

General Psychology, PSYC 2301, Common Course Syllabus, Fall 2017

Department: Behavioral Sciences

Discipline: Psychology

Course Number: PSYC 2301

Course Title: General Psychology

Prerequisites: TSI reading compliance for INET

Available Formats: Conventional, INET, ITV

Campuses: Levelland, Reese, Lubbock, Plainview, INET

Credit: 3 Lecture: 3 Lab: 0

Does this course satisfy a core curriculum requirement? Yes – Behavioral or Social Science

Course Specific Instructions: For Internet classes, go to Blackboard. For face-to-face classes, each instructor will attach his/her course specific instructions following the common course syllabus.

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

OpenStax College, *Psychology*. OpenStax College. 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 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: See the instructor's course information for specific items used in evaluating student performance.

Student Learning Outcomes/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 thought 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 demonstrated intercultural knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities.

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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.

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).

Appeal Process: The process of appeal is outlined in the college catalog. You need to talk to the instructor first, then 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. 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). The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President of Student Affairs.

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 806-716-257; Reese Center (Building 8) and Lubbock Center, 806-716-4675; or Plainview Center Main Office, 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

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 that offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension. This policy applies to all forms of cheating and plagiarism. See Instructor’s Course Information for additions to the academic integrity policy.

Campus Carry Policy:

The 84th Texas legislature passed Senate Bill 11, commonly known as the "campus carry" bill went into effect on August 1, 2017. Individuals holding a licensed to carry (LTC) or concealed handgun license (CHL) holders will have the legal right to carry a concealed handgun onto community college campuses; however, they **cannot** openly carry the handgun. South Plains College's detailed policy required by Senate Bill 11 can be found at this link: [Policy HHC - Concealed Carry of Handgun \(Campus Carry\)](#).

What Concealed Carry Allows:

- The law permits only licensed to carry (LTC) holders or concealed handgun license (CHL) holders to carry concealed handguns on campuses.
- Allows an institution to adopt rules or regulations that prohibit license holders from carrying concealed handguns on certain areas of campus, in a building or portion of a building as long as the rules and regulations do not have the effect of generally prohibiting a license holder from carrying a concealed handgun on campus. Effective notice must be provided with respect to any place where handguns may not be carried.

What Concealed Carry Does Not Allow:

- The law does **not** allow “open carry” on college campuses. Open carry means the intentional display of a handgun, including the carry of a partially or wholly visible handgun stored in a shoulder or belt holster.
- The law does not allow the carry of rifles or shotguns on college campuses.

Dr. Barr's Course Specific Instructions and Requirements for PSYC 2301, Fall 2017

Sec. 200 MW 9:30-10:45 am; Sec. 201 MW 11-12:15; Sec. 202 MW 1-2:15 pm;
Sec. 206 TR 8-9:15 am; Sec. 207 TR 9:30-10:45 & Sec. 208 TR 11-12:15 pm

Dr. Barr's CONTACT INFORMATION:

Office: Reese Campus, Building 4, Room 405F

Office Hours: MW 8:25-9:25 am & 11:50-12:50 pm; TR 12:15-1:45 pm; Friday 9-noon, and by appointment.

Email & phone: abarr@southplainscollege.edu, (806) 716- 4641.

Student email: SPC has given ALL students an email address. Please check your email **regularly** for messages from me, and please send all of your email messages to me *from* your student email account. To access your email 1) go to <https://myspc.southplainscollege.edu> 2) log into MySPC, then 3) click on the "Student Email" link found along the left-hand side of the screen.

COURSE INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS:

Textbook: *Noba Textbook Series: Psychology*, R. Biswas-Diener & E. Diener (Eds), Champaign, IL: DEF Publishers. DOI: nobaproject.com. You may access a free, online version of this textbook at: <http://noba.to/tfke7qy2>. Alternatively, you may purchase a print copy of this textbook for less than \$20 at: <http://www.lulu.com/shop/noba-project/general-psychology-barr/paperback/product-22836182.html>.

Attendance, Borderline Grades and Drop Policy: *You must come to class to do well.* Why? Any topic I discuss is fair game on exams whether or not it is covered in the textbook. You will be counted absent if you are not *physically* present OR *mentally* present (e.g., sleeping, texting, not participating in exercises, etc.). At the end of the semester, if a student has a borderline grade (e.g., 69.2% or 89.3%, etc.), I use the student's attendance record to determine the student's final grade. If a student has missed no more than 2 classes, they will get the higher grade. Otherwise, they will get the lower grade. **There are no excused absences—you are simply allowed up to 6 absences before you run the risk of being dropped.** If a student misses more than 6 classes during the semester, I consider that excessive absences and he/she may be dropped. Thus, if you have an emergency that interferes with attendance, notify me ASAP to determine how to keep up with the class, or whether you will be dropped or need to withdraw.

Late Arrivals: At the beginning of class I play a theme song, take roll, pass out handouts and make announcements. *If you arrive late*, it is your responsibility to make sure I have marked you as present and ask me what you missed (do this when class is dismissed). If you miss more than 25 minutes of class, you will be considered absent.

Note Taking: To do well in this class I advise you to take well-organized, thorough notes. You may use a tape recorder to help you take notes. If you need help with note-taking, please visit the counselors in building 8, and/or watch this video on hand-written notes https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8t_Vzeq5L3g.

Blackboard and Class Materials: I will post class materials such as the syllabus, study guides and note taking outlines on Blackboard. Thus, you need access to a reliable, internet-ready computer so you can retrieve online materials. If you do not have a personal computer or printer, you may use the **computer labs on campus**. These labs are located in building 2 (room 207), building 4 (between rooms 450 and 451), and building 8 (room 827 and the library). There is also a lab at the SPC Lubbock Center, 39th and Ave. Q (room 109) that is available to SPC students with an ID. Students are allowed to print 60 pages per week on campus printers. This is monitored via the Paper Cut system which resets every Sunday.

To access Blackboard, go to <https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com/>, or go to the SPC homepage <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/> and click on the *Blackboard* link in the upper right side of the screen. Type your username and password. Your **username** is your first initial, followed by your last name, followed by the last four digits of your Student ID # (all lowercase, all one word, no spaces). **For example**, Jane Smith with the Student ID number 111-22-3456 has the username *jsmith3456*. Your **password** is the same password that you use to log into *MySPC*, Campus Connect and/or your SPC student email account. **If you have technical problems using Blackboard**, contact technical support at 806-716-2180, Mon-Fri 8am-4pm; or email blackboard@southplainscollege.edu or bawalker@southplainscollege.edu

EVALUATION/GRADE: Final grades will be based on a written assignment, and four exams.

Written Assignment: Each student will write a paper that is designed to assess the core objectives of your college education (communication skills, critical thinking skills, empirical and quantitative skills and understanding of social responsibility) within the context of psychology. More detailed instructions for the paper will be handed out and discussed two to three weeks after the semester begins. *Due date: Friday December 1st by noon.*

Exams: There will be four exams and they will take place every 3-4 weeks. The fourth exam is the final exam, and it will take place during final exam week. Each of the exams consists of approximately 40 multiple choice questions, and all together they will be worth **88%** of your final grade.

- *Students are allowed to re-take one of the first two exams.* To be eligible for a retake, students are first required to visit my office and complete an “exam and preparation autopsy,” in which they honestly analyze their preparation for the exam and the questions missed on the exam. The autopsy for exam 1 must be completed before the day of exam 2, and the autopsy for exam 2 must be complete before the day of exam 3. Second, students may complete the exam retake during final exam week at any of the times I am giving a final exam (see table below) or during the last week of classes (May 1st-May 5th) during my regular office hours.
- If a student misses an exam, he/she is required to schedule and complete a make-up exam within one week (7 calendar days) of the original exam date. If a student is unable to complete a make-up exam within one week, they will forfeit the retake option (see above) and instead make up the missed exam during final exam week. If a student does not complete a make-up exam according to the above policy, the exam grade will be a zero.

Methods of Evaluation				
Method	Date of Exam/Due Date	Percent of final grade	Possible Points	Points Earned
Exam 1	TBA	22%	100	
Exam 2	TBA	22%	100	
Exam 3	TBA	22%	100	
Essay	No later than Fri. Dec. 1 st <u>at noon</u>	11%	50	
Final Exam (retakes of exam 1 or 2 will also occur at the times listed here)	Sec. 201—Mon. Dec. 11 th at 10:15 am Sec. 206—Tues. Dec. 12 th at 8:00 am Sec. 208—Tues. Dec. 12 th at 10:15 am Sec. 200—Wed. Dec. 13 th at 8:00 am Sec. 202—Wed. Dec. 13 th at 10:15 am Sec. 207—Thur. Dec. 14 th at 8:00 am	22%	100	
Total Points			450	

Extra Credit: Note Sharing Each student will have the opportunity to earn *up to 5* extra credit points (e.g., this is equivalent to adding up to 5 points to an exam grade) by submitting a copy of class notes to be posted and shared on Blackboard with classmates. This opportunity is available to every student, every day, all semester for each topic we discuss. *However*, I will limit this to 4 students per lecture/class day, on a first-submitted, first-accepted basis, and students can only take advantage of this one time during the semester. Students will earn 5 points for excellent notes, 4 points for good notes, and 3 points for acceptable/ok notes. Submitted notes should include a title (the main topic of for that day), your class section (e.g., MW 11 am, TR 9:30 am, etc.), and the date.

Extra Credit: The Healthy Life The final chapter of our textbook focuses on how psychological processes can affect our physical well-being. Students may complete an assignment relating to this chapter to earn *up to 10* extra credit points. The last day to turn in this extra credit work will be Thursday Dec. 7th. More details to come.

Grading Scale for Final Course Grades:	90% or more of total possible points: 403-450=A
	80-89% of total possible points: 358-402=B
	70-79% of total possible points: 313-357=C
	60-69% of total possible points: 268-312=D
	59% or less of total possible points: 267 or less=F

COURSE OUTLINE:

Weeks 1-4: Introduction to Psychology, Psychological Research, and Biopsychology, followed by EXAM 1.
 Weeks 5-9: States of Consciousness, Learning, and Cognitive Development in children, followed by EXAM 2.
 Weeks 9-13: Memory, Personality, and Social Psychology, followed by EXAM 3.
 Weeks 13-15: Psychological Disorders and Therapies, and Well-being, followed by the FINAL EXAM.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

Labor Day Holiday (no classes)	September 4 th
12 th class day (non-attending students will be dropped)	September 13 th
SCP Fall Break (no classes)	October 13 th
December Graduation Applications due	November 7 th
Last day to drop/withdraw from a course	November 16 th
Thanksgiving Holiday (no classes)	November 22 nd -24 th
Final exam week (no classes—exams only!)	December 11 th -14 th

Gather contact information from 3 or more classmates (phone &/or email) in the event that you need to contact someone for help studying, questions about class, etc.

	Classmate's name	Phone	Email
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____

Complete the General Psychology Contract, and return to Dr. Barr on or before the third day of classes.

I, _____, have read the entire syllabus for Dr. Barr's PSYC 2301 class and the common course syllabus for PSYC2301 (including the SPC academic integrity policy, and attendance policy). I understand the contents of the syllabus and agree to abide by the terms of this document.

I understand that I should keep track of my syllabus, and if lost, I should access the syllabus on the Blackboard website _____ (initial here).

I want to work for a letter grade of _____ in this class.

I am willing to spend _____ hours per week reading, studying and/or preparing for this class.

The best study *locations* for me include _____
_____.

Based on my schedule, the best study, reading and preparation *times* for me include (list days and times) _____
_____.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Section (circle one):

MW 9:30-10:45, section 200

MW 11-12:15 pm, section 201

MW 1-2:15 pm, section 202

TR 8-9:15, section 206

TR 9:30-10:45, section 207

TR 11-12:15 pm, section 208