

**South Plains College**  
**Common Course Syllabus: PSYC 2301, Sections 003 & 004**  
Revised December 2019  
**Spring 2020**

**Department:** Behavioral Sciences

**Discipline:** Psychology

**Course Number:** PSYC 2301

**Course Title:** General Psychology

**Available Formats:** Conventional, INET, ITV

**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:** OpenStax Psychology Text or Noba Psychology

**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 the 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 Policy:**

Instructors will create an attendance policy that is consistent with the "Class Attendance" policies stated below in 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.*

Additional attendance information might be included in the specific instructor's part of the syllabus.

**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;
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.

**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.

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

**Nondiscrimination Policy:** 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 for Student Affairs, South Plains College, 1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336. Phone number 806-716-2360.

**Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement:** If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, Under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To [activate](#) accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Director of Health and Wellness. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact the Director of Health and Wellness at 806-716-2362 or [email cgilster@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:cgilster@southplainscollege.edu) for assistance.

**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 and Frequently Asked Questions, please refer to the Campus Carry page at: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/campuscarry.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.

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.

### Instructor's Course Information: Miller

**Course Information:** PSYC 2301 – Spring 2020

**Office Hours:** SS117 (Levelland Campus) Mon 10am-10:45am & 2:30pm-3:30pm, Tues 10am-10:45am & 2:30pm-3:30pm, Wed 10am-10:45am & 2:30pm-3pm, Thurs 10am-10:45am & 2:30pm-3pm, Fri 10am-12pm. (806-716-2967)

**Email Address:** [mamiller@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:mamiller@southplainscollege.edu)

**Course Website:** Blackboard (<https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com>)

**Textbook:** OpenStax College, *Psychology*. OpenStax College. 8 December 2014.

- You may use the FREE online version or download a PDF version, also for free, at <http://cnx.org/content/col11629/latest/>
- You may download the book on iBooks for \$6.99 (<https://itunes.apple.com/us/book/id1049034194>)
- You may also purchase a hard copy at the SPC bookstore or online from OpenStax or Amazon

### Instructor's Classroom Policies:

- **Respect for Fellow Students:** It is the policy of South Plains College to offer all educational and employment opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability or age. All students will maintain respect for fellow classmates' personal beliefs, values, morals and life situations. In short, "Bigotry will not be tolerated." (Student Guide)
- **Electronic Devices:** Cell phones must be silenced and put away while in the classroom. Devices used for note-taking are permitted, but should be used responsibly and must not create distractions for you or others. Headphones will not be allowed during class.
- **Tardiness:** Please do your best to manage your time well and be on time to class. If you are tardy, please enter the room *quietly* and take a seat as close to the door as you can get. Being late to class is disruptive to your fellow classmates and is therefore subject to the same consequences listed in the Disruptive Behavior policy.
- **Disruptive Behavior:** Do your best to be respectful of others and their right to learn in a peaceful environment in all aspects of classroom behavior. Disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to creating distractions, talking out of turn, talking with classmates during lecture, wandering in and out of class, chronically showing up late, chronically leaving early, or improper use of technology. "Failure to comply with lawful directions of a classroom teacher relative to maintaining good order is considered misconduct on the part of the student. Repeated violations of disrupting a class will result in the student being dropped from the course." (See Student Guide)
- **Attendance & Administrative Drop Policy:** Attendance will be taken during each class meeting. Students will be responsible for material presented and discussed in class. Due to South Plains College attendance policies, any student who fails to attend 5 classes during the semester or fails to attempt a minimum of two major grades may be dropped from the course with an 'X' or 'F.'

- **Academic Integrity:** See College Catalog “Offering the work of another as one’s own, without proper acknowledgement, is plagiarism...” For further information and examples please see [www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org). Handing in work that was submitted for completion of another course will not be permitted. Students found guilty of such academic dishonesty in any form will receive a zero the work in question and will be dropped from the course with an ‘F’ should a second offense occur.
- **Late work:** Late work is not accepted in this course. No exceptions.

**Grading Policy and Method of Evaluation:** It is possible to earn up to 600 points in this course, as follows:

	Possible Points You Can Earn This Semester	Points Earned By You This Semester
Reading Quizzes (10 @ 10 pts)	100	_____
Written Assignments (4 @ 25 pts)	100	_____
Exam 1	100	_____
Exam 2	100	_____
Exam 3	100	_____
Exam 4	100	_____
<b>Totals</b>	<b>600</b>	_____

Final Grades will be determined by calculating the total amount of points earned by you this semester. Using the scale below, your instructor will determine the corresponding letter grade.

- A: 537-600 points
- B: 477-536 points
- C: 417-476 points
- D: 357-416 points
- F: 356 (or below) points

- **Reading Quizzes (10 quiz grades; 10 points each):** A reading quiz will be assigned for each chapter (9 chapters). Quizzes are designed to assess your understanding of the reading. You will have the opportunity to take each quiz twice and keep your highest score. All quizzes are taken in Blackboard and are timed. Your highest quiz score will be counted twice. See Course Calendar for all specific deadlines.
- **Written Assignments (4 assignments; 25 points each):** On 4 different occasions throughout the semester you will be required to complete an assignment on a specific topic pertaining to course content. Each assignment should be at least 1 page (roughly 250 words), but not exceeding 2 pages (roughly 500 words) in length. Content of the assignment should be an in depth explanation/discussion of the assigned topic. Including personal experience with the topic is optional, but it must be relevant to the topic if it is included and it should not be the main focus of the composition. Assignments must be typed and correctly submitted through Blackboard. Your composition should follow the guidelines of standard written English, and should follow basic essay format including an introduction, logical paragraph flow, and a conclusion. See Course Calendar for all specific deadlines.
- **Exams (4 exams; 100 points each):** Throughout the semester 4 (four) exams will be given. The 4<sup>th</sup> exam, which is considered the final exam, will not be cumulative. See Course Calendar for all exam dates.

- During exams everything you brought to class that day will be kept out of sight the entire time. This includes all electronic devices (i.e., cell phones, tablets, laptops, etc.), notebooks, backpacks, purses, etc. No “headgear” of any kind will be worn, including headphones. All you need is a pencil.
- **Make-up exams:** Students should make every possible effort to take each exam on the scheduled date and time. If necessary, students may only take **one** make-up exam during the entire semester.
  - If you will be missing an exam, you must inform the instructor at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled exam time.
  - If students fail to notify the instructor 24 hours prior to the exam, the make-up exam will automatically be scheduled during finals week.
  - If you fail to attend your scheduled make-up, your grade for that exam will remain a zero, no exceptions.