Department: Behavioral Sciences

Discipline: Psychology

Course Number: PSYC 2301

Course Title: **General Psychology**

Available Formats: Campus Lecture, Online

Campuses: Levelland, Reese, 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: 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 thoughts 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 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:
As per 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.

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.

Course Information: PSYC 2301, Sections 154, 452, and 453 (ONLINE)

General Psychology – Spring 2026

Course Website: Blackboard (southplainscollege.blackboard.com)

Email Address: dwittie@southplainscollege.edu

Blackboard: This is an ONLINE course and will be conducted completely online through Blackboard. Course assignments will be submitted through Blackboard.

Instructor Office: Administration Building, 119

Office Hours:
Tuesday 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Wednesday 10:00 – 11:00 AM and 1:00 to 2:00 PM
Thursday 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Friday 9:00 – 11:00 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 leave a voice message, please include your **full name** and your **course/section** information.

Course Structure: This course is delivered as an ONLINE modality. Students are expected to follow the Course Schedule below and log into Blackboard daily to check for announcements and/or any changes to the course schedule. All deadlines are listed on the Course Schedule as well as on Blackboard. It is recommended that you print the Course Schedule and maintain it in a convenient and easily accessible location, such as a personal planner, at your desk, or on a refrigerator.

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 success in college is maintaining open **communication** with your instructor. Please feel free to email me if I can support your success in this course. I wish you the very best this semester and hope your final grade reflects the effort you put forth. To stay on track, make every effort to complete all assignments, exams, and papers/projects on time and keep pace with the schedule of this course.*

Attendance & Administrative Drop Policy: "Attendance" in this online course is the **active submission of coursework** before the scheduled due date and time (on-time). Due to South Plains College attendance policies, any student who fails to attempt a minimum of **two** major grades may be asked to withdraw or "drop" from the course. Essentially, to be counted present means that you need to be *mentally* and *physically present* in the online environment.

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** 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. Please plan ahead to allow time for learning course tools and managing any technology issues. Unfortunately, technical difficulties or unfamiliarity with systems cannot be used to grant deadline extensions or make-up work.

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 always uphold proper and respectful communication with the instructor and fellow classmates. 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.

Recognized and Supported File Types in Blackboard: Blackboard does not accept **.pages** files. Mac users must save or export documents as **.doc, .docx, or .pdf** before submitting. See Supported File Types for more details.

Learning Module Availability: Weekly Learning Modules will open **3** weeks at a time (for those who prefer to work ahead). If you work ahead of schedule, however, you'll be responsible for checking back in on Discussion Threads to interact with other classmates.

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

Late work: Late work is generally not accepted; however, the instructor may consider late submissions on a case-by-case basis. An assignment is considered late if it is submitted after the deadline or in an incorrect format (e.g., not Microsoft Word).

- **Point deduction for lateness:** Assignments submitted after the deadline will incur a **5% deduction per day late**, up to a maximum of 25%.
- **Procedure for missed deadlines:** You must contact the instructor within **14 days** of a missed deadline and provide a reason or documentation. If approved, a revised due date will be assigned for the original assignment or an alternative of equal value.
- **Failure to meet the revised deadline:** If the assignment is not submitted by the revised due date, a grade of zero (0) will be recorded.

Extra Credit Opportunities: There will be one extra credit assignment (worth **3** points) available on Blackboard. In addition, you will 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

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 **395** points in this course. Your grade will be determined by a cumulative point total based on the following grades:

	Total Possible Points to Earn:	Your points:
Syllabus Quiz	5	
Introductory Form	5	
Personal Photo	5	
Activity 1	10	
Activity 2	10	
Activity 3	10	
Activity 4	10	
Activity 5	10	
Application Assignment	50	
Exam 1	50	
Exam 2	50	
Exam 3	50	
Reading Quiz 1	10	
Reading Quiz 2	10	
Reading Quiz 3	10	
Reading Quiz 4	10	
Reading Quiz 5	10	
Reading Quiz 6	10	
Reading Quiz 7	10	
Reading Quiz 8	10	
Reading Quiz 9	10	
Reading Quiz 10	10	
Reading Quiz 11	10	
Reading Quiz 12	10	
Reading Quiz 13	10	
Total Points	**395**	

At the end of the semester, all points earned will be totaled. Students' Total Points will determine their final letter grade (or numeric grade for high school students0 by using the following scale/point ranges:

A= 355 – **395** points
B= 316 – 354 points
C= 276 – 315 points
D= 237 – 275 points
F= 0 – 236 points

Syllabus Quiz, Introductory Form & Personal Photo (15 points): To help you become familiar with the course website and to allow the instructor to get to know you, please complete the Syllabus Quiz and submit the Introductory Form and Personal Photo on Blackboard by **midnight on Sunday, January 25**. All three items are located in the **Week 1 Learning Module**.

Activities (50 points): There will be 5 Activities (discussions, reflections, etc.) throughout the semester. Students are advised to be prepared for these activities by reading the assigned course readings and viewing any

supplemental material/resources to ensure your success on these activities. See the due dates for the Activities on the Course Schedule.

Application Assignment (50 points*):* Students will complete one Application Assignment applying course concepts related to research methods used in the field of psychology. The goal of this assignment is to demonstrate your understanding of correlational studies including the nature of correlational data, positive versus negative correlations, and conclusions that can and cannot be drawn from correlational studies. See the Course Schedule below for the due date.

Exams (150 points): There will be 3 non-cumulative exams during the semester covering material presented in the textbook and on Blackboard. Students are allowed to use their textbooks while taking exams. Exams will include 50 multiple-choice and true-false questions. See the Course Schedule on the following page for due dates for the exams.

   Special Requirements: If you miss an exam, please contact the instructor within **14 days** and provide a reason or any supporting documentation. If approved, you will be given a revised due date to complete the exam. Please note that if the exam is not completed by the revised date, a zero (0) will be recorded.

Reading Quizzes (130 points): There will be 13 quizzes (each worth 10 points) for each chapter. Each quiz will have 10 multiple-choice or true/false questions covering the content of each chapter. Each quiz is timed for **15 minutes**, remains available for two weeks, and must be completed by Sunday at midnight. See the Course Schedule for specific due dates.

Course Schedule: PSYC 2301, Sections 154, 452, and 453 (ONLINE), Spring 2026
General Psychology

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

DATE	Topics, Assignments, Quizzes, Exams:	DUE DATES
Wk 1 Jan 12 - 18	**Read the Syllabus and Course Schedule carefully.** Syllabus Quiz Submit Introductory Form Personal Photo	Syllabus Quiz, Introductory Form, and Personal Photo due before midnight, **Sun, Jan 25.**
Wk 2 Jan 20 – 25 *(SPC holiday on Jan 19)*	Chapter 1 Introduction to Psychology Reading Quiz 1 - Ch 1	Reading Quiz due before <u>midnight</u>, Sun Feb 1.
Wk 3 Jan 26 – Feb 1	Chapter 2 Psychological Research Reading Quiz 2 – Ch 2 Application Assignment: Research in Psychology	Reading Quiz, Activity, & Application Assignment due before <u>midnight</u>, Sun Feb 8.
Wk 4 Feb 2 - 8	Chapter 3 Biopsychology Reading Quiz 3 – Ch 3 **Activity 1 – Case Study Discussion**	Reading Quiz and Activity due before <u>midnight</u>, Sun Feb 15.
Wk 5 Feb 9 -15	Chapter 4 States of Consciousness Reading Quiz 4 - Ch 4 **Exam 1**	Reading Quiz and Exam due before <u>midnight</u> Sun Feb 22.
Wk 6 Feb 16 - 22	Chapter **6** Learning Reading Quiz 5 - Ch 6 **Activity 2 – Conditioning in Advertising**	Reading Quiz and Activity due before <u>midnight</u> Sun Mar 1.
Wk 7 Feb 23 – Mar 1	Chapter 7 Thinking and Intelligence Reading Quiz 6 – Ch 7	Reading Quiz and Activity due before <u>midnight</u> Sun Mar 8.
Wk 8 Mar 2 - 8	Chapter 8 Memory Reading Quiz 7 – Ch. 8 **Activity 3 – Memory Discussion**	Reading Quiz and Activity due before <u>midnight</u> Sun Mar 15.
Wk 9 Mar 9 - 15	Chapter **10** Emotion and Motivation Reading Quiz 8 – Ch 10 **Exam 2**	Reading Quiz and Exam due before <u>midnight</u> Sun Mar 29 (<u>after</u> Spring Break).
Mar 16 - 22	SPRING BREAK	
Wk 10 Mar 23 - 29	Chapter 11 Personality Reading Quiz 9 – Ch 11 **Activity 4 – Personality Traits Reflection**	Reading Quiz and Activity due before <u>midnight</u> Sun Apr 5.
Wk 11 Mar 30 – Apr 5 *(SPC Holiday on Apr 3)*	Chapter 12 Social Psychology Reading Quiz 10 – Ch. 12	Reading Quiz due before <u>midnight</u> Sun Apr 12.
Wk 12 Apr 6 - 12	Chapter **14** Stress, Lifestyle, and Health Reading Quiz 11 – Ch 14	Reading Quiz due before <u>midnight</u> Sun Apr 19.
Wk 13 Apr 13 - 19	Chapter 15 Psychological Disorders Reading Quiz 12 – Ch 15	Reading Quiz due before <u>midnight</u> Sun Apr 26.
Wk 14 Apr 20 - 26	Chapter 16 Therapy and Treatment Reading Quiz 13 – Ch 16	Reading Quiz due by <u>midnight</u>, Sun May 3.
Wk 15 Apr 27 – May 3	Video: The Rise and Fall of the Asylum **Activity 5 - Asylum Postcard**	Activity due before <u>midnight</u> Sun May 3.
May 4 - 7 **Final Exam Week**	**Exam 3 Due before midnight Monday May 4**	Exam 3 is due by <u>midnight</u>, **Monday, May 4.**

Note: *To stay prepared each week, read the assigned chapters, take notes, and use any supplemental materials. Even when nothing is due, review or engage with course content. Develop a system to track deadlines, such as using a planner, calendar, phone reminders, or the Blackboard calendar. Printing this Course Schedule for easy reference can also be helpful.*