



## **Introduction to Psychology PSY 2301---02E**

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2022

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** David Frank, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychology

**Office Location:** Binnion 215

**Office Hours:** TR: 12:15-2:45

**Office Phone:** N/A

**Office Fax:** N/A

**University Email Address:** david.frank@tamuc.edu

**Preferred Form of Communication:** email

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

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

##### **Textbook(s) Required**

Richard A. Griggs (2014), Psychology: A Concise Introduction

ISBN: 978-1464192166

##### **Optional Texts and/or Materials**

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.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Instructional Methods

This is a face-to-face course. I cannot emphasize enough the value of collective listening, which is articulated so well by Professor Monessa Cummins at Grinnell College.

*“Can [students] listen to a political candidate with a critical ear? Can they go and listen to their minister with an analytical ear? Can they listen to one another? One of the things a lecture does is build that habit.”*

During our lecture, we will focus on deepening your understanding of the important concepts and theories through lectures, demonstrations, and class discussions. We will also use a variety of assignments to encourage your pursuit of active learning.

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

Throughout our course, we will learn the science of how to learn and practice them. The following are some basics.

- 1) Check and read class emails promptly for announcements, updates, clarifications, etc.
- 2) Take notes as you listen to lectures, read the assigned parts of the textbook to check if your listening comprehension matches with the textbook descriptions, and fill in the missing pieces.
- 3) Quiz yourself often. Can you define a concept in your own words? Can you answer 3 or 4 questions of the textbook practice questions correctly?
- 4) Review the materials on a regular basis. Consider the Pomodoro technique. Set aside 20-25 minutes each time and study.

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## 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

**There are NO makeup exams or assignments** (except in cases of military deployment). **If you are traveling and representing the university** (e.g., band members, athletes, etc.) **you need to request accommodations BEFORE the exam or assignment is due, not after.** Rather than doing makeup exams, I will drop the lowest exam score.

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## **Assessments**

### **Hands-on Experience Assignment Total: 10%**

Several hands-on experience assignments are scheduled (see schedule). Additional assignments may be added throughout the semester, in which case they will be announced in advance. To receive credits, students are required to follow the procedure announced promptly and successfully complete the activities.

### **Critical thinking essays: 20%**

Students will answer two essay-style questions via the assignment folder in D2L. Essays should include insightful ideas and comments that are complete and well explained as well as defended by specific evidence. You are not allowed to use direct quotation from sources. Please use your own words and ideas.

Posts should be at least 1 paragraph but no more than 3 paragraphs in length. Posts will be graded as pass/fail. Posts that demonstrate the student has reviewed, understood, and contemplated the material will earn a passing grade. Posts that are weak, trivial, unclear, ungrammatical, or not defended by evidence will earn a failing grade.

There are 5 critical thinking essay questions. You must choose at least TWO of these questions to answer during the semester. Answers are due at the end of the week for the corresponding chapter. **If you complete more than 2 discussion posts only the 2 posts with the highest grade will be used in calculating your final grade.** These are graded pass/fail. Thus, once you pass two of the discussion posts, you do not have to do anymore for the semester.

### **Exam Total: 70% (must get a C or better to pass)**

There are 4 exams plus a cumulative final exam. The exams are taken during class and are *closed-book*. There will be NO after the fact make-up examinations (except in cases of military deployment). If you are traveling and representing the university (e.g., band members, athletes, etc.) you need to request accommodations BEFORE the exam or assignment is due, not after.

There are two ways to compute the exam portion of your grade:

- 1) The average of your top 4 exams (including the cumulative final). That is, your exam average after dropping your lowest exam score.
- 2) Your cumulative final exam score (ignoring the other 4 exams entirely).

Whichever method (1 or 2) produces the better score will be used when calculating your final grade.

Lastly, you must get at least a C on the exam portion of your grade in order to get a C in the class. If you score less than a C on the exam portion of your grade, your overall grade will be lowered to a D.

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**Research Participation via Sona (required, loss of 10 points if not completed)**

A goal of this class is to help you familiarize yourself with research methods. One way to obtain this goal is to have you participate in research studies. Participating in research studies contributes to students and faculty at A&M - Commerce, your understanding of how research is conducted, and human knowledge in general. All students in this class will be required to participate in the psychology department's participant pool or complete alternative assignments (see me for more information on alternative assignments).

Students must complete a total of 6 experiment credits. However, if you complete your first 4 experiment credits without any "no-shows" you will receive 2 free punctual participant credits. In other words, if you show up to your experiments on time you will only need to complete 4 experiment credits. When you first sign into the experiment management system (EMS) you will be asked to take a prescreen. The prescreen takes about 20 minutes to complete. If you complete the prescreen in the first two weeks of the semester you will receive 0.5 free experiment credit. This can be combined with later experiments that are worth 0.5 credit.

**If you fail to complete this portion of the class you will lose 10 points (one letter grade) from your final grade!** In effect, if you have an 'A' in the class but fail to complete your research participation (either through participating in research studies, alternative assignments, or a mixture of both) your final grade in the class will be a 'B.' More information about participating in research, such as how to log in to the EMS, is posted on D2L.

**Sona extra credit (up to 2 points on your exam total)**

For each credit beyond 6 that you earn, you will receive 1/3 of a point on your exam total. Thus, if your exam total is 78 and you earn 12 Sona credit, this will increase your exam total to an 80. This can include Sona credits from any combination of in-person studies, online studies (up to 3 credits), and research papers. Note that you will still get the 2 bonus credits for having 0 no-shows. Thus, either 12 credits with some no-shows or 10 credits with 0 no-shows will get you the full 2 points of extra credit.

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## 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

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

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### 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
- **For YouSeeU Sync Meeting sessions 8 Mbps is required.** Additional system requirements found here: <https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>
- 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.

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- 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).

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**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.

#### **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**

You are welcomed to see me before and after class, contact me via email, and schedule an office visit appointment.

If you contact me or a teaching assistant and do not receive an email response within 48 hours, most likely, your email was not received.

Exam grades and feedback on assignments will typically be given within one week, but may take up to two weeks for longer assignments or busier times of the semester.

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

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

There will be NO after the fact make-up examinations or in class assignments (except in cases of military deployment). If you are traveling and representing the university (e.g., band members, athletes, etc.) you need to request accommodations BEFORE an exam is due, not after. Otherwise I drop the lowest exam score and 2 lowest in-class assignments rather than doing make-ups.

### **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).  
<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)  
<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:

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[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](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.

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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.

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Week	Date	Topic	Critical thinking essay due dates
1	1/12	Introductions	
	1/14	Brief History of Psychology	
2	1/17	<b>MLK Day – No Class</b>	
	1/19	<b>No Class</b>	
	1/21	Chapter 1 The Science of Psychology	
3	1/24	Chapter 1 The Science of Psychology	
	1/26	Chapter 1 The Science of Psychology	
	1/28	Chapter 4 Learning	
4	1/31	Chapter 4 Learning	
	2/2	Chapter 4 Learning	
	2/4	<b>University closed</b>	Chapter 4 essay due
5	2/7	<b>Review Day</b>	
	2/9	<b>Exam 1</b>	
	2/11	Chapter 2 Neuropsychology	
6	2/14	Chapter 2 Neuropsychology	
	2/16	Chapter 2 Neuropsychology	
	2/18	Chapter 5 Memory	
7	2/21	Chapter 5 Memory	
	2/23	Chapter 5 Memory	
	2/25	<b>Review day</b>	
8	2/28	<b>Exam 2</b>	
	3/2	Chapter 6 Thinking & Intelligence	
	3/4	Chapter 6 Thinking & Intelligence	
9	3/7	Chapter 6 Thinking & Intelligence	
	3/9	Chapter 7 Developmental Psychology	Chapter 7 essay due
	3/11	Chapter 7 Developmental Psychology	
10	3/14	<b>SPRING BREAK – No Class</b>	
	3/16	<b>SPRING BREAK – No Class</b>	
	3/18	<b>SPRING BREAK – No Class</b>	
11	3/21	Chapter 7 Developmental Psychology	
	3/23	Chapter 9 Social Psychology	
	3/25	<b>In-class assignment</b>	
12	3/28	<b>In-class assignment</b>	
	3/30	<b>In-class assignment</b>	
	4/1	Chapter 9 Social Psychology	

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13	4/4	Chapter 9 Social Psychology	Chapter 9 essay due
	4/6	<b>Review day</b>	
	4/8	<b>Exam 3</b>	
14	4/11	Chapter 8 Personality	
	4/13	Chapter 8 Personality	
	4/15	Chapter 8 Personality/Abnormal	Chapter 8 essay due
15	4/18	Chapter 10 Abnormal Psychology	
	4/20	Chapter 10 Abnormal Psychology	
	4/22	Chapter 10 Abnormal Psychology	Chapter 10 essay due
16	4/25	<b>Review day</b>	
	4/27	<b>Exam 4</b>	
	4/29	<b>Review day</b>	Experimental Credits Due
FINALS	5/9	<b>Final Exam (10:30-12:30)</b>	

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