



## **PSY 2301 Introduction to Psychology**

### **COURSE SYLLABUS**

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** George Swindell, MS  
**Office Location:** Gee Library 223A  
**Office Hours:** MWF 10:00 am- 1:00pm, or by appointment  
**Office Phone:** 903-468-3322  
**Office Fax:** 903-468-3323  
**University Email Address:** [George.swindell@tamuc.edu](mailto:George.swindell@tamuc.edu)  
**Preferred Form of Communication:** email  
**Communication Response Time:** within 24 hours

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

#### **Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings**

*\* A textbook is not assigned for this class. All reading assignments are provided with links to Internet sources and/or document files.*

#### **Course Description**

The aim of this course is to give a general understanding of the basic principles of psychology. We examine the broad spectrum of phenomena covered by psychological science, the study of human behavior and mental processes, from the basic operations of neurons all the way to complex decision-making and social behaviors, as well as clinical interventions when psychological processes operate abnormally.

#### **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior.
2. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology.

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3. Identify various research methods and their characteristics used in the scientific study of psychology.
4. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology.
5. Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation.

Additional Learning Outcomes throughout course:

6. Critical Thinking-- to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information. Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances, data, texts, or art.
7. Social Responsibility -- to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities. Students will demonstrate an understanding of societal and/or civic issues.
8. Communications-- to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication. In written, oral, and/or visual communication, A&M-Commerce students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.
9. Empirical and Quantitative Skills - Students will be able to interpret, test, and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data and/or observable facts.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

Students will need a reliable computer and internet access for this course. Specific capabilities of the computer are discussed later in the syllabus. Students are required to demonstrate proficiency in myLeo navigation in order to participate in this course. Fluency in programs like Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel may further contribute to student success in this course.

### **Instructional Methods**

This course is 100% online. As such, communication and assignment submission is all done electronically. Power points, resources, assignments and tests are all located within the online course.

Should you have trouble finding anything, please e-mail the instructor to point you in the right direction. While not all discussions and assignments are required, students are encouraged to participate in all activities. Should you find yourself struggling with assignments in the course, please watch videos and complete all reading before e-mailing the instructor to ask for further assistance in comprehending certain subject matter.

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It is unacceptable to not participate in assignments/discussions etc. and then claim the material was too difficult to comprehend. Your participation will directly affect your success in the course. The more hours you spend in the course utilizing provided resources, the more likely you are to succeed in the course.

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

Students are encouraged to log-in to the course every 24 hours. While not required, students are encouraged to complete an entire competency every week. This means by week 4 of the 7-week semester, they have attempted to test out of all 4 competencies. This allows the student sufficient time to re-do any failed competency posttests and work on the course project.

Students are encouraged to e-mail the professor as they encounter concepts that after reading and utilizing course resources (supplemental documents, Youtube videos, etc.), still do not understand.

Students are encouraged to engage other classmates in discussions or thoughts that pertain to course material. Regular participation and engagement ensures the best chance at successful completion of the course.

### **GRADING**

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

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

F = 79% or Below

\*Students are required to achieve and 80% or higher on a posttest in each competency and on the project in order to pass the course.

### **Assessments**

#### **Pretest and Posttest for Each Module**

The purpose of the pretests is to provide a baseline understanding of your knowledge in each module.

The Posttest is an assessment of your knowledge of the material required for the module. A score of 80% or higher is required on the Posttest to demonstrate competency. If you score less than 80% on any module you will have an opportunity to review the material and re-take the module Posttest. You will have up to three attempts at passing each competency. If you have not passed the module in three attempts, you will receive a letter grade of an F. In order to demonstrate competency, a score of 80% or higher is required.

#### **Project**

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You will also have a project in this course. The project will be based on expanding your knowledge and applying the information you have learned in a more application based setting. A score of 80% or higher is required.

### **Final Grade Calculation**

The final grade will be assigned by taking the average of the four passing posttests and the grade of the project.

## **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 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**

<b>Browser</b>	<b>Supported Browser Version(s)</b>	<b>Maintenance Browser Version(s)</b>
Microsoft® Edge	Latest	N/A
Microsoft® Internet Explorer®	N/A	11

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Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
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)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or <b>point</b> release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or <b>point</b> 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:

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- 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.

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](mailto: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

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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.

### **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**

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.

### **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

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

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

Participation from students regularly is encouraged. There will be optional discussions, and assignments that are not required. Students are encouraged to participate as regular exposure to course content will result in a better chance at successful completion of the course.

The only required assignments in this course are the pre-tests for each Competency (there are 4 competencies which means 4 pre-tests). While pre-tests are required to pass the course, the grade does not count toward your final grade. A grade of 80% or higher is required on a posttest to test out of each of the 4 competencies. You have 3 attempts to achieve a grade of 80% or higher in each of the 4 competencies. Aside from the tests, there is one required course project that each student is required to participate in.

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## **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**

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>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

### **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>

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## **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](mailto: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.

### **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>

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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

Suggested Schedule		
Week	Module	Activites
1	1: What is Psychology?	<b>Pretest</b> , Readings, practice, <b>Posttest</b>
2	2: Foundations of Psychology	<b>Pretest</b> , Readings, practice, <b>Posttest</b>
3	3: What drives behavior	<b>Pretest</b> , Readings, practice, <b>Posttest</b>
4	4: Areas of Psychology	<b>Pretest</b> , Readings, practice, <b>Posttest</b>
5	Project	Work on project
6	Project	Work on project
7	Project	Finish Project

\*All submissions must be turned in by the end of the last day of the term.

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