

## 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

### **Relevant SPC Policies & Procedures**

**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. See Instructor's Course Information for additions to the attendance policy. (See Catalog)

**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.

**Academic Appeals:** The Vice President for Student Affairs is the South Plains College Title IX Coordinator and is designated to formally investigate student grievances, address inquiries and coordinate the College's compliance efforts regarding student complaints and grievances. Whenever possible and safe, the problem or complaint should first be discussed with the individual involved in the complaint. If satisfactory resolution is not reached after discussion with the individual, the student should contact the individual's direct supervisor to attempt to resolve the complaint. If these efforts are unsuccessful, the formal grievance process may be initiated. The College does not require a student to contact the person involved or that person's supervisor if doing so is impracticable, or if the student believes that the conduct cannot be effectively addressed through informal means (See Catalog/Student Guide for full definitions and policy).

**Disability Services:** 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) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

**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)

Course Specific Information  
PSYC 2301, section 200

Instructor: Kristina M. Keyton, Ph.D.  
Office Hours: by appointment only  
Primary Office: Reese Campus, Building 4, room 405-C  
Office Phone\*\*: 806-716-4732  
E-Mail\*\*: [kkeyton@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:kkeyton@southplainscollege.edu)

\*\* Please note: I prefer to be contacted by email rather than telephone. I have voicemail in my office, but there are many times during the week when I will have access to my email, but not my office phone therefore I can get back to you more quickly if you email me rather than call me.

### **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 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.

**Course Specific Attendance Policy:** A student with 3 or more absences (not counting absences that I excuse) may be dropped, especially if: the absences follow a habitual pattern or are consecutive, the student does not contact me regarding absences, and/or the student stops completing course work. A student who is discussing his/her circumstances with me and making every effort to stay caught up will not be administratively dropped due to absences alone. When dropping due to absences, it is my policy to drop a student with an X, unless there are extenuating circumstances (e.g. cheating, etc.) that would leave me to drop a student with an F. In order for an absence to be excused, you must be able to provide independent documentation of an unavoidable situation outside of your control.

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

#### **1. In Class Activities (10 points each; Total of 250 points)**

There will be many in-class activities (reactions to readings, group work, etc.) throughout the semester (approximately 1-2 per class session). These activities will be conducted without prior announcement, 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 will 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 25 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 (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 15 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 below. For all exams, you will be required to place all belongings at the front of the room and you will not be permitted to have notes, cell phones, smart watches, hats, 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 approved movies posted on Blackboard. Any that I own on DVD will be starred on the list and put on reserve at the SPC Reese Library. 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 Thursday 8/10, I will accept late work with penalty.** I will take off 30 points for every calendar day late. I will not accept any submissions of this paper after 8/15 by 11:59 PM. 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**

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 and may also be announced in class. Some extra credits will have a specific due date, while others will be accepted until 5 PM on Friday August 11<sup>th</sup>. No extra credit will be accepted after 5 PM on Friday August 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **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
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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%), it is my policy to round up that percentage to the next whole number (e.g. 69.2% rounds to 70%).

### Tentative Schedule

Please note that you are responsible for any schedule changes announced via Blackboard, SPC email, or announced verbally in class.

Color Key

Paper

Exams

Date	Topic	Assignment due
7/13	Intro to Course Begin History of Psychology	
7/17	History of Psychology	8 AM Monday 7/17: Online Activities 7/17-7/20 become available
7/18 & 7/19	Science of Psychology	
7/20 & 7/24	Biological Foundations	5 PM Friday 7/21: Online Activities 7/17-7/20 due 8 AM Monday 7/24: Online Activities 7/24-7/27 become available
7/25	<b>EXAM 1</b> Begin Sensation and Perception	
7/26	Sensation and Perception, cont.	
7/27	Cognition and Consciousness	5 PM Friday 7/28: Online Activities 7/24-7/27 due
7/31	Motivation and Emotion	8AM Monday 7/31: Online Activities 7/31-8/3 become available
8/1	<b>EXAM 2</b> Begin Learning and Memory	
8/2	Learning and Memory, cont.	
8/3	Personality	5 PM Friday 8/4: Online Activities 7/31-8/3 due
8/7	Social Psychology	8 AM Monday 8/7: Online Activities 8/7-8/10 become available
8/8	<b>EXAM 3</b> Industrial/Organizational Psychology	<b>Paper due Thursday 8/10 before midnight (11:59 PM)</b>
8/9 & 8/10	Developmental Psychology	5 PM Friday 8/11: Online Activities 8/7-8/10 due
8/14 & 8/15	Disorders and Therapies	8 AM Monday 8/14: Online Activities 8/14-8/16 become available
8/16	Health and Positive Psychology	5 PM Thursday 8/17 (same day as final exam): Online Activities 8/14-8/16 due
Thursday 8/17	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	Arrive at your <b><i>regular classroom at the Final Exam time.</i></b> Do not be late to this exam!!



### **Course Agreement**

I have received a copy of the course syllabus. I have reviewed the syllabus thoroughly. I understand the course format, attendance, drop policy, classroom behavior, Blackboard, SPC email, assignment, and grading structure. I further understand my responsibilities and rights as explained by the instructor. I also understand that this course deals with controversial/difficult topics and will discuss any issues I have concerning the class material and/or discussion with the instructor. I agree to all the course requirements as stated in the syllabus.

Course and section number \_\_\_\_\_

Student's name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*This sheet must be turned in before the first exam and will count as 1 in class activity. This information will be kept until the completion of the corresponding semester. Following this period this sheet will be shredded and disposed of properly to ensure the confidentiality of this information.