

Common Course Syllabus

Department: Behavioral Sciences

Discipline: Psychology

Course Number: PSYC 2301

Course Name: General Psychology

Credit: 3 Lecture: 3 Lab: 0

Satisfies a core curriculum requirement? Yes, Behavioral or Social Science

Prerequisites: TSI reading compliance for INET

Available Formats: conventional; INET; ITV

Campuses: Levelland, Reese, Lubbock Center, Plainview,
INET

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

- OpenStax College, *Psychology*. OpenStax College. 8 December 2014.
(<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)

Course Specific Instructions: Internet – go to Blackboard. Each instructor will attach his/her course specific instructions.

Course Description: General Psychology is a survey of the major psychological topics, theories and approaches to the scientific study of behavior and mental processes.

Course Purpose: To acquaint students with the diverse field of psychology including major theoretical concepts. In addition, introduce methods of research used and how it contributes to the body of knowledge in psychology, promotion of critical thinking, generation of new ideas, and consideration of alternate explanations when evaluating information.

Course Requirements: To maximize the potential to complete this course, a student should attend all class meetings and/or login to internet courses at least twice weekly. In addition, satisfactorily complete all homework assignments and examinations in a timely manner, and satisfactorily complete all other projects or papers as assigned in the course specific instructions.

Course Evaluation: Please see the instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in Evaluation of student performance.

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.

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.

CIP # 42.0101

Course Policies:

Attendance Policy: 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.

Academic Integrity: The attempt of any student to present as his or her own any work which he or she has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension. This policy relates to all forms of cheating and plagiarism. See Instructor's Course Information for additions to the academic integrity policy.

Student Conduct: A high standard of conduct is expected of all students. Students are subject to federal, state and local laws, as well as South Plains College rules and regulations. Any student who fails to perform according to expected standards may be asked to withdraw. Failure to comply with lawful direction of a classroom teacher relative to maintaining good order is considered misconduct on the part of the student. Repeated violations of disrupting a class may result in the student being dropped from that course (See Catalog/Student Guide for full policy). See Instructor's Course Information for additional policies related to student conduct.

Appeal Process: The process of appeal is outlined in the college catalog. Basically you would need to talk to the instructor, the department chair, and then the dean if the problem is not resolved. Be sure to always start with your instructor.

Diversity & Equal Rights: South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President of Student Affairs.

All students are entitled to equal rights under the affirmative action and equal opportunity laws. Students are also protected against unjust or biased academic evaluation, but at the same time, they are responsible for maintaining standards of academic performance established for each course in which they are enrolled. (See Catalog/Student Guide for full definitions and policies)

ADA (Disability) Statement: Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Reese Center (Building 8) & Lubbock Center 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

Campus Concealed Carry syllabus statement: Campus Concealed Carry - Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas

License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the SPC policy at: (http://www.southplainscollege.edu/human_resources/policy_procedure/hhc.php) Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.

Course Specific Information
PSYC 2301, section 200

Instructor: Kristina M. Garrett, Ph.D.
Office Hours: by appointment only
Office: RC 405-C
Office Phone**: 806-716-4732
E-Mail**: kgarrett@southplainscollege.edu

** Please note: I prefer to be contacted by email rather than telephone because it allows for a faster response time even when I am not on campus

POLICIES AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Student Responsibility: It is your job, as a student, to know the rules of student conduct laid out in the Catalog and Student Guide, all other South Plains College policies which impact you laid out in the Catalog, and the policies laid out in this syllabus. It is also your job to check SPC email, blackboard, and the calendar of due dates regularly to make sure that you are keeping up with your work.

Preparedness: Part of your job as a student is to come to class prepared. It is expected that you will read the Noba units that go with each topic before we begin that topic in class. It is also expected that you will arrive to class on-time, ready and able to take notes and participate in class. The Noba online textbook prepared specifically for this class, which is available online for free, can be found at the following link: <http://noba.to/am3ntz96>

Classroom etiquette: It is rude to be physically in class, but not engaged in the class and paying attention. It is a distraction to me and your classmates. I allow the use of computers for taking notes only, but reserve the right to restrict the use of computers or disallow the use of computers in the class if I observe inappropriate use of computers, including but not limited to: checking email, browsing the internet, checking Facebook, registering for classes, etc. Additional behaviors that are inappropriate include, but are not limited to: use of cell phones, reading the newspaper, reading material for other classes, talking while other people are speaking, sleeping in class, making offensive/bigoted remarks, and taking pictures of any portion of the class (remember your classmates have the same FERPA privacy rights as you do!). It is not acceptable to take pictures of PowerPoint slides as a substitute for taking notes. You are not allowed to record class (voice or video) without my permission.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. In Class Activities (25 points each; Total of 250 points)

There will be many in-class activities (reactions to readings, group work, etc.) throughout the semester (approximately 1 per class session). These activities will be conducted similar to a pop-quiz, being announced right before they occur, typically at the beginning of class on most (if not all) days, with some class days having more than 1 in class activity. Leaving class early may result in full or partial loss of credit. Arriving to class late may also result in full or partial loss of credit for the In Class Activity; however, you will still be expected to do the activity if you arrive before other students have completed the activity. Similarly, if you finish before other students, it is not acceptable for you to be doing work for another class, texting, on Facebook, or otherwise engaging in activities that are unacceptable according to the Classroom etiquette

policy listed above and the Student Conduct policy found in the Student Guide. It is recommended that you take notes on your reactions to/perceptions of the activity you have just finished. It is often helpful to speculate how the activity you have just finished relates to the readings and lecture for that class. If you consistently attend class and do the assigned readings ahead of class, it is expected that you will receive full credit for in-class activities. However, if you demonstrate misunderstanding of the assigned material, you will receive only partial credit on the in-class activity. The best 10 in class activities will count for up to 250 points of your final grade. If you have an excused absence, it is your responsibility to request an alternate assignment after you have provided adequate documentation.

2. Online Activities (15 points each; Total of 150 points)

There will be many online activities (reactions to readings, discussion boards, etc.) throughout the semester (approximately 1 per class session). The entire week's worth of online activities will be available on Blackboard 8 AM on the first class day of the week and will be due by 5 PM on the day after the last class day of the week. For example, in a typical week, students will have from 8 AM on Monday until 5 PM on Friday to complete four online activities associated with the topics for the week. If you consistently attend class, take good notes, and do the assigned readings, it is expected that you will receive full credit for online activities. However, if you demonstrate misunderstanding of the assigned material in an online activity, you will receive only partial credit on that activity. The best 10 online activities will count for a maximum of 150 points of your final grade.

3. Exams (100 points each; Total of 400 points)

There will be four exams this semester. The fourth exam (final exam) is weighted the same as the first three exams and will focus primarily on new material since exam three, but you should expect approximately 25% of the exam to be review of material from exams one through three. All exams may include a mix of any of the following types of questions: multiple choice, True/False, matching, fill in the blank, short answer/essay. The listing of exam dates is in the tentative schedule found on Blackboard. For all exams, you will be required to place all belongings at the front of the room, turn hats backwards or place hats at the front of the room, and you will not be permitted to have notes, cell phones, smart watches, or sunglasses at your desk. For the first three exams (but not the final), the exam will be given during the first 50 minutes of class time, then we will have a 10 minute break, and then we will begin the next topic during the last 55 minutes of class time. **If you arrive late to an exam and any of your classmates have already finished the exam and left the room, you will not be permitted to take the exam.** If you miss an exam and can document an excusable reason, then you will be permitted to take a make-up exam. You must take that make-up exam within two business days of the original exam (or within two business days of when you are able to return to school according to your documentation). The final exam can only be taken on the final exam day, unless documentation would allow you to take an incomplete in the class.

4. Analyze a Movie Paper (200 points)

You will be required to write a paper in this class. You will be allowed to choose one of the topics we cover as the focus of your paper. In this paper, you will watch a fiction or documentary movie. There will be a list of already approved movies posted on Blackboard. Any that I own on DVD will be starred on the list and available to borrow from me. You may

request approval for a film that is not already on the approved list, but you must do that at least 1 week before the paper is due. When reviewing the movie and writing your paper, be sure to focus on the topic you have chosen, even though other topics may be equally (or even more) obviously relevant. Summarize what occurs in the movie that directly relates to your topic and discuss (according to the textbook and lecture) how accurately or inaccurately the information is portrayed in the movie you chose. You must cite properly from the textbook and the movie you chose. The goal is to use the textbook and lecture to analyze how accurate or inaccurate a non-academic source of information is and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the accuracies and inaccuracies you notice. Your paper must be at least 4 pages long (Times New Roman, 12 point font, double space, 1" margins), must use APA style in-text citations, and must have an APA style works cited page. **For this paper, due by 11:59 PM on Friday 8/6, I will accept late work with penalty.** I will take off 40 points for every calendar day late. I will not accept any submissions of this paper after the final exam on 8/10. A calendar day is the 24 hours after the deadline. This means that 45 minutes late gets the same penalty as 22 hours late. See Blackboard for additional detailed instructions and grading rubric.

Extra Credit

Extra credit is optional, therefore no extra credits will be accepted after the deadline for any reason. Extra credit is added directly to your final grade in the class and is your opportunity to improve your final grade in the class by up to a half letter grade. You may earn a maximum of 50 points of extra credit by doing approved extra credit activities, which can be found on the Blackboard page. extra credits will have a specific due date, while others will be accepted until the extra credit deadline of 5 PM on Friday August 6th. No extra credit will be accepted after 5 PM on Friday August 6th.

Final Grade Calculation

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Online Activities	150 points
In Class Activities	250 points
Exams	400 points
Paper	200 points
<hr/>	
Total	1000 points

Your letter grade will be based on the following percentages:

90% and above	A
80%-89%	B
70%-79%	C
60%-69%	D
<60%	F

Please note: if your final grade reflects a percentage that is not a whole number (e.g. 69.2 points is 69.2%), it is my policy to round up that percentage to the next whole number (e.g. 69.2% rounds to 70%).