



# Introduction to Psychology PSY 2301

## COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2022

### ONLINE

#### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

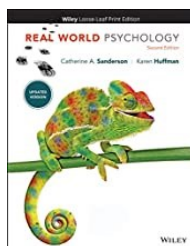
**Instructor:** Margaret Dwiggins, M.S., M.B.A.  
**Office Location:** Online  
**Office Hours:** By appointment  
**Office Phone:** 903.886.5940 (department, not direct)  
**University Email Address:** mdwiggins@leomail.tamuc.edu  
**Preferred Form of Communication:** Email  
**Communication Response Time:** Most cases within 48 hours.

#### COURSE INFORMATION

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

Sanderson, C.A., & Huffman, K. (2017). Real World Psychology (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)  
 Hoboken, NJ: Wiley & Sons (ISBN: 978-1-119-29501-3)

**\*\*Note:** This book is available to rent or buy from \$11-30 through many sources. You will need the book for this class.



In addition, video lectures, handouts and/or reading materials may be placed on D2L.

##### Course Description

This course introduces students to the field of psychology and its basic principles. This course will cover a variety of topics from within the field and will provide a foundation of knowledge that will be useful in future academic pursuits and in life at large. Emphasis will be placed on understanding over memorization.

## Student Learning Outcomes

1. A foundational understanding of core psychological principles
2. An introduction to psychological research topics and methodology
3. An improved ability to think critically about psychological subjects

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Minimal Technical Skills Needed

You will need availability to a computer with internet access. Basic computer skills include the ability to use university systems such as D2L and email. Microsoft Word is also used.

### Instructional Methods

This is an on-line course, and all learning content is available via D2L and the textbook. Students are encouraged to check D2L and email on a regular basis.

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

- Check and read class emails promptly for announcements, updates, clarifications, etc.
- Read the textbook and take notes while you read assigned materials. When we travel, we take pictures to organize our experience. Similarly, when we learn, we can take notes to organize our thoughts.
- Actively engage with the material. Can you define information in your own words?
- Use the available study materials in D2L.
- Study the materials on a regular basis. Consider the Pomodoro technique. Set aside 20-25 minutes for active study and learning daily.
- Use university resources such as the writing center and library.
- Use outside resources such as time management tools to manage deadlines.
- Do not wait until the last minute to complete deliverables. Life happens.
- I have an open-door policy. If you have a concern, please reach out.

## GRADING

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

- A = 90% - 100% (360 – 400 points)
- B = 80% - 89% (320 – 359 points)
- C = 70% - 79% (280 – 319 points)
- D = 60% - 69% (240 – 279 points)
- F = 59% or Below (< 239 points)

## Assessments

### Exams (200 points)

There will be three exams. Your lowest exam grade will be dropped. Each exam will cover approximately 1/3 of the course material. Questions will require understanding and application of concepts covered in class. Each exam consists of 50 multiple choice questions worth 2 points each for a total of 100 points. The exam will last 60 minutes. Exam questions will be drawn from material in the textbook, material from study resources, and questions from quizzes. Exams are open book; however, with roughly one minute a question you will need to study the material ahead of time. Exams are not group endeavors; therefore, do not take your exam with the aid of others.

### Discussion Posts (100 points)

Some chapters will require students to answer essay-style questions in the form of an online discussion post. These posts will be completed on D2L. Discussion posts should be completed only after reading the chapter and viewing any additional content posted on D2L. Questions require students to demonstrate critical thinking, insight, and the ability to support points with specific evidence.

- DO NOT include quotes from evidentiary sources – use your own ideas and your own words. It must be made clear to the instructor that the student has read and viewed all content for that chapter. Discussion posts will be assessed based on (1) relevance to the topic, (2) accuracy, (3) evidentiary support, and (4) clarity and grammar.
- Discussion grades will be assigned as follows: 25 points for excellent posts, 20 points for good/complete posts, 10 points for posts which contain inaccurate or insufficient information, and 0 points for missing posts.
- Type your post in Microsoft Word to catch grammar and spelling issues and then cut and paste into D2L.
- Please note: Posts using your peers' ideas, sources, or verbiage will receive a firm 0. Using others information as your own work constitutes plagiarism. Please do not plagiarize, it is not a pleasant process for the student or the instructor (see academic integrity links below). This is an interesting course with much original material to draw from so originality should not be an issue.
- Late posts are accepted with a grade deduction of 50%. Posts are not accepted after 11:59 PM on 6 May 2022.

### Chapter Quizzes (100 points)

Each textbook chapter covered has a corresponding quiz in D2L. Quizzes are open book; however, you will have roughly one minute per question, so it is imperative that you read and prepare prior to taking the quiz. There are 11 quizzes with each quiz containing 10-15 questions (multiple choice or fill in the blank). Your lowest quiz grade is dropped. Missed quizzes are graded as zero. Quizzes are not group endeavors; therefore, do not take your quiz with the aid of others.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

## 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 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

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. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

## Interaction with Instructor Statement

- Send emails from your university account.
- Note our course number in the attention line (PSY2301).
- If you contact me and do not receive an email response within 48 hours, most likely, your email was not received. You are invited to send a “friendly reminder” email to ensure that you get a response.
- If you are having issues, please note how you have tried to resolve the situation.
- You are welcomed and encouraged to email me and/or schedule an appointment for a Zoom meeting.
- Correspondence will occur only via university email accounts. This might be a new email to you as a dual-credit student. Use your email early and often to develop the habit of checking for updated information.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### Course Specific Procedures/Policies

- Late work is accepted for posts as noted under grading details. Late exams may be considered only in exceptional circumstances.
- Extra credit may or may not be allowed. Do not depend on this for a substitution of missed work.
- Rude, disruptive, or immature behavior is not professional in organizational settings. Unprofessional responses on posts, or in reply to another’s post, may lead to a score of 0 for that section. Ongoing issues may lead to dismissal from the course.
- Plagiarized items receive a firm 0. Be aware I spot check submitted work. Plagiarism may also lead to further consequences as outlined by the University (see Academic Integrity links below).

### 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 will be announced in advance. I will communicate any changes in writing. Reading this syllabus is a good first step to succeeding in the course. You can provide proof of your efforts by sending me a picture of a fish with “PSY2301 Fish” listed in the attention line. I will provide 10 extra credit points.

## 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/student\\_guidebook/Student\\_Guidebook.pdf](http://www.tamuc.edu/student_guidebook/Student_Guidebook.pdf)

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

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

## **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>

## **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

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/>

**The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)**

### **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>

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

Week	Dates	Modules & Lecture Topic	Items Due
1	1/12-1/16	Syllabus	Introduction Post 1/16 11:59 PM
2	1/17-1/23	Ch. 1 – Introduction and Research Methods	Ch 1 Quiz 1/23 11:59 PM
3	1/24-1/30	Ch. 2 – Neuroscience and Biological Foundations	Ch 2 Quiz 1/30 11:59 PM
4	1/31-2/6	Ch. 4 – Sensation and Perception	Ch 4 Quiz 2/6 11:59 PM  Discussion Post One 2/6 11:59 PM
5	2/7-2/13	Ch. 5 – States of Consciousness	Ch 5 Quiz 2/13 11:59 PM
6	2/14-2/20		Exam One 2/20 11:59 PM
7	2/21-2/27	Ch. 6 - Learning	Ch 6 Quiz 2/27 11:59 PM  Discussion Post Two 2/27 11:59 PM
8	2/28-3/6	Ch. 7 - Memory	Ch 7 Quiz 3/6 11:59 PM
9	3/7-3/13	Spring Break	
10	3/14-3/20	Ch. 8 – Thinking, Language, and Intelligence	Ch 8 Quiz 3/20 11:59 PM
11	3/21-3/27	Ch. 9 – Life Span Development	Ch 9 Quiz 3/27 11:59 PM  Discussion Post Three 3/27 11:59 PM
12	3/28-4/3		Exam Two 4/3 11:59 PM



13	4/4-4/10	Ch. 11 – Personality	Ch 11 Quiz 4/10 11:59 PM
14	4/11-4/17	Ch. 12 – Psychological Disorders	Ch 12 Quiz 4/17 11:59 PM
15	4/18-4/24	Ch. 14 – Social Psychology	Ch 14 Quiz 4/24 11:59 PM  Discussion Post Four 5/1 11:59 PM
16	4/25-5/1		Exam Three 5/1 11:59 PM