



EAST TEXAS A&M

PSY 2301 Introduction to Psychology

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor: Prof. Luke Yarbrough

Office Location: Whitehouse High School 110

Office Hours: During Flex Period

Email: Luke.Yarbrough@etamu.edu

Preferred Communication: Email

Response Time: Within one business day

Course Information

- **Textbook:**
 - [Psychology 2e, OpenStax](#) (ISBN: 978-1-975076-45-0)
 - Available free online in web or PDF format
 - Web view is recommended for best accessibility
- **Course Description:**

This course introduces students to the field of psychology and provides a general understanding of the basic principles of psychology. Topics include brain functions, cognitive processes, development, social influences on behavior, mental health, and treatments.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Gain a broad overview of psychology by engaging with core concepts.
2. Understand how psychologists apply scientific methods.
3. Practice scientific communication appropriate for academic settings.
4. Apply theories to real-world scenarios.
5. Develop critical thinking, including skepticism, objectivity, and rationalism.

Grading Breakdown

Category

Weight

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Exams	40%
Essays	30%
Quizzes	20%
Research/Discussion	10%
Total	100%

Grading Scale:

- A = 90–100%
- B = 80–89%
- C = 70–79%
- D = 60–69%
- F = Below 59%

Assignments and Expectations

Quizzes: 20%

- 10 questions (true/false, multiple choice, matching) on D2L per topic
- Up to 2 attempts; the highest score is kept
- The lowest quiz score will be dropped.

Research/Discussion: 10%

- Research
 - The purpose of a research assignment is to expose you to psychological research and give you practice reading research articles..
- Discussion Posts
 - Posted to D2L and must demonstrate engagement with course content
 - Outside sources are allowed but not required; course readings must be referenced
 - You must respond to at least two classmates' posts
 - **Due: Fridays by 11:59 PM CT**

Grading Rubric:

5 = Excellent: Deep, well-supported ideas

4 = Good: Thoughtful, but room for depth

1–3 = Insufficient or incorrect content

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0 = Missing submission

Essays: 30%

- Two critical thinking essays (1–3 paragraphs)
 - Graded **pass/fail**: Must demonstrate insight, originality, and understanding of material
 - No direct quotes allowed; use your own words
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Exams: 40%

- This course covers a substantial amount of material. Measuring your understanding—at least partially through exams—is an important part of preparing you for college. There will be 4 exams (three tests during the semester and one during the final exam period).

Exam Policy:

- Must be taken on the scheduled date
- Make-ups require a doctor's note
- No electronics allowed during exams
- Academic dishonesty results in a **zero** and possible disciplinary action

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

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

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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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 ETAMU 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>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Course-Specific Policies

- **Late Work:** You must contact the instructor **before the due date** to request consideration. Documentation may be required.
- **Extenuating Circumstances:** Includes hospitalization, family death, natural disasters, military service
- **Not Acceptable Excuses:** Computer crashes, internet issues

APA Style

All written work must follow APA guidelines:

- Credit your sources
- Add authority to your ideas
- Avoid plagiarism

Plagiarism

- Any uncredited use of another's words or ideas will result in a **zero** and **disciplinary referral**

AI Technology

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

- Any use of AI (e.g., ChatGPT) must be documented
 - Undocumented AI use = **plagiarism**
 - Instructors may restrict AI use on any assignment
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Exam Policy

- Exams must be taken on the scheduled date
- **School events are not valid excuses**
- A doctor's note is required for makeup eligibility
- Unauthorized AI or plagiarism = **zero**

Exam Day Rules

- No electronic devices of any kind
 - Chromebooks only for digital portions
 - All other tabs must be closed
 - Only pens/pencils and water bottles allowed
 - Violations = **zero**, possible discipline or removal
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Classroom Behavior

This is a **college-level course**.

- Respect is expected at all times
 - Disruptive or derogatory behavior may result in:
 - Grade penalties
 - Removal from class
 - Course failure
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Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus is a guide. The instructor may revise it as needed to support student learning. All changes will be communicated 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.

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>.

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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>

East Texas A&M Attendance

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

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M 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 Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<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 provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

East Texas A&M University
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Student Disability Services](#)

<https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/>

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

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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.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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

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.



<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.htm>

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Course Schedule/Outline (Tentative)

Unit 1: Foundations of Psychology (Chapters 1–5)

Goal: Understand psychology's history, research foundations, biological bases, consciousness, and perception.

- **Week 1 (Jan 12–16):**
Read **Chapter 1 – Introduction to Psychology**
Complete Reading Quiz 1

 - **Week 2 (Jan 19–23):**
Read **Chapter 2 – Psychological Research**
Complete Reading Quiz 2

 - **Week 3 (Jan 26–30):**
Read **Chapter 3 – Biopsychology**
Read **Chapter 4 – States of Consciousness**
Complete Reading Quiz 3 & Quiz 4

 - **Week 4 (Feb 2–6):**
Read **Chapter 5 – Sensation and Perception**
Complete Reading Quiz 5

 - **Week 5 (Feb 9–13):**
Unit 1 Review

 - **Exam 1 (Chapters 1–5) — Friday, Feb 13**
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Unit 2: Cognition & Learning (Chapters 6–8)

Goal: Explore learning processes, cognition, intelligence, and memory structures.

- **Week 6 (Feb 16–20):**
Read **Chapter 6 – Learning**
Complete Reading Quiz 6
Tip: Begin your Conditioning Project

- **Week 7 (Feb 23–27):**
Read **Chapter 7 – Thinking and Intelligence**
Complete Reading Quiz 7

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- **Week 8 (Mar 2–6):**
Read **Chapter 8 – Memory**
Complete Reading Quiz 8
- **Exam 2 (Chapters 6–8) — Friday, March 6**

SPRING BREAK: March 9–13 (No School)

Units 3 & 4: Human Development and Social Behavior (Chapters 9–12)

Goal: Study lifespan development, emotion/motivation, personality, and social influences.

- **Week 9 (Mar 16–20):**
Read **Chapter 9 – Lifespan Development**
Complete Reading Quiz 9
 - **Week 10 (Mar 23–27):**
Read **Chapter 10 – Emotion and Motivation**
Complete NO QUIZ
 - **Week 11 (Mar 30–Apr 3):**
Read **Chapter 11 – Personality**
Complete NO QUIZ
 - **Week 12 (Apr 6–10):**
Read **Chapter 12 – Social Psychology**
Complete Reading Quiz 12
 - **Exam 3 (Chapters 9–12) — Friday, April 10**
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Unit 5: Applied Psychology & Final Preparation

Goal: Learn about world of work, stress, health, disorders, and treatment — with a focus on application where indicated.

- **Week 13 (Apr 13–17):**
Read **Chapter 14 – Stress, Lifestyle, and Health**
NO QUIZ

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- **Week 14 (Apr 20–24):**
Read **Chapter 15 – Psychological Disorders**
Complete Quiz 15
 - **Week 15 (Apr 27–May 1):**
Final Exam Review (see scope below)
 - **Week 16 (May 4–8):**
Finals Week
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Final Exam Study Guide — What's In / What's Out

Final Exam Includes:

- **Chapter 1 – Introduction to Psychology**
- **Chapter 2 – Psychological Research**
- **Chapter 3 – Biopsychology**
- **Chapter 4 – States of Consciousness**
- **Chapter 5 – Sensation and Perception**
- **Chapter 6 – Learning**
- **Chapter 7 – Thinking and Intelligence**
- **Chapter 8 – Memory**
- **Chapter 9 – Lifespan Development**
- **Chapter 12 – Social Psychology**
- **Chapter 13 – Industrial-Organizational Psychology** (3 potential common sense ?)
- **Chapter 15 – Psychological Disorders**

Final Exam Does NOT Include:

- *Chapter 10 – Emotion and Motivation*
- *Chapter 11 – Personality*
- *Chapter 14 – Stress, Lifestyle, and Health*
- *Chapter 16 – Therapy and Treatment*

Success Habits for This Course

- Daily D2L Check-In:** Review news and updates each morning.
- Pre-Class Reading:** Preview slides and chapters before lectures.
- Weekly Quizzes:** Due by the end of each week to keep learning on track.
- Project/Essay Planning:** Start early for projects like the Conditioning Project.

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Note:

* This course may require sharing selected student artifacts (assignments or exams) with East Texas A&M University faculty for quality assurance and dual credit review purposes.

**Reading Assignments should be completed and ALL reading notes prior to class to ensure best understanding of the material being covered.

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