

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	2:30 – 4:00	10:00 – 12:00
	1:00 – 2:00		1:00 – 2:00		
	Additional office hours available by appointment.				

Student e-mail

Email will be the primary means of communication in this course, and I expect you to check it regularly.

ALL EMAIL COMMUNICATON MUST BE CONDUCTED USING YOUR OFFICAL 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.

Email Etiquette

It is important in this class, in all classes, and in your professional life to practice good email etiquette. This means, among other things, addressing your instructors professionally, using good spelling and grammar, and practicing good self-reliance before falling back on email. There are many excellent guides to email etiquette, but I recommend this as a starting point:

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

In addition, all emails must include a meaningful subject line, must include the class and section you are referencing, and must include your full name as it appears on Blackboard. 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 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.

Structure of class:

Each day we cover material from one reading in the book. A learning guide for each module is posted to Blackboard that includes key terms and study questions, and you are expected to fill it out while doing the readings. During class, you will augment this with notes from the lecture. Each week, you will take a quiz on the material from the modules covered the previous week.

Textbook

We are using a free, custom textbook for this class. See the Blackboard page for access to the textbook.

Learning Guides (24 @ 2 points each):

Each chapter will be accompanied by a learning guide containing keywords and study questions. Students will be expected to have read the chapter and completed the study guide prior to attending the lecture.

Completed Learning Guides must be uploaded via Blackboard by 11:59 PM on the night before the corresponding lecture.

There will be a total of 24 Learning Guides due throughout the course, and each Learning Guide is worth two points, for a total of 48 points.

Weekly Quizzes (12 @ 12 points each):

Basic Format

Each week students will take a short-answer quiz regarding the previous week's material. Students will be presented with three questions from each of the previous week's topics (for a total of six questions) and will have 15 minutes to complete the quiz.

An answer judged to be perfect or nearly perfect will earn two points, an answer that is at least 50% correct but not perfect will earn one point, and an answer that is judged to be less than 50% correct will earn no points.

Flashbacks

Some quizzes, at the instructor's discretion, may contain a Flashback. Flashbacks are questions that refer back to material from before the previous week. For example, the Week 12 quiz might feature a Flashback asking about material from week 4. Flashbacks are optional; if the student chooses to attempt the Flashback, it will take the place of one normal quiz question. A student who answers the Flashback perfectly will receive three points rather than the normal two; answers that are 50% correct and less than 50% correct will be graded as usual (for one and zero points, respectively).

Quiz Grading

Quiz grades will be computed out of a maximum of 12 points. On quizzes that contain a Flashback, it is possible to earn up to 13 points.

There will be a total of 12 weekly quizzes graded at 12 points each.

Quiz Answers

All answers to quiz questions must be in the form of complete sentences. Lists, bullet points, and sentence fragments will not be accepted. Failing to provide answers in the form of complete sentences will result in a deduction of one point for each question on which the offense occurs.

Use the following example to guide your answers. Suppose the question were "What is the capital of Texas, and when was it settled?" A good answer would be: "The capital of Texas is Austin. It was first settled in 1835." The following examples would result in a one point deduction: "Austin, 1835", "It's Austin, settled 1835", and "Austin, TX settled 1835".

Final Exam (1 @ 100 points)

The final exam is substantially different than the weekly quizzes. It includes twenty-five multiple choice questions, ten short answer questions, and three essay questions. The test is cumulative, meaning that material from all previous topics is fair game for the final exam. The exam is worth 100 points.

Book Report (1 @ 100 points)

During the course of the semester, you will choose and read one of the following popular-press books:

- *Willpower*, by Roy Baumeister

- *Stumbling on Happiness*, by Daniel Gilbert
- *Blink*, by Malcom Gladwell
- *Whistling Vivaldi*, by Claude Steele
- *The Righteous Mind*, by Jonathan Haidt
- *The Better Angels of our Nature*, by Steven Pinker
- *Make It Stick: The Science of Successful Learning*, by Peter C. Brown and Henry L. Roediger III
- *Thinking, Fast and Slow*, by Daniel Kahneman
- *Predictably Irrational*, by Dan Ariely
- *Human: The Science Behind What Makes Us Unique*, by Micheal Gazzaniga
- *The Invisible Gorilla*, by Daniel Simons
- *Blindspot*, by Mahzarin Banaji and Anthony Greenwald
- *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*, by Carol Dweck

Rough Draft

(25 points; due October 23rd by 11:59 PM)

You will first submit a 2 – 3 page proposal. Your proposal should be a summary of the main points of the book. I will give you detailed feedback on your proposal, but will not count off for spelling, grammar, and punctuation. I will, however, mark off **heavily** for errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation in your final paper, so I strongly encourage you to pay close attention to the feedback I provide.

Final Draft

(75 Points; due November 20th by 11:59 PM)

After reading this book, you will write a 3 – 5 page, double-spaced report responding to the following:

1. What was the central premise of the book? Explain the main ideas and topics of the book.
2. Choose at least one specific study or example from the book and explain, in your own words, what the example was and how it was relevant to the author's point.
3. What is at least one lesson from the book that you feel you could apply in your own life?
4. What is at least one thing from the book that you believe everyone would benefit from learning?

Grading

Your rough draft will be worth 25 points and is based on completion. The final draft is worth up to 75 points and will be graded as follows:

- 25 points for proper use of grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
- 25 points for following directions.
- 25 points for overall paper quality.

Detailed instructions and an assignment rubric will be made available via Blackboard.

Final Exam (100 points)

The final exam in this class is cumulative, meaning that all previously covered material is fair game for the final exam.

The final exam will contain a mixture of fill in the blank, short answer, and essay questions.

Student who have met ALL of the following criteria are exempted from the final exam:

- You must have received no zeroes on your quizzes
- You must have turned in both the book report rough draft and book report final draft
- Your grade in the class must be an A

Prior to the final exam, I will compute your current grade and make all individual assignment grades available so that students can determine whether they must take the final exam.

Grading

Syllabus contract = 8 points

12 weekly quizzes at 12 points each = 144 points

24 learning guides at 2 points each = 48

Book report rough draft = 25 points

Book report final draft = 75 points

Final exam = 100 points

Total Points Possible = 400

I will round to the nearest whole number when computing your final grade. Thus, for example, an 89.5 would be a "90" and an 89.4 would be an "89". No artificial grade boosts will be offered; the grade you earn is the grade you get.

Grading scale:

A: 90 – 100

B: 80 – 89

C: 70 – 79

D: 60 – 69

F: 0 – 59

Class Schedule

Date	Day	Topic	Quiz
28-Aug	Mon	Welcome and Class Orientation	
30-Aug	Wed	History of Psychology	
4-Sep	Mon	No Class - Labor Day	
6-Sep	Wed	Why Science?	
11-Sep	Mon	Research Designs; Syllabus Contract Due	<u>History of Psychology & Why Science?</u>
13-Sep	Wed	The Nature-Nurture Question	
18-Sep	Mon	Evolutionary Theories in Psychology	<u>Research Designs & The Nature-Nurture Question</u>
20-Sep	Wed	States of Consciousness	
25-Sep	Mon	Sensation and Perception	<u>Evolutionary Theories in Psychology & States of Consciousness</u>
27-Sep	Wed	Attention	
2-Oct	Mon	Conditioning and Learning	<u>Sensation and Perception & Attention</u>
4-Oct	Wed	Memory (Encoding, Storage, Retrieval), Day 1	
9-Oct	Mon	Memory, Day 2	
11-Oct	Wed	Judgment and Decision Making	<u>Conditioning and Learning & Memory</u>
16-Oct	Mon	Personality Traits	
18-Oct	Wed	Functions of Emotions	<u>Judgment and Decision Making & Personality Traits</u>
23-Oct	Mon	Social Cognition and Attitudes; Book Report Rough Draft Due	
25-Oct	Wed	The Psychology of Groups	<u>Functions of Emotions & Social Cognition and Attitudes</u>
30-Oct	Mon	Conformity and Obedience, Day 1	

1- Nov	Wed	Conformity and Obedience, Day 2	
6- Nov	Mon	Prejudice, Stereotyping, and Discrimination, Day 1	<u>Conformity and Obedience</u>
8- Nov	Wed	Prejudice, Stereotyping, and Discrimination, Day 2	
13- Nov	Mon	History of Mental Illness	<u>Prejudice, Stereotyping, and Discrimination</u>
15- Nov	Wed	Mood Disorders	
20- Nov	Mon	Anxiety and Related Disorders; Book Report Final Draft Due	<u>History of Mental Illness & Mood Disorders</u>
22- Nov	Wed	<u>No Class – Thanksgiving</u>	
27- Nov	Mon	Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders	
29- Nov	Wed	Therapeutic Orientations	<u>Anxiety and Related Disorders & Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders</u>
4- Dec	Mon	Psychopharmacology	
6- Dec	Wed	Spillover Day/Final Exam Review	<u>Therapeutic Orientations & Psychopharmacology</u>

Course Expectations

Attendance

Attendance will be taken daily. You will be responsible for the material presented in class as well as the assigned material from the textbook. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to contact one of your fellow students for notes from that class period. Make-ups for quizzes will not be given except in the cases of documented personal illness or injury, serious illness or injury of a family member, death in the family, or approved college-sponsored events (e.g. athletics). Appropriate documentation will ALWAYS be required before a makeup will be scheduled. Examples of appropriate documentation include a doctor's note if you are sick or injured, a letter from a parent or guardian if a family member is seriously ill, or an obituary in the case of a death in the family. Reasons other than those expressly listed above are not considered valid excuses for missing class, and make up work will not be given for these reasons.

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 the following criteria may be dropped from the course at the discretion of the instructor:**

- **Failing to turn in the syllabus contract by 11:59 PM on September 11th**
- **Having a grade of “C” or lower and any one of the following:**
 - **Missing five or more classes.**
 - **Failing to complete three or more weekly quizzes.**
 - **Failing to turn in the book report final draft.**

Tardiness

Being late does not constitute being absent but it is very disruptive and rude to come to class late so allow enough time in your schedule to arrive a few minutes early to class. If you do arrive late, quietly take a seat closest to the entrance. Also, it is your responsibility to sign the roll sheet or you will be counted absent. This is IMPORTANT! **Note: if you arrive late on a quiz day, you will not be given extra time for the quiz. If you arrive after the quiz is over, you will receive a zero on the quiz and a mark of absent for the day.**

Civility

Psychology covers a broad range of topics, and through the discussion in this class a variety of different viewpoints may be expressed. I expect you to be civil, courteous, and tolerant to both your fellow students and to me at all times during this class. Although debate is a natural and healthy part of the learning process, your disagreement with my or another student's expressed views is never justification to attack, belittle, or demean that person. Keep all discourse civil and focused on the issues. NEVER insult or intimidate me or a fellow student. It is also expected that your conduct does not interfere with the ability of other students in the class to learn. Your cell phone should be on silent when you enter class, and under no circumstances should in any way interact with your phone once class has begun. Do not speak to fellow students during class – if you have a question or would like me to repeat something, simply raise your hand and ask. While I encourage the use of technology to enhance learning in the classroom (e.g. the use of laptops to take notes), I expect that you will not abuse this privilege by checking Facebook, updating your fantasy football team, playing World of Warcraft, or otherwise engaging in activities that could distract those sitting around you. If at any time I feel that our behavior is disrupting the classroom environment, I reserve the right to have you remove yourself from the class. Should this occur, you will not be given the opportunity to make-up a missed work and you will be responsible for obtaining notes for any material you missed.

Technology

- Laptops and tablets are allowed for note-taking purposes only. No web-surfing (does anyone still say that?), email checking, Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Yik Yak, What's App?, World of Warcraft, EverQuest, Kingdom of Loathing, Ragnarok Online, Brave Frontier, Marvel: Avenger's Alliance, etc.
- NO CELL PHONES. NONE. NEVER. See how I put that in all caps? It's because I'm freakin' serious, you dig? Do not use your cell phone. It should be away at all times during class. Never, ever touch it, look at it, or think about it. If you do, you will be given one warning. If you do it again, you will be excused from class and marked absent for that day.
- NO SMART WATCHES, SMART GLASSES, OR SMART ANYTHING ELSE. If it can send text messages, put it away.
- If you are removed from class for a technology violation, you will be marked absent for the day. You will not receive credit for any work completed that day. This includes quiz days.

Plagiarism

It is expected that all work completed in this class will be original. Copying and pasting work from any sources, resubmitting assignments you have submitted in the past or in other classes, or referencing the work of others without proper citation are all considered plagiarism. If you have any doubts about whether something is plagiarism, ask me. If I catch you plagiarizing, you will receive a zero on the assignment in question and WILL NOT be given the chance to resubmit. Appropriate disciplinary action may also be taken in accord with college policy.

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)

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, 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.

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.