

Common Course Syllabus for General Psychology, PSYC 2301, Fall 2019

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| Course Number: PSYC 2301 | Department: Behavioral Sciences | Campuses: Levelland, RC, LC, PV, INET |
| Discipline: Psychology | Title: General Psychology | Satisfies Core Curriculum Requirement? Yes |
| Credit: 3 Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 | Formats: Conventional, INET, ITV | Prerequisites: TSI reading compliance for INET |

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.

Welcome to General Psychology (PSYC 2301) with Dr. Barr

Fall 2019: Sec. 271 MW 8-9:15 am (LC); Sec. 272 MW 9:30-10:45 am (LC); Sec. 202 MW 1 -2:15 pm (RC);
Sec. 204 TR 11-12:15 pm (RC); Sec. 205 TR 1-2:15 pm (RC)

CONTACT ME—I'm here to help!

Office: Reese campus, Building 4, room 405H **Email:** abarr@southplainscollege.edu **Phone:** (806)716-4641

Office Hours: Mon & Wed 10:45-11:30 am at the Lubbock Center; Mon & Wed 2:15-4:00 pm at Reese; Tue & Thur 2:15-3:45 pm at Reese; and Fri by appointment. *Please drop by my office hours, email me or call me if you need clarification regarding class material, want to review an exam or need help with your paper.*

SPC Student email: Please check your SPC student email regularly for messages from your professors, and please send your email messages to me from this account. South Plains College provides all students admitted to SPC with an SPC Google email account which you can access by signing into MySPC. To log in to MySPC, click on the MySPC link located in the upper right corner of any page on our website. Then use the username and password provided in your acceptance letter. Once you are logged in to MySPC you will find the link to your email in the lower right-hand corner. If you encounter any problems, contact the help desk immediately at helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu or (806)716-2600.

COURSE INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS:

Classroom Conduct: Students are expected to behave in a manner that contributes to a positive learning environment for all of us. I want everyone to have the opportunity to learn as much as possible in my class, therefore students are required to *turn off or silence electronic devices* (that means your phone) *and stow them away, out of sight* (that does not include your lap—phones should be stowed in a backpack, a bag/purse or your vehicle). Inappropriate behavior that distracts others (i.e., using cell phones, derogatory language, etc.) will result in, minimally, a request to leave class.

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 free PDF version of the textbook on Blackboard.

Blackboard: The majority of course content and class materials will be given to you during class time. However, you will need to access materials on Blackboard as well, especially if you have missed class or misplaced a paper from class. To access Blackboard, go to <https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com/>, or log in to MySPC, and click on “Blackboard Learn” in the section titled “Get Me There Quick.” To access Blackboard you will also need a reliable, internet-ready computer. If you do not have a personal computer or printer to access and/or print class materials, you may use any **SPC computer labs**. On the Reese campus, there is a computer lab in building 8 (room 827 and the library), building 2 (room 207), and building 4 (adjacent to room 451). At the Lubbock Center (39th and Avenue Q) the computer lab is in room 109, and at the Levelland campus the main computer lab is in the Technology building. If you have technical problems using Blackboard, contact technical support at 806-716-2180, Mon-Fri, 8 am – 4 pm; or email blackboard@southplainscollege.edu or go to <https://help.blackboard.com>.

Note Taking: Students need to take thorough, well-organized notes by hand. Accordingly, I will post an incomplete version of my power points on Blackboard. I ask that you print these, bring them to class, and add plentiful notes of your own. Research studies have found that students learn and remember more when taking notes by hand compared to taking notes on a computer, laptop or tablet (which I do not allow). If you feel like you need help taking better notes, you are welcome to bring a tape recorder to class, and/or visit with the academic counselors (building 8) who can provide guidance on numerous note taking strategies.

Attendance: I will take roll every day so that I have an accurate record of who is consistently attending class. Please be aware that it may be difficult for you to follow discussions if you have missed the previous class. So, do everything you can to be here every day. And, *if you must miss class, make sure to get notes from a classmate and read through the borrowed notes, as well as the relevant pages of the textbook, before you return to class.*

Attendance matters! 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 your ability to attend class, notify me ASAP. We can then determine how you can keep up with course material, or if you need to withdraw.

Arrive on time! I typically take roll, make announcements, pass out handouts, return graded work or exams, etc. at the beginning of class each day. Students who arrive late invariably miss important information, so make it a habit to be here on time! If you arrive late, you need to stay after class to make sure that you have been counted as present. In other words, *it becomes your responsibility to make sure you're on my roll sheet if you arrive late.*

EVALUATION/COURSE GRADE:

Written Assignment: Students will complete a written assignment that is designed to enhance your understanding of psychological concepts, as well as your critical thinking skills, communication skills and empirical/quantitative skills. I expect students’ written assignments to be typed in 10-12 point font and double-spaced. The written assignment is worth 50 points (equivalent to half an exam grade). Written assignments that are turned in late will lose 5 points for each day after the due date (in addition to any points lost due to content or grammar errors). Please be aware that there are writing centers on every campus, where students can receive help on any written assignment. On the Reese campus, the writing center is in Building 3, room 307E. At the Lubbock Campus (39th and Ave. Q), the writing center is in the “Learning Center.” On the Levelland campus the writing center is in the English and Communication Building, room CME 112.

In-Class Retrieval Practice: Researchers have found that retrieving information from memory *without “outside help”* is one of the most effective ways to enhance your memory for newly learned information. Thus, during almost every class I will ask students to answer questions about concepts from our previous class or from that day, *without the help of notes or a textbook.* Retrieval Practices may take place at the beginning of class, in the middle of class, or at the end.

To ensure that you do well on retrieval practices, you should review your most recent notes before each class, pay close attention during class, and ask questions if something is unclear. Moreover, if you miss a class, you need to get notes from a classmate ASAP, and review those notes before the next class. Each in-class retrieval practice is relatively low stakes—worth 3 points each (3=perfect, 2.5= very good, 2=acceptable, 1.5=needs improvement, 1=numerous comprehension errors, 0=incomplete/absent). While each individual retrieval practice is somewhat low stakes, there will be at least fifteen retrieval practices total, so all together they can have a significant impact on your final grade. Moreover, in-class retrieval practices cannot be made up if you are absent.

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. 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 be required to make up the missed exam during final exam week. If a student does not complete a make-up exam according to the stated policy, the exam grade will be a zero.

| CALCULATION OF FINAL GRADE | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|---------------|
| Method | Due Dates/Exam Dates | Total possible points* | Points earned |
| In-Class Retrieval Practice (RP) | Definitely Weekly/Almost Daily | (15 + at 3 pts each) total points to be determined: <u># of RPs X 3 points</u> = _____ total points | |
| Witten Assignment | Wed. Nov 20 th , Thur. Nov 21 st | 50 | |
| Exam 1 | Tues. Sept. 24 th ; Wed. Sept. 13 th 25 | 100 | |
| Exam 2 | Mon. Oct. 21 st ; Tues. Oct. 22 nd | 100 | |
| Exam 3 | Wed. Nov. 13 th ; Thur. Nov. 14 th | 100 | |
| Final Exam | Sec. 271—Mon. Dec 9 th , 8:00 am Sec. 204—Tue. Dec 10 th , 10:15 am Sec. 272—Wed. Dec 11 th , 8:00 am Sec. 202—Wed. Dec 11 th , 10:15 am Sec. 205—Thur. Dec 12 th , 10:15 am | 100 | |
| | | Total possible points in class=_____ | |

*NOTE FOR THE PREVIOUS TABLE: the total possible points in the course will be affected by the number of retrieval practices that students complete. This number has not been set yet (it will be at least 15, but could be up to 20). Once we reach the last 2-3 weeks of classes, I will have a better estimate of the total number of retrieval practices for the semester.

To calculate your average during the middle of the semester, add up the points you have earned *at that time in the semester*, divide by the total possible points you could have earned *at that time in the semester*, and then multiple by 100. (A = 90-100%; B = 80-89%; C = 70-79%; D= 60-69%; F = 59% or less)

To calculate your final grade on a 100-point percentage scale, add all the points you earned, divide by the total possible points, and multiple by 100. Use the grading scale below to determine your final course grade:

| | |
|---|---|
| Grading Scale for Final Course Grades: | 90% or more of total possible points: A |
| | 80-89% of total possible points: B |
| | 70-79% of total possible points: C |
| | 60-69% of total possible points: D |
| | 59% or less of total possible points: 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, (& Judgement/Decision Making, if time permits) followed by EXAM 2.
 Weeks 9-13: Memory, Personality, and Social Psychology, followed by EXAM 3.
 Weeks 13-15: Psychological Disorders and Therapy, (& Well-being, if time permits) followed by the FINAL EXAM.

IMPORTANT ACADEMIC DATES AND HOLIDAYS:

Monday, September 2—Labor Day Holiday, no classes
 Wednesday, September 11—12th Class Day (non-attending students will be dropped)
 Friday, October 11—SPC Fall Break, all campus buildings and offices closed
 Thursday, November 14—Last day to drop
 November 27th through 29th—Thanksgiving Holiday
 December 9th through 12th—Final Exam Week (no regularly held classes, final exams only)

Please write your name here: _____ (so that you know this syllabus belongs to you).

Now, swap contact information with 3-4 classmates (phone &/or email) in case you need to contact someone for help studying, questions about class, etc. Also, I encourage you all to form study groups to prepare for exams if your schedule allows.

| 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 class day

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 that the written assignment is worth half an exam grade, and that I can go to office hours and/or the writing center for feedback and help prior to turning in my paper. _____ (initial here)

I understand that I should be prepared to complete retrieval practice at the beginning, middle or end of class each day, these cannot be made up if absent, and that retrieval practices contribute to my final grade. _____ (initial here)

I understand I may be dropped if I have more than ____ absences.

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.

Note: it is recommended that students spend 2-3 hours studying outside of class for every hour inside of class.

The best study locations for me include _____
_____.

Based on my weekly schedule, the best *times* for me to study, read and review include (list **exact** days of the week 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 8:00-9:15 am, section 271 (Lubbock Center)

MW 9:30-10:45 am, section 272 (Lubbock Center)

MW 1-2:15 pm, section 202 (Reese Campus)

TR 11:00-12:15 pm, section 204 (Reese Campus)

TR 1-2:15 pm, section 205 (Reese Campus)