

## Common Course Syllabus

**Department:** Behavioral Sciences

**Discipline:** Psychology

**Course Number:** PSYC 2301

**Course Name:** General Psychology

**Credit:** 3 Lecture: 3 Lab: 0

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

**Prerequisites:** TSI reading compliance for INET

**Available Formats:** conventional; INET; ITV

**Campuses:** Levelland, Reese, Lubbock Center, Plainview, INET

**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/>)

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

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

**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:** Please see the instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in Evaluation of student performance.

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

CIP # 42.0101

**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.

**Campus Concealed Carry syllabus statement:** 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, please refer to the SPC policy at: ([http://www.southplainscollege.edu/human\\_resources/policy\\_procedure/hhc.php](http://www.southplainscollege.edu/human_resources/policy_procedure/hhc.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.

**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 (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 Center 806-716-2577, Reese Center (Building 8) and Lubbock Center: 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: Mrs. Miller**

**Course Information:** PSYC 2301 – Spring 2018

**Office Hours:** SS117 Mon 10am-11am, Tues 10am-11am & 2:30pm-4pm, Wed 10am-11am, Thurs 2:30pm-3pm, Fri 9am-12am (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:** The **use of cell phones** is not permitted in the classroom; they should be silenced and put away while in the classroom. Devices used for note-taking are permitted, but should be used responsibly and should not create distractions for you or others.
- **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 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 will receive a 0 (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	_____
Totals	600	_____

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 quizzes; 10 points each):** A reading quiz will be assigned for each chapter. 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 hats or “headgear” of any kind will be worn, including headphones and sun glasses. 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 be a 0 (zero), no exceptions.