



PSY 2301

Introduction to Psychology

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2024

Mondays/Wednesdays, 2:30 pm – 3:45 pm

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Andryce Clinkscales, PhD, LSSP, NCSP

Office Location: Binnion Hall, 211A

Office Hours: Mondays/Wednesdays, 9:30 – 12 pm (*Campus: Dallas, Room: 1945*)

Email Address: Andryce.Clinkscales@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: Within 48 hours Monday-Friday; Weekends and holidays may take longer than 48 hours.

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) Required

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

Software Required

- A word processing program such as Microsoft Office Word, or similar software enabling
- Zoom Video Conferencing Tool:
https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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 more advanced psychology 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 such as learning, memory, perception, language, etc. We will broadly examine human development across the lifespan. We will discuss the manner in which the behaviors of others affect our own thoughts and behavior. Finally, we will discuss some psychological disorders and common treatments, as well as different careers in psychology.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

- 1) Develop an overview of the field of psychology by studying and reflecting on foundational 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 real-world phenomena by applying the concepts, theories, and methods learned in our course.
- 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
- D2L
- PDF

In addition, refer to the following:

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

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Instructional Methods

This course is a face-to-face class. During our lecture, we will focus on deepening your understanding of the important concepts and theories through lectures, demonstrations, and class discussions. Prior to each week's lecture, you will be expected to complete the assigned readings and/or activities before the class. This course is enhanced by using the LMS - (MyLeoOnline/D2L/Brightspace) instructional system that is available to you through Texas A&M University-Commerce. "LMS" refers to learning management system, and the names "MyLeoOnline", "D2L", and "Brightspace" are all names that refer to the one online learning management system that TAMU-C is currently using for all of its courses.

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? You are strongly encouraged to form study groups and to challenge each other to perform well in this course.
 - 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.
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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

Assessments**Class Participation and Engagement: 10%**

Participation and engagement are the heart of this course, as it is how we learn the most from each other; therefore, it is imperative that all students attend all classes and actively contribute

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ideas and reflections. Class session attendance is required and will be a large part of your course grade as outlined on the syllabus. Missing more than 3 classes, without an excused absence approved by the instructor, will result in a deduction to your grade. Please notify the instructor in advance if you will be absent or unable to participate in the class due to observance of a religious holiday.

For each class session, please observe the following:

- While anyone can be late on rare occasions, habitual lateness is unacceptable. Also once in class, be prepared to stay for the entire class period.
- If you must miss a class, you are responsible for what transpires during class sessions whether you are there or not.
- Be respectful toward all members of the class and their views.
- Learning engagement will be assessed via your participation in discussions and my assessment of your class participation.
- *Disruptive behavior or disrespect* toward other students or the instructor will not be tolerated. At the very least, it will cost a letter grade, and is subject to further penalty.

Critical Thinking Essays: 10%

Critical thinking refers to the process of objectively evaluating, comparing, analyzing, and synthesizing information. Students will answer essay-style questions (to be provided via the assignment folder in D2L). Essays should include insightful ideas and comments that are complete, well explained, and defended by specific evidence (i.e., research). You are not allowed to use direct quotation from sources. Please use your own words and ideas; be sure to paraphrase prior work.

An essay should be 2-3 paragraphs in length. The essay will be graded as pass/fail. Essays that demonstrate the student has reviewed, understood, and contemplated the material will earn a passing grade.

There are 5 critical thinking essay questions. You must choose at least **TWO** of these questions to answer during the semester. Due dates for these essays are included in the course outline/calendar. **You will have the option of completing more than 2 essays, as only the 2 essays with the highest grade will be used in calculating your final grade.** These additional essays that you choose to complete are also graded pass/fail. Thus, once you pass two of the essays, you do not have to do any more for the semester. If you choose to complete an additional essay (or more), after receiving a failing grade for one essay, due dates for the additional essay(s) will be determined through collaboration between you and the instructor.

NOTE: In addition, there will be a separate critical thinking essay in which students must describe career options of interest to them, aligned with the results from a career suitability survey, and include at least one previously unexplored career option.

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Exams: 75%

There are five exams in the course. Questions will be designed to reflect each of the student learning outcomes with emphasis on SLO 2, 3, and 4.

The weighting of the five exams is as follows:

- Exam 1 (10%)
- Exam 2 (15%) ● Exam 3 (15%) ● Exam 4 (15%)
- Exam 5: Cumulative with emphasis on Ch 12-14 (20%)

Research Participation: 5%

A goal of this class is to help you become familiar with psychological research. 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). Available studies are usually posted each week.

Students must complete a total of 6 experiment credits. However, if you show up to your first 4 experiments on time, you will only need to complete 4 experiment credits. For planning purposes, when you first sign into the experiment management system (EMS) you will be asked to take a prescreen (this takes about 20 minutes to complete).

If you fail to complete this portion of the class your grade will be lowered by one full grade. For example, 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.'

***Makeup Exams and Assignments**

If you become sick, you must schedule to retake the assignments within two weeks 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. If you encounter any technical problems when you take any timed tests or assignments online, take screenshots and email me immediately for potential makeup.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

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>

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LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

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, coffee shops, 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

Typically, I will respond to your emails within 48 hours from Mon to Fri. It will take longer during the holidays and weekends. Office hours will be by appointment only, via Zoom. Please email me to set up an appointment time that is convenient for both of us. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Generative Text Policy

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

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Course 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

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.

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:

[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>

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

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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

Email: 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

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week	Chapter	Topic
1	1	Syllabus and Introduction
2	7	Memory
3		Exam 1 Review, Exam 1
4	2	Neuroscience and Biological Foundations
5	4	Sensation and Perception
6		Exam 2 Review, Exam 2
7	5	Consciousness
8	7	Learning, Critical Thinking Essay #1
9	9	Development
10		Exam 3 Review, Exam 3
11	12 & 13	Psychological Disorders
12	11	Personality and Social Psychology, Critical Thinking Essay #2
13		Exam 4 Review, Exam 4
14	14	Thanksgiving Break – No Class 11/25 & 11/27
15		Careers in Psychology, Final Exam Review
16		Cumulative Final Exam (Exam Week)

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