
SPC Common Course Syllabus for PSYC 2301 General Psychology

Department: Behavioral Sciences

Discipline: Psychology

Course Number: PSYC 2301

Course Title: General Psychology

Credit: 3 Lecture, 0 Lab

Satisfies a core curriculum requirement? Yes, Behavioral or Social Science

Prerequisites: TSI compliance in Reading

Available Formats: Conventional, INET, ITV

Campus: Levelland, Reese, ATC, Plainview, INET, and Dual Credit Campuses

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/>)

Course Specific Instructions: Each instructor will attach his/her course specific instructions. Internet - go to Blackboard.

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

Course Purpose/Rationale/Goal: 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 login to Blackboard and ConnectPlus 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 on the course specific instructions.

Course Evaluation: See the instructor's course information sheet 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. (SLO2, SLO4, SLO6)
- **Critical thinking skills**- to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information. (SLO1, SLO4, SLO5, SLO6)
- **Empirical and Quantitative skills**- to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions. (SLO1, SLO5)
- **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. (SLO1, SLO2, SLO3, SLO6)

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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.

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 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.

Instructor's Course Information

Semester: **SUMMER 1 2017**

Course: PSYC 2301.001 MTWR 2:00 p.m. to 3:55 p.m. AD150

Instructor: Robyn Inmon, Associate Professor in Psychology

Contact Information:

- Email: rinmon@southplainscollege.edu
- Phone: 806-716-2590
- Office: AD135

Office Hours:

- MTWR: 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Final Exam:

PSYC 2301.001 Tuesday, June 11 @ 2:00 p.m.

Academic Integrity - See SPC General Catalog, page 22

You are expected to do your own work. You may not work with another person to complete your paper, exams, Blackboard work, or any other assignments or homework you may be given throughout the course. You may not copy another student's work and present it as your own. You may not allow another student to copy your work. This is your reminder that any form of cheating will not be tolerated. "Complete honesty is required of the student in the presentation of any and all phases of course work. This applies to quizzes, class exams, final examinations, and daily reports and term papers." - SPC General Catalog, p. 22. If the instructor determines that cheating is occurring or an assignment has been plagiarized, the resulting grade will be zero for that assignment. A second offense will result in failure of the course and immediate withdrawal from the course.

Guidelines for Classroom Behavior

I would like to welcome all students into an environment that creates a sense of community, pride, courtesy and respect; we are all here to work cooperatively and to learn together.

In order to create a smooth and harmonious learning community, please make every attempt to come to all the class sessions, to come to class on time, and to stay until the end of the class unless you have informed the instructor that you must leave early. There may be a time when you are unavoidably late for class. In that case, please come into the room **quietly** and choose a seat **closest** to the entrance. Please see me after class to record your attendance; otherwise you will be marked absent.

Once the class session has begun, please do not leave the room and then re-enter unless it is an emergency. If you miss a class meeting for any reason, you are responsible for all material covered, for announcements made in your absence, and for acquiring any materials that may have been distributed in class.

It is important that we are all able to stay focused on the class lecture/discussion and not have disruptive behaviors in the class. For this reason, only one person at a time in the class should be speaking. Side conversations are distracting for surrounding students and for me. Also, it is very rude to read papers, sleep or work on assignments for other classes in this class. If you feel the need to do any of these things you may leave and return the next class. For additional information on student misconduct refer to pages 11-15 of the *Student Guide*. Failure to abide by policies may result in expulsion from the class and an “F” for the semester. As you can see, simple norms of courtesy should be sufficient to have our class run in the best interests of all of us. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Cell Phones and other Electronic Devices

Cellular phones, pagers and other electronic devices will not be used for this course. Cell phones should be set in a manner that will not cause disruption in the classroom (either silenced or off) and placed out of sight of the instructor. Any student seen using a cell phone during class will be asked to leave the class immediately. Any devices that ring, beep, or otherwise disrupt the classroom during an exam will result in the student’s exam being taken up immediately. The use of any electronic device during an exam will result in immediate expulsion from the class and a grade of zero (0) will be given for the exam. The use of a lap top during class is not permitted.

Attendance

You are expected to attend class each time it meets. Regular attendance is to your advantage, as test questions will include information from the lecture, class discussion and other material presented in class. Roll will be taken at each class session and a record of attendance maintained.

Students will be allowed three (3) absences during the semester. Upon the fourth (4th) absence, a student may be administratively withdrawn from the course with a grade of X. Any student missing four consecutive classes will automatically be dropped from the course.

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. Two tardies will equal one absence. Excessive tardiness may result in student being administratively withdrawn from the course.

Grading Policy:

1) Blackboard Exercises (180 pts. / 26%)

Students will complete 14 matching or multiple-choice exercises over the chapters covered in the course. These exercises are for you to test your understanding of important concepts in each chapter.

2) Discussions (120 pts. / 17%)

These are written assignments submitted through Blackboard that all students in the course will read. There are two parts to the discussions: for all discussion assignments you will post *at least a 150 word*

post on a particular topic AND respond with *at least a 150 word response* to one post by a fellow student. You will not be given credit for postings that do not meet the minimum requirement for length. In your response post, *do not just repeat what was stated in the original post*. Add to what was previously stated with more information, your opinion or experience, or something meaningful, showing that you have thought about the topic. Sentences like “I agree with this,” or “That is interesting,” will not be counted toward the 150 word requirement.

To help you do the best you can, I am giving you a grading rubric for the discussion postings and replies:

- **Posts:**
 - An **11-15 point post** has: thoughtful commentary that specifically includes references and/or discussion to the reading, video or other material; personal experience when relevant; introduces new ideas and questions; and/or thoroughly addresses the topic; includes at least the minimum number of words.
 - A **5-10 point post** has: reference to some type of course material; some personal reference but may not clearly connect to the course material or topic; did not thoroughly address the topic; includes at least the minimum number words.
 - A **0-4point post** has: incorrect or partial posts; no reference to relevant material; irrelevant ideas; does not meet the minimum number of words; is repetitious; no post.
- **Replies:**
 - An **11-15 point reply** is a reply that: explicitly references ideas in the post; gives personal commentary in a constructive way; may correct an incorrect posting in a respectful way; elaborates on the ideas and questions posed in the original post; reflects a good understanding of the course material; and/or brings up course material that the original post did not include but was relevant; includes at least 150 words.
 - A **5-10 point reply** is a reply that: briefly elaborates on the ideas and questions posed in the original post; is a personal response that may or may not clearly tie to the original post but is somewhat relevant; repeated too much of original post; includes at least 150 words.
 - A **0-4 point reply** is a reply that: includes brief encouragement; is a statement of agreement or disagreement; is an unclear or offensive response; does not meet the minimum number of words; no reply.

Points will also be taken off for incorrect spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and grammar. Do not write like you do when texting or messaging. You need to use correct Standard English in all of your writing.

3) Exams (400 pts. / 57%)

There will be 4 class exams each worth 100 points. The final exam will not be comprehensive. Exams will consist of multiple-choice items. The test questions will cover the chapters assigned, lecture notes, and class discussions over material that may or may not be in your text.

Students should make every effort to take each exam on the scheduled date. Students who miss a scheduled exam can make it up after taking their final exam on June 11, 2017. A student will be allowed to make-up only **one** missed exam. Failure to take a second exam on the scheduled date will result in a zero (0) for that exam. Failure to take an exam on the scheduled date for a third time will result in the student being administratively dropped from the course.

All electronic devices will be turned off and put out of sight during exams. Any violation of this rule will result in a zero (0) for that exam. No hats, caps, or any type of headwear (including earphones) will be allowed during an exam.

Grading Scale

630 pts. to	700+ pts.	=	A (90.0% -100%)
560 pts. to	629 pts.	=	B (80.0% - 89.99%)
490 pts. to	559 pts.	=	C (70.0% - 79.99%)
420 pts. to	489 pts.	=	D (60.0% - 69.99%)
0 pts. to	419 pts.	=	F (0% - 59.99%)

Any student concerned with their grade is welcome to meet with the instructor throughout the semester to discuss ways of improving study habits, test-taking skills, etc.

Lecture notes over the Power Point presentations I use in class are available on Blackboard. Students are encouraged to read each chapter in the book and print out the power point notes *prior* to each class.