:

**Tue. 10 AM – Noon and 1 - PM**

**Thurs. 10 AM – Noon and 1 - PM**

**Fri. 10 AM – 11 AM**

Alternatively, students can email the instructor to schedule a meeting through Blackboard Collaborate.

**Instructor Office Phone:** 806-716-2468 (This number calls directly to my office however it is better to contact me by email. If you do leave a voice message, make sure to state your FULL name and the name of the **course/section** you are in.)

**Course Structure:** This course is delivered as a conventional face-to-face (F2F) modality. Students are expected to attend each class session. All deadlines are listed on the Course Schedule below, as well as in Blackboard. For easy reference, consider printing the Course Schedule and keeping it in a convenient spot—like your planner, on your fridge, or at your workspace.

### Instructor's Course Policies:

**General Expectations/Policies for Students:** *I would like to welcome each of you to an environment of community, pride, courtesy, and utmost respect; we are all here to work cooperatively and to learn together. I am honored to have you in my class this semester and want to thank you in advance for the time and hard work that you will put into this learning experience.*

*One of the keys to being successful in college is to **communicate with your instructor**. Feel free to email me if I can help you be successful in this course. I wish you the very best this semester and hope that the grade you achieve will reflect the effort you put into it. Please make every attempt to keep up with all assignments. This includes keeping up with the fast pace of this course by completing all assignments, exams and papers/projects on time.*

**Attendance & Administrative Drop Policy:** Students are expected to attend all classes to be successful in a course and attendance will be recorded for this course. 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 (14 days).

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.

It is the student's responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences. 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.

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" as determined by the instructor.

**Class Withdrawal:** It is the full responsibility of the **student** to personally withdraw from the course if needed. A student who has already missed or has had difficulty completing modules, assignments, papers/projects, exams, and/or anticipates difficulty in completing the course to his/her satisfaction is encouraged to give withdrawal all the consideration it is due. Students should discuss progress and grades with the instructor prior to making a withdrawal decision.

**Technology Policy:** Blackboard (<http://southplainscollege.blackboard.com>) is the learning management system used to take exams and submit assignments.

It is essential that you have reliable access to the Internet, appropriate devices/software, and a working knowledge of Blackboard. You should always have a backup plan in place should you encounter computer or internet problems. There are open computer labs available to all enrolled SPC students on all campuses. It is also the student's responsibility to have the required computer skills to complete this course. Should you encounter technical difficulties contact your instructor immediately as well as **SPC technical support at [blackboard@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:blackboard@southplainscollege.edu)** or call (806) 894-9611, ext. 2180. Be sure to include your full name, course number, section number and a number where you can be reached when contacting technical support. Not knowing how something works or having personal computer or Internet difficulties will not suffice as an excuse for missed deadlines and will not constitute extensions or do-overs.

**Communication:** You are expected to frequently (daily) check your SPC email and any announcements made in Blackboard Announcements. Your instructor will check SPC email each business day and will respond to communication within 1 business day.

**Student Conduct:** In conjunction with the policy stated in the Common Course Syllabus, one must uphold proper and respectful communication with the instructor and fellow classmates at all times. All interactions will remain civil. Repeated violations of this policy may result in the student being dropped from the course.

**Written Work:** All written work should be presented using the conventions of Standard Written English. South Plains College requires all students to become proficient in "academic English," a form of English that is typically used in academic, professional, and business contexts. While slang, regional idioms, and informal kinds of self-expression are appropriate in some contexts, they are out of place in academic writing. This will relate to all written work done in the course including discussions and assignments.

**Acceptable and Supported File Types in Blackboard:** Blackboard does not support or accept documents with .pages extensions. This applies to Mac users specifically. You will need to “convert”, “export” or “save as” your document in either a doc., docx., or PDF. format before submitting to Blackboard. For more information regarding supported file types, click here: [Supported File Types](#).

**Learning Module Availability:** Learning Modules will open weekly in Blackboard. Within these Learning Modules, you will find Reading Quizzes as well as other information provided by your instructor.

**Due Dates:** See the Course Calendar (on the last page of this syllabus) for all due dates. Reading quizzes will be available for **2 weeks** but pay close attention to due dates to avoid late work.

**Late work:** Late work is not generally accepted in this course; however, the instructor reserves the right to consider late submissions on a case-by-case basis. An assignment is considered late if it is submitted after the deadline, in an incorrect format (not Microsoft Word), or initially submitted incorrectly. Students must contact the instructor within **14 days** of a missed deadline and provide rationale or documentation. If approved, a revised due date will be assigned; failure to meet that deadline will result in a zero (0).

**Extra Credit Activities:** There will be **one** extra credit assignment (worth 3 points) available in Blackboard. In addition, you will also receive 5 extra points for completing the anonymous Course Evaluation at the end of the semester.

**Academic Integrity:** In addition to the Plagiarism and Cheating policy in the Common Course Syllabus, it should be understood that students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism 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; this can include but is not limited to one copied sentence in an essay, a missing or incorrect citation, an entire paper copied from someone/somewhere else, one plagiarized idea or post on a discussion board, one copied exam item or an exam, other coursework completed by someone other than yourself, or dishonestly using Internet searches and sites to complete your work. You have also committed academic dishonesty when sharing course content, assignments, items, or answers. This includes sharing course content with classmates or future students as well as sharing or posting course content on websites such as Quizlet, Course Hero, or similar “study applications.” 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](http://www.plagiarism.org)

**Artificial Intelligence (AI) Resources:** AI applications are advanced language models designed to aid and engage in meaningful conversations, as well as generate and revise content. AI is intended to supplement learning, stimulate critical thinking, and enhance academic discourse. However, its use comes with certain responsibilities: Using AI to generate academic work, including essays, reports, or assignments, without proper attribution is a violation of SPC academic integrity policies. Plagiarism undermines the learning process and is strictly prohibited. Students must ensure that their work reflects their own ideas, research, synthesis, and analysis and appropriately cites all sources, including AI.

If the student submits work obtained by using AI or is suspected of utilizing AI, it will be considered plagiarism and will 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 and reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary actions.

**Grading Policy & Method of Evaluation:** All grades and feedback on coursework will be posted in Blackboard. You will find these posted in the My Grades area of our Blackboard course.

It is possible to earn up to **430** points in this course. Your grade will be determined by a cumulative point total based on the following grades:

At the end of the semester, all points earned by you this semester will be totaled. Your Point Total will determine your final letter grade by using the following scale/point ranges:

A= 387 – **430** points

B= 344 – 386 points

C= 301 – 343 points

D= 258 – 300 points

F= 0 – 257 points

**Syllabus Quiz, Introductory Form & Personal Photo (15 points):** To familiarize yourself with the course website and to help me get to know you, please complete the Syllabus Quiz, Introductory Form with Personal Photo on Blackboard before **midnight Sunday (Aug 31)**. You will find the Syllabus Quiz and Link for attaching the Introductory Form and Personal Photo in the Week 1 Learning Module of Blackboard.

**Activities (70 points):** There will be 7 Activities (discussions, reflections, etc.) throughout the semester. Make sure you will be well prepared for these activities by reading the assigned course readings and viewing the supplemental material/resources to ensure your success on these activities.

**Application Assignments (100 points):** You will complete 2 Application Assignments (50 points each) throughout the semester applying course concepts related to the field of psychology. The purpose of these assignments is for you to demonstrate your knowledge of course concepts while analyzing and applying these concepts to your own thinking processes and behaviors. Application Assignments are submitted in Blackboard. See the course schedule below for due dates.

**Exams (150 points):** There will be 3 non-cumulative exams during the semester covering material presented in the textbook and in Blackboard. Exams will include 50 multiple-choice, true-false, and short answer/essay questions. See the course schedule on the following page for dates and times for the exams.

**Special Requirements:** If you miss an exam, **you must contact your instructor within 14 days** of missing the exam, provide rationale for missing the exam, then **if** approval is given, a new exam will be given. Make-up Exams will only be given during Final Exam week. Student is responsible for emailing the instructor to schedule day and time during Final Exam week.

**Reading Quizzes (65 points):** There will be 13 total quizzes (each worth 5 points), one for each chapter. Each quiz will have 5 multiple-choice or true/false questions covering the content of each chapter. The quizzes are open for 2 weeks in duration and are due on Sundays by midnight. See the Course Schedule for details.

**Engagement Points (30 points):** Engagement in class involves your *mental and physical presence* in the classroom. Although you are not required to speak up during class time, it is important that I know you are *paying attention and mentally engaging in content*. (Hint: excessive cell phone and/or laptop use is not considered as engagement and will not be counted as points earned.) One point is acquired with each class date and these points cannot be made up.



*Note: To help you stay prepared, plan to complete the assigned readings, take notes, and review course materials each week—even when no assignments are due. Using a planner, calendar, phone reminders, or the Blackboard calendar can help you stay organized and on track.*

**Course Calendar: PSYC 2301, Sections 004 and 008 (Face-2-Face modality), Spring 2026**  
**General Psychology**

*The instructor reserves the right to change the course outline as needed and will inform students of any changes.*

<b>Weekly Dates</b>	<b>Topics, Assignments, Quizzes, Exams:</b>	<b>DUE DATES</b>
Wk 1 Jan 12 - 15	Introductions, Course Information/Syllabus Introduction to Chapter 1 <b>Syllabus Quiz</b> <b>Introductory Form</b> <b>Personal Photo</b>	<b>Syllabus Quiz, Introductory Form, and Personal Photo due before midnight, Sun 8/31.</b>
Wk 2 Jan 20 - 22 <b>(SPC Holiday on Jan 19)</b>	Chapter 1 Introduction to Psychology <b>Activity 1</b>	Reading Quiz due before midnight, Sun 9/14.
Wk 3 Jan 26 - 29	Chapter 2 Psychological Research <b>Application Assignment 1: Research in Psychology</b> <b>Activity 2</b>	Reading Quiz, Application Assignment 1 due before midnight, Sun 9/23.
Wk 4 Feb 2 - 5	Chapter 3 Biopsychology	Reading Quiz due before midnight, Sun 9/28.
Wk 5 Feb 9 - 12	Chapter 4 States of Consciousness & Review for Exam 1	Reading Quiz and Application Assignment 2 due before midnight Sun 10/5.
Wk 6 Feb 16 - 19	<b>Exam 1 on Monday</b> Chapter 6 Learning	Reading Quiz due before midnight Sun 10/12.
Wk 7 Feb 23 - 26	Chapter 7 Thinking and Intelligence	Reading Quiz due before midnight Sun 10/19.
Wk 8 Mar 2 - 5	Chapter 8 Memory <b>Activity 3</b>	Reading Quiz due before midnight Sun 10/26.
Wk 9 Mar 9 - 12	Chapter 10 Emotion and Motivation <b>Activity 4</b>	Reading Quiz and Application Assignment 2 due before midnight Sun 11/2.
<b>Mar 16 – 22</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>	
Wk 10 Mar 23 – 26	Chapter 11 Personality & Review for Exam 2 <b>Exam 2 on Wednesday</b>	Reading Quiz due before midnight Sun 11/9.
Wk 11 Mar 30 – Apr 2 <b>(SPC Holiday on Apr 3)</b>	Chapter 12 Social Psychology <b>Activity 5 Big Five Personality Test</b> (Will need this to help you complete the Application Assignment 3 so keep your results.)	Reading Quiz due before midnight Sun 11/16.
Wk 12 Apr 6 - 9	Chapter 14 Stress, Lifestyle, and Health Video: "Happy" <b>Activity 6</b> <b>Application Assignment #2: CHOICE</b>	Reading Quiz and Application Assignment 3 due before midnight Sun 11/23.
Wk 13 Apr 13 - 16	Finish video: "Happy" Chapter 15 Psychological Disorders	Reading Quiz due by midnight, Sun 11/30.
	Chapter 16 Therapy and Treatment	Reading Quiz due by midnight, Sun 12/7.
Wk 15 Apr 27 - 30	Finish Chapter 16 <b>Activity 7</b> Review for Exam 3	Reading Quiz due by midnight, Sun 12/7.
<b>Finals Week</b> <b>May 4 - 7</b>	<b>Exam 3: ??????????????</b>	