PSY 2301-01W: Intro to Psychology
COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer II 2025, *Online meeting time Wed 5-7 pm*

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Shulan Lu
Office Location: Henderson 220
Office Hours: TBA
University Email Address: shulan.lu@etamu.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 our Department Head.

Communication Response Time: Typically, I can respond within 1-2 days of receiving the message on the normal Monday through Friday weekday schedule, however, during weekends and holidays this process might be longer.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

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

Software Required
Microsoft office (or an equivalent to such); D2L; pdf

Course Description
This course will introduce students to the field of psychology and give a general understanding of the basic principles of psychology. Because this course's purpose is to cover a myriad of essential topics within psychology, it provides an overview of topics necessary for later courses.

This course will highlight some of the most interesting experiments within the field of psychology, and shed light on the implications of those studies for our understanding of the

human mind and human behavior. Among the things we will cover in this course, firstly, 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 common mental disorders and their respective treatments.

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. Learn to explain the real world psychological phenomena by applying the concepts, theories, and methods learned in our course. Learning strategies to help absorb information meaningfully 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

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

You need to be able to use the following:

- Microsoft Office (or an equivalent to such)
- D2L
- PDF

In addition, refer to the following.

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

Instructional Methods

This course is primarily online. Upon request, Dr. Shulan Lu hosts an online every Wed (5-7pm). During this time, student mini-presentations will be held and interactive learning activities will be conducted. Students are expected to attend at least two online meetings.

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?

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. (If you are interested in this technique, I would recommend checking out the website "pomofocus.io") While this technique can be useful to any student, depending on your needs, you may need to do more sessions per week. For more details, refer to *"Secrets of Student Success"* in our textbook Ch1.

5) Complete assigned coursework on time.

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

If you become sick, you must schedule to retake the assigned exam 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 <u>BEFORE</u> the exam or assignment is due, not after.

Unless authorized by me, you are expected to complete all course assignments without assistance from any source, including artificial intelligence such as ChatGPT. Students must reply to 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 & mini-presentation: 10%

Each student is expected to give two mini-presentations during scheduled online meeting time (Wed 5-7pm). Each presentation will cover selected concepts, theories, or experiments. Students must prepare a PowerPoint outline and have their camera on while presenting.

1. Each mini presentation should not last longer than five minutes.
2. Slides should use bullet points and include diagrams, charts, or illustrations where appropriate.
3. Slides should not contain large blocks of text for students to read during the presentation.
4. Students should demonstrate their understanding through QAs with me and the class.
5. During presentation, students must be on zoom camera.

Retrieval practice: 10%

For each chapter, you will complete a brief retrieval practice 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%

Critical thinking refers to the process of objectively evaluating, comparing, analyzing, and synthesizing information. 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 quotations from sources. Please use your own words and ideas.

An essay should be at least 1 paragraph but no more than 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. Essays that are weak, trivial, unclear, ungrammatical, or not defended by evidence will earn a failing grade.

You must choose at least TWO of these questions to answer during the semester. There are 3 critical thinking essay question options that you can choose from. One of them is a required essay on careers related to psychological science. Answers are due at the end of the week for the corresponding chapter. If you complete more than 2 essays, only the 2 essays with the highest grade will be used in calculating your final grade. Again, these are graded pass/fail. Thus, once you pass two of the essays, you do not have to do anymore for the semester.

Exams: 70%

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.

There will be NO after the fact make-up examinations. If for some REAL emergency you must miss an exam, make sure that you contact me BEFORE the exam. When official documentation is provided, you can do a make-up.

The weighting of the five exams is as follow:
● Exam 1: Chapters 1 & 7 (10%)
● Exam 2: Chapters 2 & 4 (15%)
● Exam 3: Chapters 5 & 6 (15%)
● Exam 4: Chapters 9 & 12 (15%)
● Exam 5: Cumulative with emphasis on Ch 13-14 (15%)

Tentative Schedule

Chapter	Topic	Dates
1	Introduction and Research Methods	Read "Secrets of Student Success" , 7/08 due
	Online meeting	7/09 5-7pm
6	Learning	7/10 due
	Exam 1	7/12 due
2	Neuroscience and Biological Foundations	Study the figures in addition to the text, 7/15 due
	Online meeting	7/16 5-7pm
4	Sensation and Perception	7/17 due

	Exam 2	7/19 due
5	Consciousness	7/22 due
	Online meeting	7/23 5-7pm
7	Memory	7/24 due
	Exam 3	7/26 due
9	Development	7/29 due
	Online meeting	7/30 5-7pm
12	Personality	7/31 due
	Exam 4	8/02 due
12 & 13	Psychological Disorders	8/05 due
	Online meeting	8/6 5-7pm (tentative)
	Cumulative Final Exam (Exam week)	8/7 due 5pm

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

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 TAMUC 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

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

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

TAMUC Attendance

Students are expected to be present for all face-to-face classes. Three or more absences constitute excessive absences for the purposes of this course. Students are responsible for notifying the instructor of an excused absence and providing appropriate documentation when necessary. Students are also responsible for requesting any makeup work during excused absences.

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.

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](http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf) 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.

Note: Our university is in the rebranding process. Some of the links could be changed during the semester. If you could not find the relevant information, contact the instructor.