



PSY 2301-01E, Introduction to Psychology

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2024

T & TH 12:30pm-1:45pm, BA 106

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Shifang Tang, Ph.D.

Office Location: Henderson 201A

Office Hours: [Zoom office hours] T/TH: 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

***In-person/Zoom meetings by appointment

Changes to office hours announced on D2L

Email Address: shifang.tang@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: 24-48 hours on weekdays

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required

Sanderson, C. A., & Huffman, K. R. (2019). Real world psychology (3rd ed). John Wiley & Sons.

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. 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

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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 (Should be measurable; observable; use action verbs)

- 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.
- 5) Nurture scientific thinking. This is an approach to information that combines a high degree of *skepticism* (questioning what “everybody knows”), followed by *objectivity* (using empirical data to separate fantasy from reality) and *rationalism* (practicing logical reasoning).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

You need to be able to use the

following.

- Microsoft Office or equivalent
- Socrative app
- D2L
- Pdf

In addition, refer to the following.

<https://carleton.ca/online/online-learning-resources/essential-technological-skills/>

Instructional Methods

This course is a face-to-face class. 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

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concepts and theories through lectures, demonstrations, and class discussions.

Prior to each week's lecture, you will be expected to complete the reading materials before the class.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

. Your attendance is a significant factor in student course grades. Start with attending our class and do the following 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 15-20 minutes each day and study. Do at least 3 Pomodoro sessions each week. Depending on your needs, you may need to do more. For more details, refer to "*Secrets of Student Success*" in our textbook Ch1.
- 5) Complete assigned coursework on time.
- 6) Complete the hands-on activity during the announced times.

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

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Assessments

Attendance	(3.125 x 32 pts)	100 points
Quiz	(15 x 20pts)	300 points
Total points possible		400 points

- 1) Attendance** (3.125 points per session, total 100 points): Each attendance is worth 3.125 points and is designed to encourage participation, reading, and to ensure that you engage in content thoroughly
- 2) Quiz** (15 Quizzes, total 300 points): Each quiz is worth 20 points, consisting of 30 multiple choice questions. Each quiz will cover content on one chapter.

NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN. All exams (including the final) will **close at 11:59 pm on Sunday**. Exams may be rescheduled, without penalty, only when arrangements have been made **48 hours** in advance of the testing date. Please contact me within the first week of class if they have conflicts with the exam dates. Make-up exams will only be given in the case of verifiable medical or legal emergencies.

Verifiable means that written documentation is provided (e.g., signed doctors' notes, court appearance tickets, newspaper obituaries). The final decision concerning make-up exams rests with me, the instructor. If no valid excuse is presented your exam grade is a zero.

You are responsible for all lecture/supplemental videos and reading materials. The exams are not open notes or textbooks and should be taken individually.

Research Participation will serve as extra credit. 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.

For this course, participating in research will be extra credit. You will have the opportunity to earn up to 20 points depending on the amount of research you participate in. Each credit hour of research will be worth 5 points that will be added to your total pool of points. So, for example, if you participate in 4 credit hours of research, you will earn the full 20 extra points. For more information, please visit D2L and download the extra credit research participation documents once available.

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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

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

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>

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Interaction with Instructor Statement

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

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:

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

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

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>

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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 Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

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

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, Chatbots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

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:

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Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 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.

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.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

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

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regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week	Topic	Date 1 (Tuesday)		Date 2 (Thursday)	
1				1/11/2024	Syllabus
	Chapter 01: The Science of Psychology	1/16/2024	Lecture 1	1/18/2024	Discussion and Quiz 1
3	Chapter 02: Neuroscience and Biological Foundations	1/23/2024	Lecture 2	1/25/2024	Discussion and Quiz 2
4	Chapter 03: Stress, Coping, and Health Psychology	1/30/2024	Lecture 3	2/1/2024	Discussion and Quiz 3
5	Chapter 04: Sensation and Perception	2/6/2024	Lecture 4	2/8/2024	Discussion and Quiz 4
6	Chapter 05: States of Consciousness	2/13/2024	Lecture 5	2/15/2024	Discussion and Quiz 5
7	Chapter 06: Learning	2/20/2024	Lecture 6	2/22/2024	Discussion and Quiz 6
8	Chapter 07: Memory	2/27/2024	Lecture 7	2/29/2024	Discussion and Quiz 7
9	Chapter 08: Thinking, Language, and Intelligence	3/5/2024	Lecture 8	3/7/2024	Discussion and Quiz 8
10	Spring Break	3/12/2024	Spring Break	3/14/2024	Spring Break
11	Chapter 09: Life Span Development	3/19/2024	Lecture 9	3/21/2024	Discussion and Quiz 9
12	Chapter 10: Sex, Gender, and Sexuality	3/26/2024	Lecture 10	3/28/2024	Discussion and Quiz 10
13	Chapter 11: Motivation and Emotion	4/2/2024	Lecture 11	4/4/2024	Discussion and Quiz 11
14	Chapter 12: Personality	4/9/2024	Lecture 12	4/11/2024	Discussion and Quiz 12
15	Chapter 13: Psychological Disorders	4/16/2024	Lecture 13	4/18/2024	Discussion and Quiz 13
16	Chapter 14: Therapy	4/23/2024	Lecture 14	4/25/2024	Discussion and Quiz 14

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17	Chapter 15: Social Psychology	4/30/2024	Lecture 15	5/2/2024	Discussion and Quiz 15
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