

General Psychology, PSYC 2301, Common Course Syllabus, Fall 2018

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.

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

OpenStax College, *Psychology*. OpenStax College. December 2014) **OR** R. Biswas-Diener & E. Diener (Eds), *Noba Textbook Series: Psychology*. Champaign, IL: DEF Publishers. DOI: nobaproject.com. (SEE PAGE 3 OF THE SYLLABUS FOR MORE INFORMATION)

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, students should attend all class meetings and/or login to internet courses at least twice weekly. In addition, satisfactorily complete all homework assignments and examinations on time, and satisfactorily complete all other projects or papers as assigned in the course instructions.

Course Evaluation: See 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. CIP # 42.0101.51 25

Core Objectives addressed:

- **Communication skills-** includes effective written, oral and visual communication.
- **Critical thinking skills-** includes 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.

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).

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 806-716-2529; Reese Center (Building 8) and Lubbock Center, 806-716-4675; or Plainview Center Main Office, 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

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 Chris Straface, Director of Health and Wellness at 806-716-2362 or email cstraface@southplainscollege.edu for assistance.

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 2018

Sec. 013 MW 9:30-10:45 am; Sec. 014 MW 11 am-12:15 pm; Sec. 015 MW 1-2:15 pm;
Sec. 017 TR 8-9:15 am; Sec. 018 TR 9:30-10:45; Sec. 019 TR 11 am-12:15 pm; and Sec. 020 TR 1-2:15 pm

Dr. Barr's CONTACT INFORMATION:

Office: Reese Campus, Building 4, Room 405F

Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed. and Thur. 2:15-3:15; Friday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm, *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 your professors, and please send all of your email messages to me *from* your student email account. To access your email log in to SPC Portal 1) <https://portal.southplainscollege.edu> 2) enter your username and password, (your **username** is your first initial, followed by your full 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 your first initial capitalized, followed by the first four letters of your last name, lowercase, followed a dollar sign, \$, followed by the last four digits of your social security # OR your six digit birthday, mmddyyy) then 3) scroll down and click on (Unread) Messages on the bottom right.

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>, or 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-23484016.html> , or you may access the PDF version of the textbook on Blackboard.

Attendance, Borderline Grades and Drop Policy: *You must come to class with your game face on to do well.* Why? Any topic we discuss in class 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, on your phone, 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 start of class I take roll, pass out handouts, make announcements, and have students turn in work and/or complete a quiz or activity to demonstrate their preparation for class. *Students who arrive after a quiz or activity has ended will not be able to make it up.* Late students are also responsible for making sure they are marked as present.

Note Taking: I encourage you to take organized, thorough notes, using the method you prefer. To help, I will provide chapter outlines and definitions for each chapter that can be used as note-taking guides (on Blackboard). In addition, you may use a tape recorder to help you take notes, however I do not allow students to take notes on their laptops, tablets or phones because research finds this to be an ineffective learning tool. I also encourage and will teach you about "retrieval taking," which is a different way to take notes. See the counselors in building 8 for additional help regarding notes.

Blackboard and Class Materials: Throughout the semester you are required to access class materials using Blackboard. Thus, you need a reliable, internet-ready computer so you can retrieve these 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 Lubbock Center, 39th and Ave. Q (room 109) 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 portal <http://portal.southplainscollege.edu/> and click on the *Blackboard Learn* link in the "Get Me There Quick" section. Enter your username and password. **If you have technical problems using Blackboard**, contact technical support at 806-716-2180, Mon-Fri 8am-4pm; or email blackboard@southplainscollege.edu or go to <https://help.blackboard.com>

EVALUATION/COURSE GRADE: Final course grades will be based on the following:

Class Preparation Grade: To allow for more in-depth discussion and interaction during class, you are required to be prepared for class by completing work before the beginning of class. Each day you are required to show basic preparation for class, which may include turning in your answers to reading questions, videos and/or podcasts; completing a short quiz or similar assessment either on Blackboard or at the beginning of class; and/or turning in a completed questionnaire, worksheet, etc. Each *individual* preparation grade is low stakes—worth 3 points each (3=perfect/near perfect, 2=good/acceptable, 1=needs improvement, 0=incomplete), however, all together your preparation grades will amount to 15% of your final grade. Please note: if you have been assigned preparation work and do not turn in evidence of your work, you will be asked to complete your preparation work at the back of the classroom during class time. Consequently, you will not be allowed to complete a quiz, assessment or activity based on the preparation work that takes place during class time. In addition, I will not accept late preparation work—it will only be accepted at the beginning of class on the day it is due. However, I understand that life is not always smooth sailing, so I will drop your two lowest preparation grades at the end of the semester.

In-Class Activities/Exercises: During class we will review the basic ideas from a chapter, and then delve deeper into the topic by completing discussions, activities and exercises. If you have not prepared for class, you will be asked to complete your preparation work at the back of the classroom while the rest of us discuss and complete in-class activities. You may only participate in these in-class activities/exercises if you turned in evidence of your preparation for class. Each *individual* in-class activity/exercise is low stakes—worth 3 points each (3=perfect/near perfect, 2=good/acceptable, 1=needs improvement, 0=incomplete), however, all together the activities/exercises will amount to 15% of your final grade. In-class activities cannot be made up if you are absent. However, I understand that some days are more challenging than others, so I will drop your two lowest in-class activity grades at the end of the semester.

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. All four exams will count toward your final grade, and will amount to 70% of your final grade.

- 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 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.

| Method of Evaluation | | |
|----------------------|---|------------------------|
| Method | Date of Exam/Due Date | Percent of Final Grade |
| Preparation work | Daily | 15% |
| In-Class activities | Daily | 15% |
| Exam 1 | Tues. Sept 25 th (TR classes); Wed. Sept. 26 th (MW classes) | 17.5% |
| Exam 2 | Thur. Oct. 18 th (TR classes); Mon. Oct. 22 nd (MW classes) | 17.5% |
| Exam 3 | Tues. Nov. 13 th (TR classes); Wed. Nov. 14 th (MW classes) | 17.5% |
| Final Exam | Sec. 014—Mon. Dec. 10 th , 10:15 am Sec. 017—Tue. Dec. 11 th , 8:00 am Sec. 019— Tue. Dec. 11 th , 10:15 am Sec. 013— Wed. Dec. 12 th , 8:00 am Sec. 015—Wed. Dec. 12 th , 10:15 am Sec. 018—Thus. Dec. 13 th , 8:00 am Sec. 020—Thur. Dec. 13 th , 10:15 am | 17.5% |

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| Grading Scale for Final Course Grades: (please keep in mind that <u>exams</u> will be weighted as 70% of the final grade, <u>preparation work</u> weighted as 15% of the final grade, and <u>in-class work</u> weighted as 15% of the final grade) | 90% or more on all graded and weighted work: | A |
| | 80-89% on all graded and weighted work: | B |
| | 70-79% on all graded and weighted work: | C |
| | 60-69% on all graded and weighted work: | D |
| | 59% or less on all graded and weighted work: | F |

COURSE OUTLINE:

Weeks 1-4: Thinking like a Psychological Scientist, Research Design, and Biopsychology, followed by EXAM 1.

Weeks 5-9: States of Consciousness, Learning, followed by EXAM 2.

Weeks 9-13: Memory, Personality, and Social Psychology, followed by EXAM 3.

Weeks 13-15: Psychological Disorders and Therapy, followed by the FINAL EXAM.

IMPORTANT DATES:

| | |
|---|--|
| Labor Day Holiday (no classes) | Monday, September 3 rd |
| 12 th class day (non-attending students will be dropped) | Wednesday, September 12 th |
| SPC Fall Break (no classes) | Friday, October 12 th |
| Last day to drop/withdraw from a class | Thursday, November 15 th |
| Thanksgiving Holiday (no classes) | Wed. November 21 st -Fri. November 23 rd |
| Final exam week (no classes—exams only!) | Mon. Dec.10 th – Thur. Dec. 13 th |

Gather contact information from 4 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. _____ | | |

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General Psychology Contract

Complete and return to Dr. Barr on or before our fourth day of classes

I, _____, have read the entire syllabus for Dr. Barr's PSYC 2301 class. I understand the policies described in the syllabus and agree to abide by these policies.

I understand I may be dropped if I miss more than ____ PSYC 2301 classes.

I understand that I am required to complete and turn in work as preparation for class each day, and that this work is worth ____ % of my final grade.

I understand that if I do not turn in my preparation work at the beginning of class that I will be allowed to sit at the back of the room to finish that work. However, I will not be able to complete a quiz over the prep work, or to participate in in-class activities related to the prep work, and thus I will receive a zero for the related quiz &/or in-class activity ____ (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)

_____.

Describe your backup plans in the event that the computer you usually use, &/or your internet, is not working:

_____.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Your Section (circle one):

MW 9:30-10:45, section 013

TR 8-9:15, section 017

MW 11-12:15 pm, section 014

TR 9:30-10:45, section 018

MW 1-2:15 pm, section 015

TR 11-12:15 pm, section 019

TR 1-2:15 pm, section 020