

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, ATC, Plainview, INET

Textbook: 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.

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 (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.

Specific Course Policies

Contacting the Instructor

Name Dr. Will Crescioni
Office Location RC405A, Reese Campus

Email	wcrescioni@southplainscollege.edu				
Office Phone	(806) 716-2468				
Office Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1:00 – 3:00	1:00 – 3:00	N/A	1:00 – 3:00	9:00 – 11:00
	Additional office hours available by appointment.				

Student e-mail

SPC has given all students access to a free email account. Email will be the primary means of communication in this course, and I expect you to check it regularly. **ALL EMAIL COMMUNICATION MUST BE CONDUCTED USING YOUR OFFICIAL SPC EMAIL.** We will often be discussing sensitive or confidential issues over email (e.g. grades). As such, I will not respond to any email other than your official SPC email address. Emails from gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo!, etc. will not receive a response.

Email Etiquette

All emails must include:

- A meaningful subject line
- Your full name, as it appears on Blackboard
- Your class and section

The following link has some great general tips for composing professional emails:

http://writingcenter.emory.edu/resources/writing_tips_resources/email_etiquette.html

I teach multiple classes at SPC, as well as classes at other colleges in the area. If you do not clearly identify yourself and the class you are asking about, I have no way of answering your question. For example, an email that simply reads “When is the test?” is useless. Which test? For which class? My general class? My lifespan class? The experimental class I teach at LCU? Therefore, if you do not provide a the information I need to help you, you will not get help. Here is an example of a well-composed email:

Hello Dr. Crescioni,

My name is Student McStudentson, and I am in your PSY 2301 MW class at 1:00. I was looking at the syllabus and it said that our second test was next Monday, but I thought I remembered you saying in class that it had been delayed until Wednesday. If you could let me know for sure I’d really appreciate it.

Thanks,
Student McStudentson

That email will get a quick response.

Course Structure

These course consists of 15 weekly Learning Modules (LMs). Each LM consists of one or more readings, one or more videos, and one quiz on the material covered that week. At the end of the semester, you will take a cumulative final exam covering all previous modules. You will also complete a book report, which includes a rough draft and a final draft.

Assignments

There are three types of assignments in the course: weekly quizzes, the final exam, and the book report.

Weekly Quizzes

- Worth 20 points each
- 20 multiple choice questions based only on material from that week’s LM
- Two attempts; only the best of the two attempts will be graded
- 25 minute time limit per attempt
- Due each Friday by 10:00 AM.

Final Exam

- Worth 100 points
- 50 multiple choice questions covering all LMs
- One attempt
- 75 minute timer
- Due December 12th by 10:00 AM.

Book Report

Due November 9th by 10:00 AM

During the course of the semester, you will choose and read one of the following popular-press books:

- *Willpower*, by Roy Baumeister
- *Stumbling on Happiness*, by Daniel Gilbert
- *Blink*, by Malcom Gladwell
- *Whistling Vivaldi*, by Claude Steele
- *The Righteous Mind*, by Jonathan Haidt
- *The Better Angels of our Nature*, by Steven Pinker
- *Make It Stick: The Science of Successful Learning*, by Peter C. Brown and Henry L. Roediger III
- *Thinking, Fast and Slow*, by Daniel Kahneman
- *Predictably Irrational*, by Dan Ariely
- *The Invisible Gorilla*, by Daniel Simons
- *Blindspot*, by Mahzarin Banaji and Anthony Greenwald
- *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*, by Carol Dweck

After reading this book, you will write a 3 – 5 page, double-spaced report responding to the following:

1. What was the central premise of the book? Explain the main ideas and topics of the book.
2. Choose at least one specific study or example from the book and explain, in your own words, what the example was and how it was relevant to the author's point.
3. What is at least one lesson from the book that you feel you could apply in your own life?
4. What is at least one thing from the book that you believe everyone would benefit from learning?

A detailed grading rubric will be made available via Blackboard.

Missed Work

It is strictly your responsibility to ensure that you turn assignments in on time. All due dates are available both in this syllabus and on Blackboard. In addition, it is your responsibility to ensure that you have access to a working computer with a stable internet connection. Inability to access assignments, quizzes that are submitted unintentionally, and other technical issues will only be accepted as excuses meriting a make-up if the issue was class-wide. Issues stemming from the student's own computer, internet provider, etc. will not be considered valid excuses.

Makeup Decision Table

Situation	Resolution
The entire class is unable to access Blackboard at the time the quiz was due.	No action is required on your part. As soon as I am aware of the outage, I will apply an extension to the due date of the quiz for the entire class. I will notify the class once this has occurred.

A student is sick the day the quiz is due, or was in the hospital for more than three days during the week of a topic.	Contact me to schedule a makeup. You will need to provide documentation of admission to the hospital or ER. Note that you must schedule your makeup within one week of the last date indicated on your medical documentation (e.g. if you got out of the hospital on the 4 th , you'd need to schedule your makeup no later than the 11 th).
A student lost a loved one within one week prior to the date a quiz was due.	Contact me for a makeup. You will need to provide documentation in the form of an obituary or funeral program.
A student was caring for a terminally ill loved during the week the quiz was due.	Contact me for a makeup. You will need to provide documentation in the form of a doctor's note for the loved one in question.
A single student is unable to access Blackboard at the time the quiz was due, but other students could access Blackboard.	No makeup given. It is your responsibility to ensure reliable access to the internet throughout the course. See the "Tech Troubleshooting" section for tips.
Blackboard or the course text are unavailable at some point during the week, but not at the time the quiz is due.	No makeup given. Please be sure to download a PDF copy of the book so that, in the unlikely event that the book website goes down, you are still able to complete the readings for the week.
A student was traveling and did not have access to the internet when the quiz was due.	No makeup given. It is your responsibility to ensure access to the internet throughout the semester. If you will be traveling, you should either work ahead to complete your work before leaving, or ensure that you will be able to access the internet at your destination.
A student forgot to submit a quiz prior to the due date.	No makeup given. It is your responsibility to make note of all due dates and to ensure that you complete your assignments in a timely fashion.

Assignment/Grade Inquiries

Grades for weekly quizzes will automatically post as soon as you have completed both attempts. If you have any questions or concerns about your grade (e.g. you think a question was wrong; you believe your posted grade is too low; you have a zero but completed the assignment) you must contact me within one week of the due date. If, for example, you contact me at the end of the semester claiming you completed several assignments for which you have zeroes, it will be too late.

Grading

14 weekly quizzes at 20 points each = 280 points

Book Report = 120 points

Final Exam = 100 points

Total points = 500 points

I will round up to the nearest whole number when computing your final grade (e.g. an 89.5 would become a 90, whereas an 89.4 would become an 89). Artificial grade boosts will never be offered; what you earn is what you get. Thus, the grading scale is as follows:

A: > 447 points

B: 398 - 447 points

C: 348 – 397 points

D: 298 – 347 points

F: < 298 points

Checking grades on Blackboard

Quiz grades should automatically post once you have completed your second attempt or once the due date has passed, whichever comes first. If you complete no attempts on a weekly quiz prior to the due date, Blackboard will leave that column blank until I manually assign a grade of zero. Keep in mind that this may cause your grade to appear higher than it is, because Blackboard will not factor that zero into your average until I have entered it.

Administrative Drop Policy

Due to Financial Aid and South Plains College requirements for participation/attendance, students who fail to maintain satisfactory course participation may be dropped with a grade of “X” from the course. **A student who meets any of the following criteria may be dropped from the course at the discretion of the instructor:**

- **Missing five or more weekly quizzes.**
- **Having not logged into the course Blackboard page for 14 consecutive days.**
- **Failing to submit the book report within four days of the due date.**

Course Schedule

31-Aug	Fri	Syllabus	Welcome Video	Syllabus Quiz
7-Sep	Fri	History of Psychology, What is Science?, Research Designs	Introduction to Psychology	Week 1 Quiz

14-Sep	Fri	Neurons, Nervous System, The Brain	The Chemical Mind, Meet Your Master, Getting to Know your Brain	Week 2 Quiz
21-Sep	Fri	Vision and Hearing, Taste and Smell, Touch and Pain	Sensation and Perception, Perceiving is Believing	Week 3 Quiz
28-Sep	Fri	Theory of Mind, Consciousness, The Unconscious	Consciousness; To Sleep, Perchance to Dream; Altered States	Week 4 Quiz
5-Oct	Fri	Categories and Concepts, Judgment and Decision Making	Cognition: How Your Mind can Amaze and Betray You	Week 5 Quiz
12-Oct	Fri	Attention, Failures of Awareness: The Case of Inattentional Blindness	Seeing the World as it Isn't	Week 6 Quiz

19-Oct	Fri	Memory (Encoding, Storage, Retrieval), Forgetting and Amnesia, Eyewitness Testimony and Memory Biases	How We Make Memories, Remembering and Forgetting	Week 7 Quiz;
26-Oct	Fri	Conditioning and Learning	How to Train a Brain, The Bobo Beatdown	Week 8 Quiz
2-Nov	Fri	Functions of Emotions, Drive States, Motives and Goals, Self and Identity, Personality Traits	The Power of Motivation, Measuring Personality, Feeling all the Feels; Emotion, Stress, and Health	Week 9 Quiz
9-Nov	Fri	The Psychology of Groups, Social Cognition and Attitudes, Conformity and Obedience	Social Thinking; Social Influence	Week 10 Quiz
16-Nov	Fri	Self-Regulation and Conscientiousness, Helping and Prosocial Behavior, Aggression and Violence; Prejudice, Discrimination, and Stereotyping	Prejudice and Discrimination; Altruism V. Aggression	Week 11 Quiz

23-Nov	Fri	Thanksgiving		
		Mood Disorders, Anxiety and Related Disorders	OCD and Anxiety Disorders, Depressive and Bipolar Disorders	Week 12 Quiz
30-Nov	Fri			
		Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders	Schizophrenia and Associative Disorders	Week 13 Quiz
7-Dec	Fri			
12-Dec	Wed	None	None	Final Exam

Note: Course schedule is subject to change.

Learning Modules

Each of the above weeks of material can be found in the corresponding Learning Module (LM) on Blackboard. Each LM will contain links to the readings in the textbook, links to any required videos, and links to any quizzes, or unit projects due during that week.

Tech Support

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have a working computer with a stable internet connection throughout the course.

Technical Requirements

In order to successfully participate in the course, your computer must meet the following requirements:

- Modern operating system (Windows 7 or later strongly recommended; most content should be compatible with Mac OS and older versions of windows down to XP; Linux is not recommended).
- Modern web browser. I strongly recommend you use Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome to access the content in this course. Internet Explorer may not interact well with the course content.
 - You can download Mozilla Firefox [here](#).
 - You can download Google Chrome [here](#).
- A modern word processor to complete the book report, such as Microsoft Word. All SPC students have free access to Office 365, which includes access to Word, PowerPoint, and Excel. You can access it [here](#).
- A stable, reliable internet connection. High-speed internet (e.g. Cable, DSL, fiber) is strongly recommended.

- For the purposes of weekly quizzes, it is strongly suggested that you use a computer with hardwired (e.g. not WiFi) internet access, as this will minimize the risk of an interruption. DO NOT use your browser’s forward, back, or refresh buttons. It is highly recommended that you close all other windows and programs before beginning an assignment. Unless your assignment is interrupted for a reason that affects the entire class (e.g. the server goes down), interruptions will not be considered grounds for a retake of any assignment.
- DO NOT attempt to take any class assignments using a phone or tablet, as your grade will not be recorded.

Tech Troubleshooting

I am not able to provide tech support for the class, but below I am providing a few basics steps which may resolve or help to identify some common problems.

Problem	Possible Remedy
I cannot access Blackboard, but I can access other websites	Blackboard may be down. Check portal.southplainscollege.edu and your SPC email for announcements about a Blackboard outage. IF you cannot access portal.southplainscollege.edu , or if you do not see any such announcements, contact Blackboard support.
I cannot access any websites.	Your internet is probably down. Try resetting your modem and/or router. If your internet is still not working, contact your service provider, or move to a different location (e.g. SPC library, Starbuck’s) to access the internet.
I cannot access the book website, but I can access other websites.	Contact me and I will contact the book publisher. In the meantime, use your downloaded PDF of the book to complete the week’s readings.

Should you encounter difficulties technical difficulties throughout the course that are not resolved by the above steps, please refer to the following sources of help:

Blackboard Technical Support

Support for issues relating to Blackboard can be obtained via the “Blackboard Support” link in the course Blackboard page, by visiting https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_2014_04/Student, or by calling (800) 424-9299. Issues for which you should use this route include, but are not limited to:

- Inability to access Blackboard page (e.g. page will not load)
- Inability to access specific content within the Blackboard page (e.g. assignments, lecture videos)

Other Technical Issues

- If you do not see a grade for an assignment you believe you completed, contact me directly.
- If your computer breaks or your home internet goes out, contact the relevant business (e.g. Best Buy, Office Depot, as well as several local outlets provide computer repair services; your internet service provider – most likely SuddenLink – can provide troubleshooting related to your home internet service.

Tech Contingency Plans

You are responsible for maintaining access to a working computer with a stable internet connection throughout the course. As it is very possible for a computer to break, you should have contingency plans in place in case this happens to you. These can include (but are not limited to):

- If your internet goes down, free WiFi is available at many area businesses, including Starbucks, McDonald's, Chick-fil-A, and some United Supermarkets.
- Identify at least one friend, family member, or neighbor who has a computer you can borrow if needed.
- If you are a local student, the South Plains College Levelland and Reese Center campuses have computer labs which offer free access to students.
- Most public libraries have at least a few computers that are available to the public.
- Inexpensive replacement computers can be obtained from sites like edea.info.com, the Amazon marketplace, Newegg, and eBay.
- If you are travelling, many hotels have a small computer lab available to their guests.
- If you know that you will be out of town/without internet access for a certain period of time, be sure to work ahead and complete any assignments that are due during that time before you leave.

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 Contact

Levelland

Linda Young

Disability Accommodations Specialist

1401 S. College Ave.

Levelland, TX 79336

Phone: 806-716-2577

Fax: 806-897-0371

lyoung@southplainscollege.edu

Reese

Dawn Valles

Coordinator of Disability Services Reese

819 Gilbert Drive

Lubbock, TX 79416

Phone: 806-716-4675

dvalles@southplainscollege.edu

Diversity Statement

In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.