



PSY 2301, A1E, A2E, A3E: Intro to Psychology

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Kaylie Brundage

Office Location: Henderson 304

Office Hours: by Email or Zoom

University Email Address: kaylie.brundage@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: 24-48 hours Monday-Friday, weekends and holidays may take longer than 48 hours.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required: *Introduction to Psychology* by Charles Stangor

Free/Open textbook available at

[https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Psychology/Introductory_Psychology/Introduction_to_Psychology_\(LibreTexts\)](https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Psychology/Introductory_Psychology/Introduction_to_Psychology_(LibreTexts))

Software Required: Microsoft Office or equivalent; PDF; myLeo/Desire2Learn (D2L)

Optional Texts and/or Materials: available on myLeo/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. 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 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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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. Explain the real world 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 equivalent
- PDF
- myLeo/Desire2Learn (D2L)
- Searching the internet for texts
- Using Library resources

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. During our lectures, we will focus on deepening your understanding of key 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.**

Ask questions. If you have a question on a particular topic being discussed, chances are another student does as well.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES OR TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN THE COURSE

- 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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

- 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.
- 5) Complete assigned coursework on time.
- 6) Please contact me when you have questions. The material is difficult, and no one learns everything perfectly the first time through. This class, and your time, is too important for you to spend time getting frustrated instead of learning

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

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.

Exams	55%
Quizzes	15%
Learning Engagement	20%
Critical Thinking Essays	10%
TOTAL 100%	

Makeup exams and assignments

Life happens. If illness or other circumstances prevent your completion of assignments, make-ups may be permitted at my discretion. Email me as soon as possible, and be ready to provide relevant documentation if requested. There will be no make-up exams except as mandated by University policy for University-excused absences, religious holidays, and major illnesses. Students should contact the professor prior to the scheduled exam if possible, or within 24 hours of missing the exam due to an accident or illness. Due dates for exams are listed below on the schedule of topics.

If you are traveling and representing the university (e.g., band members, athletes, etc.) you need to request accommodations BEFORE the exam or assignment is due, not after.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

If you encounter any technical problems when you take any timed tests or assignments online, take screenshots and email me immediately for potential makeup.

Assessments

Exams: 55%

There will be four unit examinations and one comprehensive final examination during the semester. Unit exams will assess students' understanding of the material covered in each instructional unit and may include a combination of multiple choice, true/false, short-answer, and application-based questions. The comprehensive exam will assess students' understanding of concepts from the entire course. Questions will be designed to reflect each of the student learning outcomes with emphasis on SLO 2, 3, and 4.

Exams must be completed on the scheduled date and time. There will be NO after-the-fact make-up examinations. Students who are unable to take an exam due to a documented university-approved absence or emergency must notify the instructor BEFORE the exam to discuss possible accommodations. When official documentation is provided, you can do a make-up. Make-up examinations may differ in format from the original exam.

To recognize improvement throughout the semester, if a student's percentage score on the final cumulative examination is higher than their lowest unit exam score, the final examination percentage will automatically replace the lowest unit exam percentage when calculating the final course grade. This replacement can improve a student's final grade but will never reduce it. The final examination will also count as its own separate course grade, regardless of whether a replacement occurs.

Students are responsible for arriving on time and bringing any materials permitted for the examination. Unless otherwise announced, exams are closed-book and closed-note.

The weighting of the five exams is as follows:

Exam 1 (10%)

Exam 2 (10%)

Exam 3 (10%)

Exam 4 (10%)

Exam 5: Cumulative Final (15%)

Chapter Quizzes: 15%

Students will complete online chapter quizzes throughout the semester. Quizzes are administered through D2L and are due by 11:59 on the assigned Friday, our scheduled virtual instruction day.

Chapter quizzes are designed to reinforce the week's material by encouraging students to review the assigned textbook reading and reflect on concepts discussed in class.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Quizzes focus on key terminology, foundational concepts, and major ideas from the assigned chapter.

Quizzes are open book (use of textbook and class notes is permitted), and students are permitted two attempts, with the higher score recorded in the gradebook. Students are encouraged to use the first attempt as an opportunity to identify areas for additional review before completing the second attempt.

To provide flexibility, the lowest chapter quiz score will be dropped when calculating the final course grade. Because quizzes are available throughout the week and are intended to support consistent engagement with course material, late submissions will not be permitted by university policy or with prior instructor approval.

Learning Engagement: 20%

Engagement is the heart of this course, as it is how we learn the most from each other; therefore, it is imperative that all students attend class and actively contribute ideas and reflections. Class session attendance is required and will be a part of your course grade as outlined on the syllabus. For each class session, please observe the following.

While anyone can be late on rare occasions, habitual lateness is unacceptable. Also once in class, be prepared to stay for the entire class period. If you must miss a class, you are responsible for what transpires during class sessions, whether you are there or not.

Be respectful toward all members of the class and their views.

Learning engagement will be assessed via attendance and your performance/participation on activities, in-class questions, and discussions.

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. AI use, of any kind, on the essays is prohibited and will result in an automatic assignment failure. 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.

There are 5 critical thinking essay questions. You must choose at least TWO of these questions to answer during the semester. Answers are due at the end of the week for

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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. These are graded pass/fail. Thus, once you pass two of the essays, you do not have to do anymore for the semester.

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@etamu.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, an ETAMU 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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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

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>

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Graduate student academic dishonesty form:

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateSchool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

East Texas A&M 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.

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@etamu.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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

East A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East 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

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

East A&M SUPPORTS STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH

Counseling Center Services

The Counseling Center at East 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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

DEPARTMENT OR ACCREDITING AGENCY REQUIRED CONTENT

Course Outline/Calendar

Week	Dates	Topic	Chapter
1	Aug. 21, 2026	Syllabus	
2	Aug. 24 - Aug. 28	Introduction & Research Methods	1 & 2
3	Aug. 31 - Sept. 2	Memory	8
4	Sept. 7 - Sept. 11	Exam 1 Review / Exam 1	
5	Sept. 14 - Sept. 18	Biopsychology	3
6	Sept. 21 - Sept. 25	Sensation & Perception	4
7	Sept. 28 - Oct. 2	Exam 2 Review / Exam 2	
8	Oct. 5 - Oct. 9	Consciousness	5
9	Oct. 12 - Oct. 16	Learning	7
10	Oct. 19 - Oct. 23	Exam 3 Review / Exam 3	
11	Oct. 26 - Oct. 30	Lifespan Development	6
12	Nov. 2 - Nov. 6	Personality	11
13	Nov. 9 - Nov. 13	Exam 4 Review / Exam 4	
14	Nov. 16 - Nov. 20	Psychological Disorders	12
15	Nov. 23 - Nov. 27	Thanksgiving Break	
16	Nov. 13. - Dec. 4	Treatment / Wrap Up	13
	Dec. 7 - Dec. 11	Final Exam	

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.