



## Introduction to Psychology PSY 2301—01W

COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer II 2024

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Instructor:** Shulan Lu, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology

**Office Hours:** Via email and Zoom

**University Email Address:** shulan.lu@tamuc.edu

**Preferred Form of Communication:** email

If you have any questions or concerns about our class, please ALWAYS contact me first. If we cannot reach a solution, I will refer you to Dept Head.

**Communication Response Time:** 24-48 hours Monday-Friday, weekends and holidays may take longer than 48 hours.

### COURSE INFORMATION

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

##### Textbook(s) Required

Sanderson, Catherine A. & Huffman, Karen (2019), Real World Psychology 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition  
ISBN: 978-1-119-57773-7

#### 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.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## **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**

### **Instructional Methods**

This course is primarily online. Upon request, Dr. Shulan Lu can schedule a virtual exam review meeting with the class, a study guide will be uploaded prior to the meeting. Students should review the study guide and come prepared with questions.

### **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 (online), 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.
- 5) Complete weekly learning engagement assignments.
- 6) Complete exams.
- 7) Complete two critical thinking essays.
- 8) Complete the research engagement requirement.

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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

### **Makeup exams and assignments**

If you become sick, you must schedule to retake the assignments within 3 days of the due date and must provide documentation of your illness.

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.

### ***Assessments***

*Unless authorized by instructor, students are expected to complete all course assignments without assistance from any source, including artificial intelligence such as ChatGPT.*

*Students must reply to the instructor's email concerning the integrity of their coursework within 2 business days and schedule a meeting with the instructor within 4 business days from the date of the initial contact email.*

### **Learning engagement: approx. 10%**

For each chapter, you will complete a brief learning engagement quiz via D2L. This will consist of True/False questions about the online lectures posted in D2L and short answer questions. The True/False question is graded for accuracy. The short answer questions will not be graded for absolute accuracy, you must make an honest effort on these.

We will randomly sample and check the short answer questions at the end of the semester. If you did not make an honest attempt to answer the question correctly, your credit for the assignment will be revoked (changed to a 0, no matter how many T/F you got correct).

Collective feedback will be given for those short answer questions. It is students' responsibility to study the feedback and revise their work accordingly.

### **Critical thinking essays: 10%**

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.

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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 **3** critical thinking essay options. 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.

**Exams: approx. 80%**

There are five exams in the course. Exams will consist of a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. Short answer questions will be VERY similar to those used for the Learning Engagement. However, on the exams, these answers must be correct to receive credit.

The weighting of the five exams is as follow:

- Exam 1: Chapters 1 & 6 (15%)
- Exam 2: Chapters 2 & 4 (15%)
- Exam 3: Chapters 5 & 7 (15%)
- Exam 4: Chapters 9 & 12 (15%)
- Exam 5: Cumulative with more questions on Ch 13-14 (20%)

**Tentative Schedule**

Chapter	Topic	Dates
1	Introduction and Research Methods	7/11 due
6	Learning	7/13 due
	<b>Exam 1</b>	7/14 due
2	Neuroscience and Biological Foundations	7/16 due
4	Sensation and Perception	7/18 due
	<b>Exam 2</b>	7/21 due
5	Consciousness	7/23 due

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7	Memory	7/25 due
	<b>Exam 3</b>	7/28 due
9	Development	7/30 due
11	Personality	8/1 due
	<b>Exam 4</b>	8/4 due
12 & 13	Psychological Disorders	8/6 due
	<b>Cumulative Final Exam (Exam week)</b>	8/8 due 5pm

## 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)

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

[https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom\\_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu](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](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.

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## **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**

Typically, I will respond to your emails within 24 hours from Mon to Fri. It will take longer during the holidays and weekends. I can also meet with you via Zoom. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

## **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.

#### **Academic Honesty**

Unless authorized by me, you are expected to complete all course assignments without assistance from any source, including artificial intelligence such as ChatGPT. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you are not allowed to submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course.

Contact me if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work.

### **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](#).

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.

#### **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](#)  
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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

Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesprocedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

### ***AI Use in Course***

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.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty  
13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

### **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  
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148

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Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

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

### **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 regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

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