



COURSE PREFIX 2301.03E Introductory Psychology

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2020

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Maria Carlson, Ph.D.

Office Location: Henderson Hall room 205

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 1:00pm – 3:30pm

Office Phone: (903) 886 – 5648

University Email Address: maria.carlson@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: email

Communication Response Time: 24 – 48 hours on

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required

Psychology: A Concise Introduction (5th Ed.) Griggs, R. A.
ISBN: 978-1-4641-9216-6

Optional Texts and/or Materials

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Additional handouts and materials may be distributed in class or placed on D2L.

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 behaviors of others affect our own thoughts and behavior. Finally we will discuss some of the mental disorders and the treatments.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Develop an overview of the field of psychology by studying and reflecting on the topics.
2. Appreciate how psychologists take a scientific approach to understanding human behavior and thought.
3. Practice the convention of scientific discourse appropriate to the audience, purpose and message.
4. Explain the real world phenomena by applying the concepts, theories, and methods learned in our course. Learning how to learn is a good start.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Basic computer skills, ability to use Microsoft Word and D2L.

Instructional Methods

This is a face-to-face course that has been enhanced with D2L. Attendance is required but you will also need to use D2L on a regular basis to complete assignments and access class materials. Please see the information below for accessing D2L.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Come to class:

Clearly, you are in college now, and can decide for yourself whether or not to come to class. However, my job is to teach you and I cannot do that if you are not present.

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There will be class demonstrations, discussions, and films designed to enrich your learning experience. There will be in-class assignments that will count towards your grade. And further, the text for this course is thick with information: coming to class will help clarify concepts and focus your studying. Please see attendance policy below.

Read the text:

Read the chapter we are covering before you come to class. This helps you in at least two ways: (1) it exposes you to the material before the lecture, making it easier for you to understand the lecture material and thus get more out of it; and (2) it prepares you with questions that might arise from the reading and may then be asked in class while the topic is being discussed (see the next suggestion).

Ask questions:

If there is something you do not understand, ask questions. Use my office hours; ask in the time available before lecture; feel free to ask during the lecture.

Take notes:

Come to class and take GOOD notes. It is a good study habit to go over your notes right after class, filling in the blanks, clarifying concepts and cryptic scribbles while the lecture is still fresh in your mind. It is also a good idea to make friends in the class and get the phone numbers of a couple of people whose notes you can rely on when you have to miss class (and to clarify your own lecture notes).

Feedback:

If you are confused, *look* confused so that I will know when I need to back up or give an alternate explanation. Ask questions without embarrassment -- if you are confused, the odds are good that others around you are as well and will appreciate your asking.

Be considerate:

Ultimately, I cannot make you pay attention and I cannot make you learn. However, I will do what I can to keep anyone from taking that opportunity away from those around him or her. In other words, if you are not in the mood to pay attention and would rather read the newspaper, visit with your neighbors, listen to your Iphone, etc. just don't come to class. If you are disrupting class, you will be asked to leave. Also, I hope to have some discussion in class, which means that I encourage you to speak up in class. With freedom comes responsibility, and so I also encourage you to use discretion and consideration when commenting -- we do not all share the same views and upbringing.

Please mute all pagers and cell phones so as not to disrupt the class.

Utilize office hours:

As an undergraduate, I found that I naturally performed better in courses when I felt that the instructor knew who I was, noticed if I was in class, and so forth. I encourage you to come by my office and introduce yourself or talk to me after class; you will get more out of this class if you feel like your investment in it matters.

Utilize D2L:

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

The university utilizes an online course management system called D2L. Assignments, class handouts, announcements and other class materials will be posted online for your convenience through this system. You will also take your quizzes and exams using this system. Please learn how to use it.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Assessments

EXAMS (100 points each)

There will be **four exams**, each covering approximately one-quarter of the course material. The fourth exam will be given during finals week, but will not be comprehensive or more heavily weighted. Exams will be 50 multiple-choice questions. The questions will require not only recognition of concepts and correct answer, but will be designed to test comprehension and application of concepts as well. Material for the exams will be drawn from the text, the lectures, and the classroom experiences. Exams will be available on D2L and are to be complete by **11:30pm** on the dates specified on the schedule of topics below. Exams are intended to be completed individually. **DO NOT WORK TOGETHER ON EXAMS.**

QUIZZES (10 points each)

It is helpful for you to **read the assigned chapters in the textbook before class**. To “encourage” that behavior, you will be required to complete **10 online quizzes**. These will be available on D2L and **will cover all of the assigned readings**. Quizzes will be evenly spaced throughout the semester and are to be completed by **11:30pm** on the dates specified on the schedule of topics below. Quizzes are intended to be completed individually. **DO NOT WORK TOGETHER ON QUIZZES.**

COMMON MYTH PAPER (160 points)

In this paper you will (1) describe a belief/preconception about a particular psychological phenomenon you held prior to participating in this class, (2) describe evidence (i.e., empirical research findings) from psychology that led you to change your mind regarding that belief, and (3) describe how a wider understanding of the psychology that informed your new belief may impact issues in your life. The paper will be graded to assess if you are able to:

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1. Recognize your own subjectivity, understand the arguments of others, and interpret data.
2. Follow the conventions of scientific discourse appropriate to the audience, purpose and message.
3. Demonstrate an ability to think critically of the issues in our life in light of empirical evidence.

RESEARCH PARTICIPATION

As part of your course requirement, you will need to complete a total of **6** credit hours of research participation. **HOWEVER**, if you do not have any unexcused no-shows (i.e. you do not show up for a study) you will be required to complete only **4** credit hours. Students who have completed their required credit hours will be allowed to complete additional credit hours for extra credit (not to exceed **10** total credit hours). You are **only allowed to complete 50% of your research credits via online studies**, the remaining credits need to be completed via laboratory studies.

Failure to complete the required number of credits will result in the reduction of your final grade by one letter grade. That is, if you have an “A” and do not complete the required credits, your final grade will be a “B.”

You will be able to sign up for various studies through the SONA system. Instructions on how to do this will be provided in a separate handout. Studies are worth different amounts of credit depending upon how long it takes to complete the study. You may sign up for any combination of studies you wish as long as you complete the required number of credits.

A pre-screening questionnaire is required before participating in many of the studies. You may earn .5 credits by completing the pre-screening within the first two weeks of the semester.

The alternative to the research experiment participation will be to complete an original 2-page article summary for each credit hour. Instructions for completing the alternative research assignment can be found on D2L. If you choose to do the research alternative instead of the research experiments the **article summaries will be due by 11:30pm Friday, May 1st, 2020** and should be turned to the assignment submission box on D2L. More information about research participation and the alternative article summaries can be found on D2L.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L

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cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

Desktop Support

Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Microsoft® Edge	Latest	N/A
Microsoft® Internet Explorer®	N/A	11
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A
Google® Chrome™	Latest	N/A
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A

Tablet and Mobile Support

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
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Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2L supports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version. Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.
Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, Firefox	Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
 - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
 - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
 - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
 - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
 - Speakers or headphones.
 - *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

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Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed.

JavaScript is enabled.

Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
 - [Adobe Reader](https://get.adobe.com/reader/) <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
 - [Adobe Flash Player \(version 17 or later\)](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/) <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>
 - [Adobe Shockwave Player](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/) <https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/>
 - [Apple Quick Time](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/) <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Brightspace Support

Need Help?

Student Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

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Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words “[click here](#)” to submit an issue via email.



System Maintenance

D2L runs monthly updates during the last week of the month, usually on Wednesday. The system should remain up during this time unless otherwise specified in an announcement. You may experience minimal impacts to performance and/or look and feel of the environment.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

EMAIL POLICY

In addition to traditional face-to-face office hours, the instructor is available virtually by email during posted office hours. If you would like to schedule an appointment, the best way is to email. We can then set up a time to chat when it is convenient for you. During posted office hours, the instructor will return emails upon receipt. Outside of these times, please allow 24 hours to receive a response on weekdays. If you email me and do not receive an email response within, 48 hours, most likely, your email was not received.

EMAIL GUIDELINES

In an attempt to provide a framework for professional communication, emails must contain the following:

- Subject Line: Course (e.g. PSY 2301); additional information if desired (e.g. Sleep patterns)
- Address the Reader: Open with Dr. Carlson
- Adhere to writing mechanics rules
- If asking for assistance with an issue, please list at least 3 things you have done to try and remediate the issue prior to contacting me (these should probably include looking at the syllabus/ course rubrics/ D2L, contacting a colleague, and checking your text, etc.)
- Close with your name

Please send emails from your University accounts. The instructor will not discuss grades over email. If you would like to discuss your grade, please make an appointment during office hours.

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COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Missed Exams:

Students who can demonstrate a legitimate University-excused absences, religious holiday or major illnesses are allowed to miss one exam during the term. Their grade for that exam will be the average of the other exams.

Late Paper Policy:

Late papers can be turned in with the following penalty:

- 5 point penalty per day late.
- Papers turned in 5 days after the due date will earn a grade of zero.
- No emailed papers will be accepted.
- Papers submitted in an unapproved format must be resubmitted in one of the approved formats (.doc, .docx, .txt, or .rtf) and the appropriate late penalty will apply.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](#)

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

TAMUC Attendance

Students are expected to be present for all face-to-face classes. ***Students who have excessive unexcused absences will be dropped from the course***; three or more absences constitute excessive absences for the purposes of this course. Students are responsible for notifying the instructor of an excused absence and providing appropriate documentation when necessary. Students are also responsible for requesting any makeup work during excused absences.

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities

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 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-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.

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Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce 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 A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Dates	Tuesday	Thursday
1/14 & 1/16	Introduction & Syllabus	Chapter 1: The Science of Psychology
1/21 & 1/23	Chapter 1, Cont.	Chapter 1, Cont. Quiz 1 Due
1/28 & 1/30	Chapter 7: Developmental Psychology	Chapter 7, Cont. Quiz 2 Due
2/4 & 2/6	Chapter 8: Personality Theories and Assessment	Chapter 8, Cont. Quiz 3 Due
2/11 & 2/13	Exam 1 Review	Exam 1
2/18 & 2/20	Chapter 9: Social Psychology	Chapter 9, Cont. Quiz 4 Due
2/25 & 2/27	Chapter 10: Abnormal Psychology	Chapter 10, Cont. Quiz 5 Due
3/3 & 3/5	Exam 2 Review	Exam 2
3/10 & 3/12	NO CLASS: Spring Break	NO CLASS: Spring Break
3/17 & 3/17	Chapter 6: Thinking and Intelligence	Chapter 6, Cont. Quiz 6 Due
3/24 & 3/26	Chapter 4: Learning	Chapter 4, Cont. Quiz 7 Due
3/31 & 4/2	Chapter 5: Memory	Chapter 5, Cont. Quiz 8 Due
4/7 & 4/9	Exam 3 Review	Exam 3
4/14 & 4/16	Chapter 2: Neuroscience	Chapter 2, Cont. Quiz 9 Due
4/21 & 4/23	Chapter 3: Sensation and Perception	Chapter 3, Cont. Quiz 10 Due
4/28 & 4/30	Exam 4 Review	Exam 4 Review

***Exam 4 Due: Thursday, May 7th**

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