

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, ATC, 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: Survey of major topics in psychology. Introduces the study of behavior and the factors that determine and affect behavior.

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 Center 806-716-2577, Reese Center (also covers ATC) Building 8: 806-716-4675, Plainview Center Main Office: 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611, or the Health and Wellness main number at 806-716-2529.

Specific Course Policies

Contacting the Instructor

Name Dr. Will Crescioni

Office Location RC405A, Reese Campus

Email	wcrescioni@southplainscollege.edu				
Office Phone	(806) 716-2468				
Office Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	10:00 – 12:00	2:30 – 4:00	10:00 – 12:00	10:00 – 11:00	10:00 – 12:00
	1:00 – 2:00		1:00 – 2:00	2:30 – 4:00	
	Additional office hours available by appointment.				

Student e-mail

SPC has given all students access to a free email account. Email will be the primary means of communication in this course, and I expect you to check it regularly. **ALL EMAIL COMMUNICATION MUST BE CONDUCTED USING YOUR OFFICIAL SPC EMAIL.** We will often be discussing sensitive or confidential issues over email (e.g. grades). As such, I will not respond to any email other than your official SPC email address. Emails from gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo!, etc. will not receive a response.

To access your email

- 1) go to <https://myspc.southplainscollege.edu/ics>
- 2) log into MySPC

- 3) click on the “Student Email” link found along the left-hand side of the screen. You may also forward your SPC email to your personal email server (see online instructions on the SPC student email server).

Email Etiquette

All emails must include:

- A meaningful subject line
- Your full name, as it appears on Blackboard
- Your class and section

The following link has some great general tips for composing professional emails:

http://writingcenter.emory.edu/resources/writing_tips_resources/email_etiquette.html

I teach multiple classes at SPC, as well as classes at other colleges in the area. If you do not clearly identify yourself and the class you are asking about, I have no way of answering your question. For example, an email that simply reads “When is the test?” is useless. Which test? For which class? My general class? My lifespan class? The experimental class I teach at LCU? Therefore, if you do not provide a the information I need to help you, you will not get help. Here is an example of a well-composed email:

Hello Dr. Crescioni,

My name is Student McStudentson, and I am in your PSY 2301 MW class at 1:00. I was looking at the syllabus and it said that our second test was next Monday, but I thought I remembered you saying in class that it had been delayed until Wednesday. If you could let me know for sure I’d really appreciate it.

Thanks,
Student McStudentson

That email will get a quick response.

Course Structure

These course consists of 15 weekly Learning Modules (LMs). Each LM consists of one or more readings from the textbook, one or more lecture videos, one quiz on the material covered that week, and (in only four weeks) a Unit Project.

Assignments

There are two types of assignments in the course: Weekly Quizzes and Unit Projects.

Weekly Quizzes

- Worth 20 points
- 20 multiple choice questions based only on material from that week's LM
- Two attempts; only the best of the two attempts will be graded
- 30 minute time limit per attempt

Unit Projects

- Worth 50 points
- Brief written assignments
- Graded based on content, following directions, grammar, spelling, and punctuation

Missed Work

It is strictly your responsibility to ensure that you turn assignments in on time. All due dates are available both in this syllabus and on Blackboard. In addition, it is your responsibility to ensure that you have access to a working computer with a stable internet connection. Inability to access assignments, quizzes that are submitted unintentionally, and other technical issues will only be accepted as excuses meriting a make-up if the issue was class-wide. Issues stemming from the student's own computer, internet provider, etc. will not be considered valid excuses.

Project due dates are strict. Late projects will never be accepted. Extensions will be offered only in the instance of documented illness or injury which would render it impossible or nearly impossible for you to access the internet and submit your project on the due date.

Assignment/Grade Inquiries

Grades for weekly quizzes will automatically post as soon as you have completed both attempts. If you have any questions or concerns about your grade (e.g. you think a question was wrong; you believe your posted grade is too low; you have a zero but completed the assignment) you must contact me within one week of the due date. If you, for example, you contact me at the end of the semester claiming you completed several assignments for which you have zeroes, it will be too late.

Grading

15 weekly quizzes at 20 points each = 300 points

Four unit projects at 50 points each = 200 points

Total points = 500 points

I will round up to the nearest whole number when computing your final grade (e.g. an 89.5 would become a 90, whereas an 89.4 would become an 89). Artificial grade boosts will never be offered; what you earn is what you get. Thus, the grading scale is as follows:

A: 448 – 500 points

B: 398 – 447 points

C: 348 – 397 points

D: 298 – 347 points

F: 0 – 297 points

Checking grades on Blackboard

Quiz grades should automatically post once you have completed your second attempt or once the due date has passed, whichever comes first. If you complete no attempts on a weekly quiz prior to the due date, Blackboard will leave that column blank until I manually assign a grade of zero. Keep in mind that this may cause your grade to appear higher than it is, because Blackboard will not factor that zero into your average until I have entered it.

Administrative Drop Policy

Due to Financial Aid and South Plains College requirements for participation/attendance, students who fail to maintain satisfactory course participation may be dropped with a grade of “X” from the course. **A student who meets any of the following criteria may be dropped from the course at the discretion of the instructor:**

- **Having a current grade of “C” or lower plus any one of the following:**
 - **Missing five or more weekly quizzes.**
 - **Failing to turn in two or more Unit Projects by the posted due date**
 - **Having not logged into the course Blackboard page for 14 consecutive days**

Course Schedule

Due:	Readings	Videos	Assignments
3-Sep	History of Psychology, What is Science?, Research Designs	Introduction to Psychology	Week 1 Quiz
10-Sep	Neurons, Nervous System, The Brain	The Chemical Mind, Meet Your Master, Getting to Know your Brain	Week 2 Quiz
17-Sep	Vision and Hearing, Taste and Smell, Touch and Pain	Sensation and Perception, Perceiving is Believing	Week 3 Quiz
24-Sep	Theory of Mind, Consciousness, The Unconscious	Consciousness; To Sleep, Perchance to Dream; Altered States	Week 4 Quiz, Unit 1 Project
1-Oct	Categories and Concepts, Judgment and Decision Making	Cognition: How Your Mind can Amaze and Betray You	Week 5 Quiz
8-Oct	Attention, Failures of Awareness: The Case of Inattentive Blindness	Seeing the World as it Isn't	Week 6 Quiz
15-Oct	Memory (Encoding, Storage, Retrieval), Forgetting and Amnesia, Eyewitness Testimony and Memory Biases	How We Make Memories, Remembering and Forgetting	Week 7 Quiz

22-Oct	Conditioning and Learning	How to Train a Brain, The Bobo Beatdown	Week 8 Quiz, Unit 2 Project
29-Oct	Cognitive Development in Childhood, Social Personality Development in Childhood, Adolescent Development, Emerging Adulthood, Aging	The Growth of Knowledge, Monkey and Morality, Adolescence	Week 9 Quiz
5-Nov	Functions of Emotions, Drive States, Motives and Goals, Self and Identity, Personality Traits	The Power of Motivation, Measuring Personality, Feeling all the Feels; Emotion, Stress, and Health	Week 10 Quiz
12-Nov	The Psychology of Groups, Social Cognition and Attitudes, Conformity and Obedience	Social Thinking; Social Influence	Week 11 Quiz
19-Nov	Self-Regulation and Conscientiousness, Helping and Prosocial Behavior, Aggression and Violence; Prejudice, Discrimination, and Stereotyping	Introduction to Psychology	Week 12 Quiz, Unit 3 Project
26-Nov	Mood Disorders, Anxiety and Related Disorders	OCD and Anxiety Disorders, Depressive and Bipolar Disorders	Week 13 Quiz
3-Dec	Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders	Schizophrenia and Associative Disorders	Week 14 Quiz
10-Dec	Psychopharmacology; Therapeutic Orientations	Getting Help, Biomedical Treatments	Week 15 Quiz, Unit 4 Project

Learning Modules

Each of the above weeks of material can be found in the corresponding Learning Module (LM) on Blackboard. Each LM will contain links to the readings in the textbook, links to any required videos, and links to any quizzes, or unit projects due during that week.

Tech Support

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have a working computer with a stable internet connection throughout the course.

Technical Requirements

In order to successfully participate in the course, your computer must meet the following requirements:

- Modern operating system (Windows 7 or later strongly recommended; most content should be compatible with Mac OS and older versions of windows down to XP; Linux is not recommended).
- Modern web browser. I strongly recommend you use Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome to access the content in this course. Internet Explorer may not interact well with the course content.
 - You can download Mozilla Firefox [here](#).

- You can download Google Chrome [here](#).
- A modern word processor to complete Unit Projects, such as Microsoft Word. If you do not have Word, you can download Libre Office, a free alternative, [here](#).
- A stable, reliable internet connection. High-speed internet (e.g. Cable, DSL, fiber) is strongly recommended.
- For the purposes of Weekly Quizzes, it is strongly suggested that you use a computer with hardwired (e.g. not WiFi) internet access, as this will minimize the risk of an interruption. DO NOT use your browser's forward or back buttons. It is highly recommended that you close all other windows and programs before beginning an assignment. Unless your assignment is interrupted for a reason that affects the entire class (e.g. the server goes down), interruptions will not be considered grounds for a retake of any assignment.
- DO NOT attempt to take any class assignments using a phone or tablet, as your grade will not be recorded.

Should you encounter difficulties technical difficulties throughout the course, please refer to the following sources of help:

Blackboard Technical Support

Support for issues relating to Blackboard can be obtained via the "Blackboard Support" link in the course Blackboard page, by visiting https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_2014_04/Student, or by calling (800) 424-9299. Issues for which you should use this route include, but are not limited to:

- Inability to access Blackboard page (e.g. page will not load)
- Inability to access specific content within the Blackboard page (e.g. assignments, lecture videos)

Other Technical Issues

- If you do not see a grade for an assignment you believe you completed, contact me directly.
- If your computer breaks or your home internet goes out, contact the relevant business (e.g. Best Buy, Office Depot, as well as several local outlets provide computer repair services; your internet service provider – most likely SuddenLink – can provide troubleshooting related to your home internet service.

Tech Contingency Plans

You are responsible for maintaining access to a working computer with a stable internet connection throughout the course. As it is very possible for a compute to break, you should have contingency plans in place in cast this happens to you. These can include (but are not limited to):

- Identify at least one friend, family member, or neighbor who has a computer you can borrow if needed.
- If you are a local student, the South Plains College Levelland and Reese Center campuses have computer labs which offer free access to students.
- Most public libraries have at least a few computers that are available to the public.
- Inexpensive replacement computers can be obtained from sites like edealinfo.com, the Amazon marketplace, Newegg, and eBay.

- If you are travelling, many hotels have a small computer lab available to their guests.
- If you know that you will be out of town/without internet access for a certain period of time, be sure to work ahead and complete any assignments that are due during that time before you leave.

ADA 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 Contact

Levelland

Linda Young

Disability Accommodations Specialist

1401 S. College Ave.

Levelland, TX 79336

Phone: 806-716-2577

Fax: 806-897-0371

lyoung@southplainscollege.edu

Reese

Dawn Valles

Coordinator of Disability Services Reese

819 Gilbert Drive

Lubbock, TX 79416

Phone: 806-716-4675

dvalles@southplainscollege.edu

Diversity Statement

In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

Note: Course schedule is subject to change.