

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

- OpenStax College, *Psychology*. OpenStax College. 8 December 2014.

[\(http://cnx.org/content/col11629/latest/\)](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.

**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

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Name Dr. Will Crescioni

Office Location RC405A, Reese Campus

<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:wcrescioni@southplainscollege.edu">wcrescioni@southplainscollege.edu</a>				
<b>Office Phone</b>	(806) 716-2468				
<b>Office Hours</b>	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.					

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## The Course at a Glance

### Grading

- 500 total points
- Four unit tests and one final exam worth 100 points each
  - The lowest of these five tests will be dropped
- One book report worth 100 points
- Grade based on total points earned by the end of the semester
- No individual extra credits assignments
- No artificial grade boosts

## Test dates

- Test 1: September 24<sup>th</sup>
- Test 2: October 15<sup>th</sup>
- Test 3: November 12<sup>th</sup>
- Test 4: December 5<sup>th</sup>

## Book Report

- Worth 100 points
- The book report is due November 5<sup>th</sup> by 11:59 PM
- Based on book from the provided list
- 3 – 5 pages in length
- Graded for spelling, grammar, and punctuation; following directions; and overall paper quality
- Late papers lose 25 points per day

## Student e-mail

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

It is important in this class, in all classes, and in your professional life to practice good email etiquette. This means, among other things, addressing your instructors professionally, using good spelling and grammar, and practicing good self-reliance before falling back on email. There are many excellent guides to email etiquette, but I recommend this as a starting point:

[http://writingcenter.emory.edu/resources/writing\\_tips\\_resources/email\\_etiquette.html](http://writingcenter.emory.edu/resources/writing_tips_resources/email_etiquette.html)

In addition, all emails must include a meaningful subject line, must include the class and section you are referencing, and must include your full name as it appears on Blackboard. 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 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.

## Structure of class:

The course is divided into four units. Each unit contains five to six topics, with each topic corresponding to a reading in your book. Each day we cover material from at most one topic; some topics may require more than one day. A learning guide for each topic is posted to Blackboard that includes key terms and study questions, and you are expected to fill it out while doing the readings. During class, you will augment this with notes from the lecture. At the end of each unit, you will take a test covering the material from that unit. Tests will be entirely based on the material from the learning guides you completed during the unit.

## Textbook

We are using a free, custom textbook for this class. See the Blackboard page for access to the textbook.

## Learning Guides

Each chapter will be accompanied by a learning guide containing keywords, reading study questions, and lecture study questions. Students will be expected to have read the chapter and completed the keywords and reading study questions prior to attending the lecture. Not all material covered in the keywords and reading study questions will be covered in class, so simply coming to class is not a replacement for doing the required readings.

After the lecture, you should be able to answer the lecture study questions. Not all material covered in lecture appears in the book, so simply doing the required readings is not a substitute for coming to class.

I will not collect your learning guides, nor will I check to see that you are completing them. Remember, however, that your tests will be based entirely on these learning guides. If you are not keeping up with your learning guides, it is unlikely that you will pass the class.

## Unit Tests (4 @ 100 points)

Each unit will conclude with a unit test. Thus, there will be four unit tests in the course. Each unit test will be 50 multiple choice questions. You will have the entire class period to complete the test. Tests are worth 100 points each. Tests will be based on your keywords, reading study questions, and lecture study questions from the relevant learning guides. If you are not completing the readings, attending class, and filling out (and studying!) your learning guides, you will likely fail the tests.

## Test Dates

Test dates will only be changed under the following circumstances:

- South Plains College Reese campus is closed

- I am unable to come to class, and I am unable to find a proctor to administer the test in my absence

Should either of the above occur, I will contact you as soon as possible with a new test date.

Tests will not be canceled or delayed due to failure to keep pace with the scheduled material. Should we fail to cover all scheduled material prior to a test, than that test will cover only the material that we did cover. Any material not covered will be shifted to the next test. It is important that you attend to class regularly to ensure you know what material will be covered on each test.

## Missed Tests

At the end of the semester, I will drop your lowest test grade. If you miss any ONE test for any reason (undocumented illness or injury, car trouble, getting called into work, family emergency, Doctor Who marathon, etc.), the resulting zero will be dropped from your grade calculation.

If you take all four of the unit tests, then you may use the drop policy to exempt yourself from the final exam. In other words, if you have taken all four regular semester tests, then you may skip the final.

You may also choose to take all five tests (the four unit tests and the final exam). If you do so, then I will drop the lowest grade from among these five from your final grade calculation. For example, if your five test grades were 78, 67, 84, 89, and a 91 on the final exam, the “67” would not be counted in your final grade calculation.

## Makeups

Makeups will be given only with documentation, and only under the following circumstances:

- Mandatory, college-sponsored activity (e.g. basketball game)
  - Acceptable documentation: email from coach or faculty member
- Personal injury or illness
  - Acceptable documentation: doctor’s note
- Illness or injury of child
  - Acceptable documentation: doctor’s note
- Death of a loved one within one week of the test date
  - Acceptable documentation: obituary, funeral program

The following list includes some absences that would not qualify for a makeup, even with documentation. Note that this list is not exhaustive.

- Family emergency
- Family vacation
- Lack of childcare
- Work
- Car trouble
- Wedding (yours or someone else’s)
- Scheduled elective medical procedures
- Non-emergency dental care

One missed test for which the student cannot provide documentation of an approved absence can be dropped using the dropped policy. Additional missed tests will count against the student's final grade and may result in administrative drop.

### Scheduling a makeup

All makeups must be scheduled through the "Schedule a Makeup" list on Blackboard. You will be prompted to select the reason you are requesting a makeup and, if your reason is approved, you will be given the option to choose a date and time for your makeup.

Makeups must be scheduled for within one week of the missed test. So, for example, if you missed a test scheduled for September 24<sup>th</sup>, you would have until October first to take the makeup. After that time, it would no longer be possible to schedule a makeup.

Proper documentation must be provided via email prior to the date of your makeup or in person at the time of your makeup. If documentation is not provided, if the documentation provided is invalid, or if you fail to arrive within 15 minutes of your schedule makeup, your makeup will be canceled. Canceled makeups cannot be rescheduled.

I will only reschedule your makeup in the event of my own illness or injury, an illness or injury for my daughter, a mandatory college event (e.g. faculty meeting), or the loss of a loved one (the same criteria I apply to you). Should I have to reschedule your makeup, I will contact you as soon as possible and we will work together to find a new time.

### Final Exam (1 @ 100 points)

The final exam will be taken during finals week at the time designated by South Plains College. It consists of 50 multiple-choice questions. The final exam is cumulative, meaning that material from all previous topics is fair game for the final exam. The final exam is worth 100 points. A study guide will be posted prior the final exam.

### Book Report (1 @ 100 points)

Due November 5th by 11:59 PM

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
- *Human: The Science Behind What Makes Us Unique*, by Micheal Gazzaniga
- *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?

Detailed instructions and an assignment rubric will be made available via Blackboard.

## Grading

Unit Exams (4@100pts/ea.) = 400

Book Report = 100 points

Final exam = 100 points

Lowest exam removed = -100 points

Total Points Possible = 500

I will round to the nearest whole number when computing your final grade. Thus, for example, an 89.5 would be a “90” and an 89.4 would be an “89”. No artificial grade boosts will be offered; the grade you earn is the grade you get.

## Grading scale:

A: 90 – 100

B: 80 – 89

C: 70 – 79

D: 60 – 69

F: 0 – 59

## Class Schedule

Date	Day	Topic
27-Aug	Mon	Welcome and Class Orientation
29-Aug	Wed	Thinking Like a Psychological Scientist
3-Sep	Mon	Labor Day - No Class
5-Sep	Wed	Research Designs
10-Sep	Mon	History of Psychology
12-Sep	Wed	The Nature-Nurture Question

17-Sep	Mon	The Brain and the Nervous System
19-Sep	Wed	Sensation and Perception
24-Sep	Mon	Test 1
26-Sep	Wed	Attention
1-Oct	Mon	Conditioning and Learning
3-Oct	Wed	Memory (Encoding, Storage, Retrieval)
8-Oct	Mon	Memory Biases
10-Oct	Wed	Judgment and Decision Making
15-Oct	Mon	Test 2
17-Oct	Wed	Personality Traits
22-Oct	Mon	Functions of Emotions
24-Oct	Wed	Helping and Prosocial Behavior
29-Oct	Mon	Conformity and Obedience, Day 1
31-Oct	Wed	Conformity and Obedience, Day 2
5-Nov	Mon	Prejudice, Stereotyping, and Discrimination, Day 1
7-Nov	Wed	Prejudice, Stereotyping, and Discrimination, Day 2
12-Nov	Mon	Test 3
14-Nov	Wed	History of Mental Illness
19-Nov	Mon	Mood Disorders
21-Nov	Wed	Thanksgiving - No Class
26-Nov	Mon	Anxiety and Related Disorders
28-Nov	Wed	Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders
3-Dec	Mon	Therapeutic Orientations
5-Dec	Wed	Test 4

Note: This schedule is subject to change.

## Course Expectations

### Attendance

**Attendance will be taken daily.** You will be responsible for the material presented in class as well as the assigned material from the textbook. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to contact one of your fellow students for notes from that class period.

### 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 days of class without excused absences.**
- **Missing two or more tests.**

- **Failing to turn in the book report within four days of the due date**

### 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. Also, it is your responsibility to sign the roll sheet or you will be counted absent. If you arrive late on the day of a test, you will not be allowed to stay late to make up for the time you missed. If anyone has turned in their test prior to your arrival, you will not be allowed to take the test.

### Civility

Psychology covers a broad range of topics, and through the discussion in this class a variety of different viewpoints may be expressed. I expect you to be civil, courteous, and tolerant to both your fellow students and to me at all times during this class. Although debate is a natural and healthy part of the learning process, your disagreement with my or another student's expressed views is never justification to attack, belittle, or demean that person. Keep all discourse civil and focused on the issues. NEVER insult or intimidate me or a fellow student. It is also expected that your conduct does not interfere with the ability of other students in the class to learn. Your cell phone should be on silent when you enter class, and under no circumstances should in any way interact with your phone once class has begun. Do not speak to fellow students during class – if you have a question or would like me to repeat something, simply raise your hand and ask. While I encourage the use of technology to enhance learning in the classroom (e.g. the use of laptops to take notes), I expect that you will not abuse this privilege by checking Facebook, updating your fantasy football team, playing World of Warcraft, or otherwise engaging in activities that could distract those sitting around you. If at any time I feel that our behavior is disrupting the classroom environment, I reserve the right to have you remove yourself from the class. Should this occur, you will not be given the opportunity to make-up a missed work and you will be responsible for obtaining notes for any material you missed.

### Technology

- Laptops and tablets are allowed for note-taking purposes only. You may not use your laptop or tablet for any other purpose. If I catch you doing anything other than taking notes on your laptop or tablet during class, you will no longer be allowed to use a laptop or tablet for the remainder of the semester.
- NO CELL PHONES. NONE. NEVER. See how I put that in all caps? It's because I'm freakin' serious, you dig? Do not use your cell phone. It should be away at all times during class. Never, ever touch it, look at it, or think about it. If you do, you will be given one warning. If you do it again, you will be excused from class and marked absent for that day.
- NO SMART WATCHES, SMART GLASSES, OR SMART ANYTHING ELSE. If it can send text messages, put it away.
- If you are removed from class for a technology violation, you will be marked absent for the day. If this occurs on a test day, you will receive a zero for that test.

### Plagiarism

It is expected that all work completed in this class will be original. Copying and pasting work from any source, resubmitting assignments you have submitted in the past or in other classes, or referencing the

work of others without proper citation are all considered plagiarism. If you have any doubts about whether something is plagiarism, ask me. If I catch you plagiarizing, you will receive a zero on the assignment in question and WILL NOT be given the chance to resubmit. Appropriate disciplinary action may also be taken in accord with college policy.

### 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](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)

### 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.

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.