



PSY 2301.01W: Introduction to Psychology

COURSE SYLLABUS: Winter Mini 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Maria Carlson
Office Location: Binnion Hall room 205
Office Hours: By appointment only

Office Phone: 903-886-5200

University Email Address: maria.carlson@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: email
Communication Response Time: 24 – 48 hours excluding weekends

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required

Psychology: A Concise Introduction (6th Ed.) Griggs, R. A.
ISBN: 978-1-319-23743-1

Optional Texts and/or Materials

Additional handouts and materials may be 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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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 way 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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Basic computer skills, ability to use Microsoft Word and D2L.

Instructional Methods

This is this class is fully online and asynchronous. This means that all the course material is available for you online and there will not be a set date/time you are required to attend live classes. Attendance is required and you will need to be logging into D2L on a regular basis to complete assignments and access class materials. Please see the information below for accessing D2L.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Read the text:

Read the chapter we are covering. This helps you in at least two ways: (1) it exposes you to the material before the lecture, making it easier for you to understand the lecture material and thus get more out of it; and (2) it prepares you

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with questions that might arise from the reading and may then be asked while the topic is being discussed (see the next suggestion).

Ask questions:

If there is something you do not understand, ask questions.

Take notes:

Take GOOD notes. It is a good study habit to go over your notes, filling in the blanks, clarifying concepts and cryptic scribbles while the lecture is still fresh in your mind. It is also a good idea to make friends in the class and get the phone numbers of a couple of people whose notes you can rely on (and to clarify your own notes).

Feedback:

If you are confused, *let me know* I need to give an alternate explanation. Ask questions without embarrassment -- if you are confused, the odds are good that others are as well and will appreciate your asking.

Utilize D2L:

The university utilizes an online course management system called D2L. Assignments, class handouts, announcements and other class materials will be posted online for your convenience through this system. You will also take your quizzes and exams using this system. Please learn how to use it.

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

EXAMS (125 points each)

There will be **four exams**, each covering approximately one-quarter of the course material. Exams will be 50 multiple-choice questions. The questions will require not only recognition of concepts and correct answers but will be designed to test comprehension and application of concepts as well. Material for the exams will be drawn from the text and the lectures.

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Exams will be available on D2L and are to be complete by **11:30pm** on the dates specified on the schedule of topics below. Exams are intended to be completed individually. **DO NOT WORK TOGETHER ON EXAMS.**

Discussion Posts (Essays) (80 points each)

Students will answer 2 essay-style questions via discussion post. Posts should include insightful ideas and comments that are complete and well explained as well as defended by specific evidence. This does not require 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. A paragraph consists of at least five sentences.

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. Discussion posts are intended to be completed individually. **DO NOT WORK TOGETHER ON DISCUSSION POSTS.**

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University University 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

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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, East Texas A&M University University campus open computer lab, etc.

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>

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

EMAIL POLICY

I am available virtually by email during regular business hours. If you would like to schedule an appointment, the best way is to email. We can then set up a time to chat when it is convenient for you.

Please allow 24 hours to receive a response on weekdays. If you email me and do not receive an email response within 48 hours, most likely, your email was not received.

EMAIL GUIDELINES

To provide a framework for professional communication, emails must contain the following:

- Subject Line: Course (e.g., PSY 2301); additional information if desired (e.g., Sleep patterns)
- Address the Reader: Open with Dr. Carlson
- Adhere to writing mechanics rules.
- If asking for assistance with an issue, please list at least 3 things you have done to try and remediate the issue prior to contacting me (these should probably include looking at the syllabus/ course rubrics/ D2L, contacting a colleague, and checking your text, etc.)
- Close with your name

Please send emails from your university accounts. The instructor will not discuss grades over email. If you would like to discuss your grade, please make an appointment.

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COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Missed Exams:

Students who can demonstrate a legitimate University-excused absences, religious holiday or major illnesses are allowed to miss one exam during the term. The grade for the missed exam will be the average of all other exams in the course.

Late Discussion Post Policy:

Late Discussion Posts can be turned in with the following penalty:

- 15 point penalty per day late.
- Discussion Posts turned in 2 days after the due date will earn a grade of zero.
- No emailed Discussion posts will be accepted.

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 can be found at <https://www.tamuc.edu/student-code-of-conduct/>.

If you believe someone has engaged in behaviors that do not align with the Code of Student Conduct or you have other concerns, please visit the File a Report page at <https://www.tamuc.edu/office-of-student-rights-and-responsibilities/concerns-incident-reporting/>

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>

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Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University 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 student academic dishonesty policy
[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

Undergraduate student academic dishonesty policy
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Graduate student academic dishonesty policy:
<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

Graduate student academic dishonesty form:
<https://inside.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateSchool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

East Texas A&M University Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage.

Artificial Intelligence

East Texas A&M University 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.

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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 Services
Velma K. Waters Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5930

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Website: <http://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/campusServices/StudentDisabilityServices/default.aspx>

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



East Texas A&M University Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, 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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Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Dates	Readings	Assignments <i>(All assignments are due at 11:30pm)</i>
Dec. 16 – 19	Chapter 1: The Science of Psychology	
Dec. 20 – 21	Chapter 7: Developmental Psychology	
Dec. 22 – 23	Chapter 8: Personality Theories and Assessment	<i>Exam 1 Due December 23rd</i>
Dec. 24 – 26	Chapter 9: Social Psychology	
Dec. 27 – 28	Chapter 10: Abnormal Psychology	<i>Discussion Post 1 & Exam 2 Due December 28th</i>
Dec. 29 – 30	Chapter 6: Thinking and Intelligence	
Jan. 1 – 3	Chapter 4: Learning	
Jan. 4 – 5	Chapter 5: Memory	<i>Exam 3 Due January 5th</i>
Jan. 6 – 7	Chapter 2: Neuroscience	
Jan. 8 – 10	Chapter 3: Sensation and Perception	<i>Discussion Post 2 Due & Exam 4 Due January 10th</i>

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