



PSY 2301-02E, Introduction to Psychology
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2025

Tue, Thurs 11:00a-12:15p Campus: Main Building: BA Room: 221

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Shifang Tang, Ph.D.
Office Location: Henderson 209
Office Hours: T/TH: 9:00 am to 11:00 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

Research Participation:

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 East Texas A&M University, 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).

Students must complete a total of 6 experiment credits. However, if you complete your first 4 experiment credits without any “no-shows” you will receive 2 free *punctual participant credits*. In other words, if you show up to your experiments on time you will only need to complete 4 experiment credits. When you first sign into the experiment management system (EMS) you will be asked to take a prescreen. The prescreen takes about 20 minutes to complete. If you complete the prescreen in the first two weeks of the semester you will receive ½ free experiment credit. This can be combined with later experiments that are worth ½ credit.

If you fail to complete this portion of the class your grade will be lowered by one full grade. In effect, 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.’ More information about participating in research, such as how to log in to the EMS, is given at the end of this syllabus.

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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 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?

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- 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

Assessments		
Presentation	(2 x 100 pts)	200 points
Presentation takeaway	(30 x 5 pts)	150 points
Quiz	(15 x 30pts)	450 points
Discussion	(15 x 30pts)	450 points
Total points possible		1250 points

- **Presentation (100 points per session, total 200 points):**
 - **Description:** Each student will independently deliver two in-class presentations during the semester, each focused on one assigned research paper relevant to the course material. Presentations are designed to develop students' skills in critically analyzing research and effectively communicating complex ideas.
 - **Requirements:**
 - Each presentation should consist of 15-20 slides and be presented within a 15-20 minute timeframe.
 - Slides must be clear, concise, and include key points, research findings, critical analysis, and any relevant implications or applications.
 - Students should upload their presentation slides to the D2L platform by the night prior to their presentation date to ensure availability for record-keeping and instructor review.
 - **Grading Criteria:** Points will be awarded based on the depth of analysis, clarity and organization of the presentation, engagement with the topic, ability to adhere to the time

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limit, and quality of slides. Consideration will also be given to the student's ability to answer questions and foster discussion.

- **Presentation Takeaway (5 points per session, total 150 points):**

- **Description:** After each presentation, the rest of the students are required to complete a takeaway assignment to reflect on the main ideas and insights gained. This assignment promotes active listening and critical engagement with peer presentations.
- **Requirements:**
 - Each takeaway should be a concise 150-word summary that captures the core findings, arguments, or insights presented by the speaker.
 - The takeaway assignment will be available only during the scheduled class time (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.) and will need to be completed within this period.
 - No make-up opportunities will be available for this assignment.
- **Grading Criteria:** Takeaways will be graded based on completeness, relevance, and clarity, with an emphasis on the student's ability to distill key points from the presentation effectively.

- **Quiz (15 Quizzes, total 450 points):**

- **Description:** Each quiz will consist of 30 multiple-choice questions that cover content from one chapter in the course textbook. Quizzes are designed to assess comprehension of core concepts, theories, and terms introduced in the reading.
- **Requirements:**
 - Each question will focus on key concepts or theories relevant to the chapter.
 - Students are encouraged to review each chapter thoroughly to ensure mastery of the material.
 - Quizzes are open for a set period, and once started, each must be completed within a specific time limit.
- **Grading Criteria:** Each quiz is worth 30 points, with one point per question. Scores reflect accuracy, with no partial credit for incorrect answers.

- **Discussion (15 Discussions, total 450 points):**

- **Description:** For each chapter, students will participate in an online discussion centered on the chapter's content. Students are required to post an original response to a prompt based on the chapter and reply to at least one peer's post to further the conversation.
- **Requirements:**
 - The initial post should demonstrate thoughtful engagement with the chapter material, incorporating critical insights and reflections.
 - The reply to a peer's post should be meaningful, offering feedback, asking follow-up questions, or introducing new perspectives that enhance the discussion.
 - Missing a reply to a peer's post will result in a 5-point deduction from the total score for that discussion.

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- **Grading Criteria:** Each discussion is worth 30 points, based on the quality of the initial post, engagement with a peer's post, and accuracy in answering the accompanying multiple-choice questions.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

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

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COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

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

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.

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

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.

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week	Topic	Date 1 (Tuesday)		Date 2 (Thursday)		Assignment (Due Sunday @11:59 pm)
1	Chapter 01: The Science of Psychology	1/14/2025	Syllabus	1/16/2025	Chapter 1 Presentations	Discussion and Quiz 1
2	Chapter 02: Neuroscience and Biological Foundations	1/21/2025	Chapter 1 Presentations	1/23/2025	Chapter 2 Presentations	Discussion and Quiz 2
3	Chapter 03: Stress, Coping, and Health Psychology	1/28/2025	Chapter 2 Presentations	1/30/2025	Chapter 3 Presentations	Discussion and Quiz 3
4	Chapter 04: Sensation and Perception	2/4/2025	Chapter 3 Presentations	2/6/2025	Chapter 4 Presentations	Discussion and Quiz 4
5	Chapter 05: States of Consciousness	2/11/2025	Chapter 4 Presentations	2/13/2025	Chapter 5 Presentations	Discussion and Quiz 5
6	Chapter 06: Learning	2/18/2025	Chapter 5 Presentations	2/20/2025	Chapter 6 Presentations	Discussion and Quiz 6
7	Chapter 07: Memory	2/25/2025	Chapter 6 Presentations	2/27/2025	Chapter 7 Presentations	Discussion and Quiz 7
8	Chapter 08: Thinking, Language, and Intelligence	3/4/2025	Chapter 7 Presentations	3/6/2025	Chapter 8 Presentations	Discussion and Quiz 8
9	Spring Break	3/11/2025	Spring Break	3/13/2025		Spring Break
10	Chapter 09: Life Span Development	3/18/2025	Chapter 8 Presentations	3/20/2025	Chapter 9 Presentations	Discussion and Quiz 9
11	Chapter 10: Sex, Gender, and Sexuality	3/25/2025	Chapter 9 Presentations	3/27/2025	Chapter 10 Presentations	Discussion and Quiz 10
12	Chapter 11: Motivation and Emotion	4/1/2025	Chapter 10 Presentations	4/3/2025	Chapter 11 Presentations	Discussion and Quiz 11
13	Chapter 12: Personality	4/8/2025	Chapter 11 Presentations	4/10/2025	Chapter 12 Presentations	Discussion and Quiz 12
14	Chapter 13: Psychological Disorders	4/15/2025	Chapter 12 Presentations	4/17/2025	Chapter 13 Presentations	Discussion and Quiz 13
15	Chapter 14: Therapy	4/22/2025	Chapter 13 Presentations	4/24/2025	Chapter 14 Presentations	Discussion and Quiz 14
16	Chapter 15: Social Psychology	4/29/2025	Chapter 14 Presentations	5/1/2025	Chapter 15 Presentations	Discussion and Quiz 15

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