



## **PSY 2301: Intro to Psychology**

### **COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2025**

#### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Ashley Gusukuma  
Office Location: Caddo Mills High School, Room 206  
Office Hours: T, F 3:00- 4:15 pm; MTWF: 7:45 am-8:15 am or by appointment  
**\*Psychology Specific Tutorials are Tuesday AM and Friday PM\***  
Office Phone: (903) 527-3164  
Office Fax: (903) 527-4772  
University Email Address: agusukuma@leomail.tamuc.edu  
Preferred Form of Communication: email  
Communication Response Time: < 24 weekday hours

#### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required Psychology from Open Stax Print ISBN 1938168356, Digital ISBN 1947172077, <https://openstax.org/books/psychology/pages/1-introduction>.

*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. Since it is intended to cover a variety of topics within psychology, it provides an overview of the field necessary for later courses. In this course, we will:

1. 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. The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.
2. Explore the brain and some of the cognitive abilities it supports like learning, memory, perception, language, and consciousness.
3. Examine human development --- both in terms of growing up and growing older.
4. Discuss the manner in which the behaviors of others affect our own thoughts and behavior.
5. Discuss some of the mental disorders and the treatments.

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Develop an overview of the field of psychology by studying and reflecting on the topics
2. Understand how psychologists take a scientific approach to 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**

### **Online Vs. Face to Face**

In the event face to face meetings are not possible due to COVID all students will be responsible for attending our live sessions online. Attendance will be taken.

Coronavirus Protection Measures A&M-Commerce may require the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories. Exceptions may be made by faculty where warranted. Faculty have management over their classrooms. Students not using face-coverings or wearing them inappropriately can be required to leave class. Repetitive refusal to comply can be reported to the Office of Students' Rights and Responsibilities as a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

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**Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.**

## **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

Students must be able to use Microsoft office, PowerPoint, D2L, and Google Classroom.

## **Instructional Methods**

This course is mainly lecture oriented and will focus on important psychology concepts but will not serve as a substitute for reading the textbook. The textbook is a more detailed presentation with more extensive examples and problem sets. You are expected to read all handouts and to allot adequate time to study the material on your own. If you miss a lecture, you are still responsible for that day's material-read the chapter, get notes from someone in class, and see the instructor for any clarification. If you have difficulty with the material feel free to see the instructor as soon as you can for advice on how best to improve your understanding of the material. It is recommended that you remain active in our online classroom as well.

### Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

1. Read the chapter before class.
  - **Read the chapter we are covering when it is assigned.** 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 or supplemental material and thus get more out of it; and (2) it prepares you to complete the homework assignment.
2. Attend all lectures and problem sessions.
3. Take good class notes.
4. Ask questions in the class if the material is not understood or ask after the class.
5. Actively read the chapters several times.
6. Correct ALL quizzes and exams & review them!!!
7. Work all of the in-text problems.
8. Work ALL of the chapters end problems.
9. Study consistently!!
10. Use supplemental material questions (online classroom, other textbooks, etc.)
11. Use flash cards.
12. Use a study group (3-5 people).
13. Take advantage of the instructor's office hours.
14. Take notes as you read the chapters
15. Summarize your lecture notes.
  - It is a good study habit to go over your notes at the end of each week, filling in the blanks from the supplemental video(s) and assignment. It is

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also a good idea to make friends in the course and get the phone numbers of a couple of people who you can clarify notes with

16. Complete all assignments, both in person and online.

17. Get a tutor.

**Communication:** If the instructor needs to contact an individual student, it will be via the student's email account. Students should check email frequently, especially after an absence. Email is the best, easiest and fastest way to communicate with me. Remind 101 is also an option.

**Student Conduct Policy:** In order to create a "learning environment" free of disruption, you **MUST TURN OFF** your cell phones, MP3 players, PDA's, Pagers, and any other electronic devices before entering the class. All the students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (this includes online classes). (See current Student Guidebook). If the student fails to comply with the code of conduct and is disrespectful, disruptive to the instructor or the students of the class, the instructor reserves the right to dismiss the student from the class on the first offense. A second offense may constitute dismissal from the course with a failing grade. A & M-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 expression will be maintained.

## **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

\*The instructor reserves the right to assign extra credit at her discretion, but it will not exceed 10% of a student's final score.

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## **Assessments**

The start of the semester is January 13th. The last class day is May 2nd. Finals week is May 5-9.

Exam 1: Week of February 3rd

Exam 2: Week of February 24th

Exam 3: Week of March 24th

Final Examinations: TBD, Week of May 5th

Your course grade will be based on your exams 40%, essays 30%, 20% quizzes, and 10% research.

1.) Exams will constitute 40% of your course grade. There is a ton of information covered in this class. Measuring your understanding, at least partially through an exam, is part of my job is to prepare you for college. There will be 4 exams (three tests during the semester and one during the final exam period).

Make-Up Exams: NONE. No Makeup exams will be offered. NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN. Exams may be rescheduled, without penalty, only when arrangements have been made in advance of the testing date. Please come to 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. Exams are multiple-choice and short answers. You are responsible for all lecture/supplemental videos and reading materials. The exams are not open notes or textbooks and should be taken individually.

2.) Essays will constitute 30% of your course grade. Students will answer essay-style questions. Essays should include insightful ideas and comments that are complete and well explained as well as defended by specific evidence. This does not require direct quotes from sources; however, if direct quotes are used they must be appropriately sourced. 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, not edited well for mistakes or poor

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writing or not defended by evidence will earn a failing grade. There will be 5 discussion posts throughout the semester. You must complete at least 2 of the 5 discussion posts. 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.

3.) Quizzes will constitute 20% of your course grade. To encourage participation, reading, and to ensure that you engage in content thoroughly, there will be ten (10) assignments given throughout the semester. The assignments may come in the form of a quiz, written assignment, short essay or small project/presentation on content being covered in the assigned unit. There are no make-up opportunities for missed or late submissions for missed assignments.

4.) Research Participation will constitute 10% of your course grade. 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 through exploration and analysis of relevant peer reviewed psychology journal articles. Each original 2 page article summary will be worth up to 2 points towards the 10 full points available. To get the full 10 points, 5 research articles must be successfully analyzed. Journals can be accessed via the Texas A&M Commerce library system. Instructions for completing the research assignment can be found on D2L.

### **Class Attendance Policy**

All students are expected to attend class on a regular basis. The Department of Psychology adheres to the attendance policy set by the University as stated in the most current Undergraduate Catalog. Being late by more than 5 minutes is equivalent to missing a lecture or laboratory. You must be on time in order to take an exam. Excessive absence is defined as missing more than 10% of the lecture or laboratory sessions without excusable reasons. Excessive absences will be reported to the Dean of the College and the Dean of Students, in accordance with the TAMU-Commerce Procedure A13.02. Good class attendance will be necessary in order to pass the course. If you miss more than 3 lectures prior to the first exam, the instructor reserves the right to drop you from the course. If you miss more than 6 lectures throughout the course of the semester, the instructor reserves the right to drop you from the course

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# 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 Requirements:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362023-Zoom-system-requirements-Windows-macOS-Linux>

## 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.

## 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).  
<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>

### **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>

### **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](#)

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<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>

### **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

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

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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)

### **AI Use Policy**

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

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## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

**Tentative Schedule:** Reading assignments should be done and ALL reading notes taken prior to class to ensure best understanding of the material being presented.

Week of	Chapter/Topic	Reading Assignment/Exams
January 13th	Unit 1 Intro to Psychology	Review: Syllabus Plagiarism Quiz Due quiz 1 Due Read: Chapter 1
January 20th	Unit 2 Psychological Research	Read: Chapter 2 quiz 2 Due
January 27th	Unit 3 States of Consciousness	Read: Chapter 4 quiz 3 Due
February 3rd	Unit 4 Lifespan Development	Exam 1 Read: Chapter 9
February 10th	Unit 5 Social Psychology	Read: Chapter 12 quiz 4 Due
February 17th	Unit 6 Psychological Disorders	Read: Chapter 15 quiz 5 Due
February 24th	Unit 7 Sensation and Perception Learning	Exam 2 Read: Chapter 5 Read: Chapter 6
March 3rd	Unit 7 Sensation and Perception Learning	Read: Chapter 5 Read: Chapter 6 quiz 6 Due
March 10th	Unit 8 Thinking and Intelligence	Read: Chapter 7 quiz 7 Due
March 17th	Spring Break	
March 24th	Unit 9 Memory	Exam 3 Read: Chapter 8 Complete quiz 8

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March 31	Unit 10 Emotions & Motivation	Read: Chapter 10 quiz 9 Due
April 7	Unit 11 Stress, Lifestyle, & Health	Read: Chapter 14 Research Due quiz 10 Due
April 24	Unit 12: Personality	
April 21	Dead Week/ Makeup	
April 28	Dead Week/ Makeup	
May 5th	Final Exams	Final Covers all Chapters

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