

# Common Course Syllabus for General Psychology, PSYC 2301, Spring 2020

<b>Course Number:</b> PSYC 2301	<b>Department:</b> Behavioral Sciences	<b>Campuses:</b> Levelland, RC, LC, PV, INET
<b>Discipline:</b> Psychology	<b>Title:</b> General Psychology	<b>Satisfies Core Curriculum Requirement?</b> Yes
<b>Credit:</b> 3 <b>Lecture:</b> 3 <b>Lab:</b> 0	<b>Formats:</b> Conventional, INET, ITV	<b>Prerequisites:</b> TSI compliance in reading

**Textbook:** OpenStax *Psychology* **OR** *Noba Textbook Series: Psychology*, as chosen by individual instructors.

**Course Description:** General Psychology is a survey of the essential subject areas, and major theories and approaches to the scientific study of behavior and mental processes.

**Course Evaluation:** See specific instructor's part of the syllabus for methods used to assess student performance. However, all General Psychology courses will have multiple exams and a written assignment.

## Core Objectives addressed:

- **Communication skills-** includes effective written, oral and visual communication.
- **Critical thinking skills-** includes creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- **Empirical and Quantitative skills-** to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
- **Social Responsibility-** to include demonstrated intercultural knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities.

**Student Learning Outcomes/Competencies:** Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Identify various research methods and their characteristics used in the scientific study of psychology.
2. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology.
3. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology.
4. Use terminology unique to the study of psychology.
5. Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation.
6. Identify physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior. CIP # 42.0101.51 25

**Student Learning Outcomes Assessment:** Dr. Alicia Barr is the faculty member who is responsible for the assessment of student learning outcomes. Faculty teaching PSYC2301 should contact Dr. Barr with questions regarding assessment.

**Attendance Policy:** Students are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in a course. The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined in the course syllabus. When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor may permit the student to make up work missed. It is the student's responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period of time as determined by the instructor. Students are officially enrolled in all courses for which they pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Should a student, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, absences will be attributed to the student from the first class meeting. Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. A student who does not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of "X" or "F" as determined by the instructor. Instructors are responsible for clearly stating their administrative drop policy in the course syllabus, and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of that policy.

It is the student's responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through MySPC using his or her student online account. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated, the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment. *Additional attendance information might be included in the specific instructor's part of the syllabus.*

**Academic Integrity:** Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, examinations and papers. Failure to comply with this policy (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following: 1) turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, or a mail order term paper mill; 2) copying and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation or references; 3) using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations or citing them; or 4) missing in-text citations.

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following: 1) obtaining an exam by stealing or collusion; 2) discovering the content of an exam before it is given; 3) using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messages, internet, apps, etc.) during an exam, quiz, or homework assignment; 4) entering an office or building to obtain an unfair advantage; 5) taking an exam for another student; 6) altering grade records; 7) copying another's work during an exam, quiz or homework assignment; 8) rewriting another student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's; or 9) taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

**Student Conduct:** Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others' rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive or demeaning behavior. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening will not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

**Diversity Statement:** In this class, the instructor will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

**Nondiscrimination Policy:** South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding these policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, 806-716-2360, South Plains College, 1401 College Ave, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336.

**Disability Statement:** Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland Student Health & Wellness Center 806-716-2577; Reese Center (Building 8) and Lubbock Center, 806-716-4675; or Plainview Center Main Office, 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

**Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement:** If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, Under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To activate accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Director of Health and Wellness. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact the Director of Health and Wellness at 806-716-2362 or email [cgilster@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:cgilster@southplainscollege.edu) for assistance.

**Campus Carry Policy:** Texas Senate Bill 11 (Govt. Code 411.2031) authorizes carrying a *concealed* handgun in South Plains College 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 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations and Frequently Asked Questions, please refer to the campus carry page: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/campuscarry.php> . Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the SPC Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.

## Welcome to General Psychology (PSYC 2301) with Dr. Barr

Spring 2020: Sec. 271 MW 8-9:15 am (LC); Sec. 272 MW 9:30-10:45 am (LC); Sec. 202 MW 1 -2:15 pm (RC);  
Sec. 205 TR 9:30-10:45 am (RC); Sec. 206 TR 11-12:15 pm (RC); Sec. 207 TR 1-2:15 pm (RC)

### **CONTACT ME—I'm here to help!**

**Office:** Reese campus, Building 4, room 405H **Email:** [abarr@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:abarr@southplainscollege.edu) **Phone:** (806)716-4641

**Office Hours:** At the Lubbock Center, Mon & Wed 10:45-11:30 am in room 138; At Reese, Mon & Wed 2:15-3:00 & 3:15-4:00 pm; At Reese, Tue & Thur 8:30-9:15 am and 2:15-3:15 pm; and Fri by appointment. *Please drop by my office hours if you need help with class material or simply want to discuss a class topic.*

**SPC Student email:** Please check your SPC student email regularly for messages from your professors, and please send your email messages to me from this account. South Plains College provides all students with an SPC Google email account which you can access by signing into MySPC. To log in to MySPC, click on the MySPC link located in the upper right corner of any page on our website. Then use the username and password provided in your acceptance letter. Once you are logged in to MySPC you will find the link to your email in the lower right-hand corner. If you encounter any problems, contact the help desk immediately at [helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu) or (806)716-2600.

### **COURSE INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS:**

**Classroom Conduct:** Students are expected to behave in a manner that contributes to a positive learning environment for all of us. I want everyone to have the opportunity to learn as much as possible in my class, therefore students are required to *turn off or silence electronic devices* (that means your phone) *and stow them away, out of sight* (that does not include your lap—phones should be stowed in a backpack, a bag/purse or your vehicle). Inappropriate behavior that distracts others (i.e., using cell phones, derogatory language, etc.) will result in, minimally, a request to leave class.

**Textbook:** *Noba Textbook Series: Psychology*, R. Biswas-Diener & E. Diener (Eds), Champaign, IL: DEF Publishers. DOI: nobaproject.com. You may access a free, online version of this textbook at: <http://noba.to/tfke7qy2>, or you may purchase a print copy of this textbook for less than \$20 at: <http://www.lulu.com/shop/noba-project/general-psychology-barr/paperback/product-23484016.html>, or you may access the free PDF version of the textbook on Blackboard.

**Blackboard:** The majority of course content and class materials will be given to you during class time. However, you will need to access materials on Blackboard as well, especially if you have missed class or misplaced a paper from class. To access Blackboard, go to <https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com/>, or log in to MySPC, and click on “Blackboard Learn” in the section titled “Get Me There Quick.” To access Blackboard you will also need a reliable, internet-ready computer. If you do not have a personal computer or printer to access and/or print class materials, you may use any **SPC computer labs**. On the Reese campus, there is a computer lab in building 8 (room 827 and the library), building 2 (room 207), and building 4 (adjacent to room 451). At the Lubbock Center (39<sup>th</sup> and Avenue Q) computers are available in room 109 and 138, and at the Levelland campus the main computer lab is in the Technology building. If you have technical problems using Blackboard, contact technical support at 806-716-2180, Mon-Fri, 8 am – 4 pm; or email [blackboard@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:blackboard@southplainscollege.edu) or go to <https://help.blackboard.com>.

**Note Taking:** To help students with note taking, I provide two documents: 1) at the beginning of each new section, I will hand out outlines which you can use to organize and “fill-in” your notes, and 2) I will post incomplete versions of my power points on Blackboard. You may print the power point outlines, bring them to class, and add plentiful notes of your own. Research studies have found that students learn and remember more when taking notes by hand compared to taking notes on a computer, laptop or tablet (which I do not allow). If you feel like you need help taking better notes, you are welcome to bring a tape recorder to class, and/or visit the academic counselors (Reese Campus—building 8) who can provide guidance on numerous note taking strategies.

**Attendance:** I will take roll every day so that I have an accurate record of who is consistently attending class. Please be aware that it may be difficult for you to follow discussions if you have missed the previous class. So, do everything you can to be here on time, every day. And, if you absolutely cannot be here, *make sure to get notes from a classmate and read through the borrowed notes, as well as the relevant pages of the textbook, before you return to class.*

Attendance matters! At the end of the semester, if a student has a borderline grade (e.g., 69.2% or 89.3%, etc.), I use the student’s attendance record to determine the student’s final grade. If a student has missed no more than 2 classes, they will get the higher grade. Otherwise, they will get the lower grade.

*There are no excused absences—you are simply allowed up to 6 absences before you run the risk of being dropped.* If a student misses more than 6 classes during the semester, I consider that excessive absences and he/she may be dropped. Thus, if you have an emergency that interferes with your ability to attend class, notify me ASAP. We can then determine how you can keep up with course material, or if you need to withdraw.

*Arrive on time!* I typically take roll, make announcements, pass out handouts, return graded work or exams, etc. at the beginning of class each day. Students who arrive late invariably miss important information, so make it a habit to be here on time! If you arrive late, you need to stay after class to make sure that you have been counted as present. In other words, *it becomes your responsibility to make sure you're on my roll sheet if you arrive late.*

**EVALUATION/COURSE GRADE:**

**Quizzes:** You will complete five quizzes, each containing 10 questions, and each worth 20 points. However, the lowest quiz grade will be dropped, and only the top four quizzes will count toward your final grade. Accordingly, the top four quizzes will be worth 80 points, or approximately 15% of your final grade. If you miss a quiz, the missed quiz will be considered your lowest grade and will be dropped. However, if you miss more than one quiz, the second missed quiz can only be made up with a doctor’s note indicating that you could not physically be present, or with other documentation verifying that you were in an accident, in jail, or at the funeral of a close family member.

**Daily In-Class Learning Activities:** Researchers have found several tools that significantly enhance learning. Thus, during every class I will ask students to engage in various activities designed to help you learn and remember concepts discussed that day and/or on previous class days.

To ensure that you gain the most benefit from these activities, you should pay close attention during class, and try your hardest no matter how difficult the task may seem. Because some of the activities will cover material from a previous class, you need to get and review notes from a classmate (ASAP) if you miss class. In addition, you need to be present and arrive on time each day because in-class learning activities cannot be made up if you arrive after it is completed or if you are absent.

Daily in-class learning activities are low stakes—1 point per class. They are low stakes *because, first and foremost, they are learning activities and not assessments.* Nonetheless, you will complete these activities on roughly 23 non-exam class days, so all together they will be about 5% your final grade.

**Exams:** There will be four exams and they will take place every 3-4 weeks. Each of the exams consists of approximately 40 multiple choice questions. Together, all four exams are worth 80% of your final grade. There are no “re-takes” on exams, so plan ahead, space out your studying, and use effective study techniques. If a student misses an exam, he/she is required to schedule and complete a make-up exam within one week of the original exam date. If a student is unable to complete a make-up exam within one week, they will be required to make up the missed exam during final exam week. If a student does not complete a make-up exam according to the stated policy, the exam grade will be a zero.

CALCULATION OF FINAL GRADE		
Method	Total possible points	Points earned
Daily In-Class Learning Activities	At least 20 days of learning activities, 1pt each = 20 total points	
Quizzes	Top 4 quizzes, 20 points each = 80 total points	
Exam 1	100	
Exam 2	100	
Exam 3	100	
Exam 4/Final Exam	100	
	Total possible points in class=500	

<b>Final Exam Schedule:</b>	<u>If you have class with me on...</u>	<u>Then your final exam is on...</u>
	MW 8:00-9:15 am	Mon May 4 <sup>th</sup> , 8:00 am
	MW 9:30-10:45 am	Wed May 6 <sup>th</sup> , 8:00 am
	MW 1:00-2:15 pm	Wed May 6 <sup>th</sup> , 10:15 am
	TR 9:30-10:45 am	Thur May 7 <sup>th</sup> , 8:00 am
	TR 11:00-12:15 pm	Tue May 5 <sup>th</sup> , 10:15 am
	TR 1:00-2:15 pm	Thur May 7 <sup>th</sup> , 10:15 am

NOTE: You can use the table on the previous page to calculate your average during the middle of the semester. To do so, add up the points you have earned *at that time in the semester*, divide by the total possible points you could have earned *at that time in the semester*, and then multiple by 100 to find your grade on a 100-point scale.

To calculate your final grade on a 100-point percentage scale, add all the points you earned, divide by the total possible points, and multiple by 100. Use the grading scale below to determine your final course grade:

<b>Grading Scale for Final Course Grades:</b>	90% or more of total possible points: A
	80-89% of total possible points: B
	70-79% of total possible points: C
	60-69% of total possible points: D
	59% or less of total possible points: F

**COURSE OUTLINE:**

- Weeks 1-4: History of Psychology, Research Design, and Biopsychology, followed by EXAM 1.
- Weeks 5-9: States of Consciousness, Learning, (& Judgement/Decision Making, *if time permits*) followed by EXAM 2.
- Weeks 9-13: Memory, Personality, and Social Psychology, followed by EXAM 3.
- Weeks 13-15: Psychological Disorders and Therapy, (& Well-being, *if time permits*) followed by the FINAL EXAM.

**IMPORTANT ACADEMIC DATES AND HOLIDAYS:**

- Monday, January 20—Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, no classes
- Wednesday, January 29—12<sup>th</sup> Class Day (non-attending students will be dropped)
- March 16-20—SPC Spring Break, all campus buildings and offices closed
- Monday, April 13—Easter Holiday
- Thursday, April 23—Last day to drop
- May 4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup>—Final Exam Week (no regularly held classes, final exams only)

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 Write YOUR NAME here: \_\_\_\_\_ (so that you know this syllabus belongs to you).

Now, swap contact information with 3-4 classmates (phone &/or email) in case you need to contact someone for help studying, questions about class, etc. Also, I encourage you all to form study groups to prepare for exams if your schedule allows.

Classmate's name	Phone	Email
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____