

PSY 2301---91W  
Introduction to Psychology  
Spring, 2016  
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## **INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY COURSE SYLLABUS (DRAFT)**

Course Format: Online delivered through eCollege  
Office hour: TBA, Henderson 218 or online  
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### **Course Description**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the field of psychology and to give a general understanding of the basic principles of psychology. Since it is intended to cover a variety of topics within psychology, it provides an overview of the field necessary for later courses.

This course will highlight some of the most interesting experiments within the field of psychology, discussing the implications of those studies for our understanding of the human mind and human behavior. We will explore the brain and some of the cognitive abilities it supports like learning, memory, perception, language, and consciousness. We will examine human development --- both in terms of growing up and growing older. We will discuss the manner in which the behavior of others affect our own thoughts and behavior. Finally we will discuss some of the mental illness and the treatments.

### **Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will be able to appreciate how psychologists take a scientific approach to understanding human behavior and thought.
2. Student communication will follow conventions of grammar and syntax appropriate to the audience, purpose and message.
3. Students will gain an overview of how psychologists test, interpret, and demonstrate principles in empirical data.

### **Course Materials**

Myers, D. G. (2013). Psychology in Modules. (10<sup>th</sup> ed). Worth Publisher.

Additional references:

1. Materials provided by the instructor.

## Grade Evaluation

Learning Engagement Quizzes: It is assumed that you will attend and actively participate during all class activities. This class will employ active learning strategies by having you quiz yourself. Plan to complete a quiz on Tues and Thurs respectively. Each of them will cover the different parts of a topic under discussion. Splitting a topic into chunks will reduce your workload each time and make it more manageable / memorable.

### **Learning Engagement Total: 70 points**

Assignments: Primarily there will be discussions, the hands-on learning experiences, short answer questions making connections to the theoretical concepts, or quizzes on the applications of psychology.

### **Assignment Total: 80 points**

Exams: There are 3.5 exams. **There will be NO after the fact make-up examinations.** If for some REAL emergency you must miss an exam, make sure that you contact me BEFORE the exam. When **official documentation** is provided, you can do a make-up.

### **Exam Total: 350 points (Exams 1-3: 100 points x 3; Cumulative Review Quiz: 50 pts)**

Please be respectful toward all members of the class and their views. *Disruptive behavior or disrespect* toward other students or the instructor will not be tolerated. At the very least, it will cost a letter grade, and is subject to further penalty.

To be on the safe side, assume that I grade on a numerical scale. However, I reserve the right to reward exemplary attendance and participation.

A = 450-500 pts

B = 400-449 pts

C = 350-399 pts

D = 300-349 pts

F < 300 pts

### **Coursework Policy:**

All quizzes and exams are to be *taken closed-book*. You are not allowed to take any quiz, exam, or submit any assignment after its respective deadline unless you notify me of extenuating circumstance and I give permission in advance.

In case of unforeseen emergency, contact me or Dept ASAP. When official documentation is provided, you can do a make-up.

No incompletes. If you cannot complete the course with a grade that find satisfactory, it is *your responsibility to drop it*.

## Student Conduct in General:

Keep in mind that a syllabus sometimes shifts a little as the course gets underway. I say that by way of noting the importance of class attendance, as you will be held responsible for any change in plans announced in class.

The other basic admonition every syllabus must include is that *dishonesty (broadly defined)* is not allowed. If you have any questions about what constitutes dishonesty, please see me.

Or, as the university likes me to say: **“All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.”** (See Student’s Guide Handbook).

## Academic Honor Code:



### No Copying

You will not present the words or work of others as your own without proper acknowledgement, including work from the Internet, other learners, and printed or copyrighted resources.



### No Unauthorized Help

You will not let others complete work for you, or inappropriately obtain answers to assessments through multiple accounts or other means that are typically deemed inappropriate.



### No Sharing Answers

You will not make solutions from the assessments in this course available to others, unless directed to do so by instructors.

Students who violate academic integrity may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course.

Contact me if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work.

**Disability:**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**  
**Texas A&M University-Commerce**  
**Gee Library**  
**Room 132**  
**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**  
**Fax (903) 468-8148**  
[StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu)

**Inclusivity Statement:**

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

**Disclaimer:**

While I make every effort to abide by the information presented here, I reserve the right to modify this syllabus at any time.

## Tentative Lecture Schedule

### JANUARY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
17 WK 1	18	19 Practice Quiz	20	21 How to Learn Quiz	22	23
24 WK 2	25 How to Learn	26 Quiz	27	28 Quiz	29	30 HW 1
31 WK 3 Intro to Psyc						

### FEBRUARY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Topic 1 Module1-3	2 Quiz	3	4 Quiz	5	6
7 WK 4 Neural Basis	8 Topic 2 Mod 4-6	9 Quiz	10	11 Quiz	12	13
14 WK 5 Perception	15 Topic 3 Mod17-19	16 Quiz	17	18 Quiz	19	20
21 WK 6	22 Review	23 HW 2	24	25 <b>Exam 1</b>	26	27
28 WK 7	29 How to Learn					

## MARCH 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Quiz	2	3 Quiz	4	5 HW 3
6 WK 8 Con- sciousness	7 Mod 7-10	8 Quiz	9	10 Quiz	11	12
13 WK 9	14 Spring Break!	15 Enjoy!	16	17	18	19
20 WK 10 Learning	21	22 Quiz	23	24 Quiz	25	26 HW 4
27 WK 11	28 Language	29 Quiz	30	31 Quiz		

## APRIL 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 WK 12	4 Review	5 HW 5	6	7 Review Practice	8	9 <b>Exam 2</b>
10 WK 13 Development	11 Mod 13-16	12 Quiz	13	14 Quiz	15	16
17 WK 14 Social	18 Mod 43-46	19 Quiz	20	21 Quiz	22	23 HW 6
24 WK 15 Mental Illness	25 Mod 47-51	26 Quiz	27	28 Quiz	29	30

# MAY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 WK 16	2 Review	3 HW7	4	5 Exam 3	6	7
8 WK 17	9 Review	10 Cumulative Quiz	11	12	13	14