South Plains College
Common Course Syllabus:
PSYC 2301.151, 155, .451, .456, .457
FALL 2024

Department: Behavioral Sciences
Discipline: Psychology
Course Number: PSYC 2301
Course Title: General Psychology
Available Formats: Conventional, INET, ITV
Campuses: Levelland, Reese, Lubbock Center, Plainview, and Dual Credit Campuses
Course Description: Survey of the essential subject areas, major theories and approaches to the scientific study of behavior and mental processes.
Prerequisites: TSI compliance in Reading
Credit: 3 **Lecture**: 3 **Lab**: 0
Textbook: Open Stax Psychology, 2e
Supplies: none unless specified in the specific instructor information

This course partially satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement: Yes, Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Component Area (080)

   Core Objectives addressed:
   ☐   **Communication skills**- to include effective written, oral and visual communication.

   ☐   **Critical thinking skills**- to include 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 the demonstrated intercultural knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities.

   Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)/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 thoughts 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 factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior.

Course Evaluation: See the instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in evaluating student performance. However, all courses will have multiple exams and a written assignment that is designated by the instructor.

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 The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined in the course syllabus.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.

For information regarding official South Plains College statements about intellectual exchange, disabilities, non-discrimination, Title V Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE Team, and Campus Concealed Carry, please visit https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/.

Instructor's Course Information

Semester: **FALL 2024**

Instructor: Robyn Inmon, Professor in Psychology

Email: rinmon@southplainscollege.edu

Contact Information:

As this is a web-based course, you will contact me by sending an email through your course in **Blackboard.** Once you have entered the course in Blackboard, in the menu at the top of the screen, you will see **Messages**. To send me an email, click on **Messages** and on **New Message** to the right of the screen. Click on **Recipients**, and select **Robyn Inmon**. Compose your email in the message window, then click on **Send** at the bottom. It's that easy!

Be sure to read **How to Write a Professional Email** in the folder labeled **Course Resources** and follow the instructions before composing and sending your message.

Textbook:

OpenStax College, *Psychology*. OpenStax College. https://openstax.org/books/psychology-2e/pages/1-introduction
Authors: Rose M. Spielman, William J. Jenkins, Marilyn D. Lovett
Publisher/website: OpenStax
Book title: Psychology 2e
Publication date: Apr 22, 2020
Location: Houston, Texas

Course Competencies:

- The primary criteria for course competency are to demonstrate mastery of a minimum of 60% of assigned course content and assignments.

Attendance Policy:

- Since this course is a virtual classroom, attendance will be taken according to the following:
    - Completion of the Syllabus Quiz on or before the due date.
    - Participate in the Introduction discussion posts on or before the due date.
    - Participation in class discussions by posting an original post and reply post to the discussion board on or before the due date.
    - Completing Matching or Multiple-Choice exercises on or before the due date.
    - Taking exams on or before the due date.

- Important: You may be administratively dropped from this course without notice if you miss the due dates for any combination of matching or multiple-choice exercises, exams, and/or discussions totaling more than **six (6).** Failure to log on to Blackboard for 14 consecutive days could result in being administratively dropped from the course if work due during that period is incomplete.

This is your student notification of the Instructor's administrative drop policy and it is your responsibility to be aware of the policy as outlined in the South Plains College General Catalog, pages 20 and 21 under Class Attendance.

Late Work: All work must be posted or submitted by the due date to receive credit. **NO LATE WORK will be accepted.** Excuses such as "The network was down," "I could not figure out how to use Blackboard," "I work a full-time job," "I have children," or "I had a family emergency," etc., are **not** acceptable. In short, plan ahead and do not wait until the last minute to submit your discussions, complete assignments, and take the exams. It is a good idea to get your work completed well before the deadline.

I STRONGLY urge you to NOT wait until the last minute to submit your work. By "last minute," I am referring to the day work is due, especially in the last few hours before the deadline. Inevitably, when you do, something happens (you get interrupted and miss the deadline, lightning strikes and takes out your computer, etc.). **No exceptions will be made for students not submitting their work on time. If you miss a deadline, you will receive a zero (0) for the grade. Please do not email and ask me to extend a deadline or reopen work as it is not an option. If you happen to miss work in the course, you do not need to let me know the reason why. Just take extra precaution to not miss any other work.**

Academic Integrity: You are expected to do your own work. You may not work with another person to complete your assignments, discussions, or when taking your exams. You may not copy another student's work and present it as your own. You may not allow another student to copy your work. Complete honesty is required of the student in the presentation of any and all phases of course work. If the instructor determines an assignment to be plagiarized, the result can range from a zero for that assignment to failure of the course. The result will be determined by the instructor. See SPC College Catalog for additional information.

Under no circumstances are you allowed to give your User ID and/or password to anyone. If someone besides you is logging into this course on your account, I will drop you immediately with an "F", regardless of the reason. Also, if you log in under someone else's account, I will drop you immediately with an "F". If you are taking this course along with a roommate, spouse, or significant other, you need to let me know immediately. Failure to do so could result in your being dropped from this course with an "F."

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HOW THIS COURSE IS CONDUCTED:

This course is an online course, which means that you will access course information and respond to me and/or other students through the use of the Internet. SPC uses **Blackboard** to deliver and manage internet courses.

What You Need To Do For This Course:

There are three types of work required for this course: chapter exercises, either matching or multiple-choice, discussions, or Exams. All of the work will be completed in Blackboard.

DISCUSSIONS Think of this as an essay or written assignment you will submit through the Discussion function of Blackboard that all students in the course will read.

There are two parts to the discussions: for all discussion assignments you will post *at least a **150-word** post* on a particular topic (original post) AND respond with *at least a **150**-word reply* to one post by a fellow student (reply post). You will not be given credit for postings that do not meet the minimum requirement for length. In your reply post, *do not just repeat what was stated in the original post*. Add to what was previously stated with more information, your opinion or experience, or something meaningful, showing that you have thought about the topic. Sentences like "I agree with this," or "That is interesting," will not be counted toward the minimum word requirement.

Submit one and only one original post. If you submit before writing all you planned (including hitting submit before you have written anything), do not submit another original post. If you submit an original post with no content, that counts as your submission. If, after you have submitted, you read what other students have written and realize you did not address all that was asked for the discussion, do not submit another original post. The first post you submit for each discussion will count as the original post – no exceptions.

To help you do the best you can, use the following rubric for the discussion postings and replies:

- **Original Posts: (worth up to 50 points)**

  - **First and foremost, always read the instructions for each discussion and make sure to address all that is asked thoroughly and with detail.**

  - A **35 to 50 point post** addresses all or most of what was specifically asked for in the instructions in an organized and detailed way; can include personal experience when relevant; includes at least the minimum number of words (150), three or fewer writing errors (spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc.)

  - A **20 to 34 point post**: did not thoroughly address the topic; reference to some type of course material; some personal reference but may not clearly connect to the course material or topic; did not thoroughly address the topic; includes at least the minimum number words (150).

  - A **0-19 point post** has incorrect information; does not address all that what was asked in the instructions, has no reference to relevant material; irrelevant ideas; <u>does not meet the minimum number of words (150)</u>; is <u>repetitious</u>; no post.

- **Reply Posts: (worth up to 5 points)**
  - For your replies, <u>do not repeat what was written in the original post</u> you are responding to <u>or repeat what you wrote in your own original post</u>. The reply post must contain new or different information. Also, if another student in the course has responded to an original post before you, read the original post, the reply post or posts, and make sure you <u>don't repeat what was stated in **any** of the posts</u>.

  - **Always follow the instructions provided for each discussion's reply. What I ask you to discuss in your reply is not the same for all discussions. Note that I will <u>never ask you</u>**

to write about what you agreed with. What I'm looking for in a reply post is new and/or different information, opinion, or interpretation of the topic.

- A **4 to 5 point reply.** is a reply that: explicitly references ideas in the textbook or information you found through research; gives personal commentary in a <u>constructive way</u>; may correct an incorrect posting in a <u>respectful way</u>; <u>elaborates</u> on the ideas and questions posed in the original post; reflects a good understanding of the course material; and/or brings up course material that the original post did not include but was relevant; includes at least 150 words.

- A **2 to 3 point reply** is a reply that: briefly elaborates on the ideas and questions posed in the original post; is a personal reply that may or may not clearly tie to the original post but is somewhat relevant; repeated too much of original post; includes at least 150 words.

- A **0-1 point reply** is a reply that: includes brief encouragement; is a statement of agreement or disagreement; is an unclear or offensive reply; <u>does not meet the minimum number of words</u>; no reply.

Note: Even if your reply posts meet the minimum word count, all of the words you use may not be applied toward satisfying the word count. For example, stating "You did a really good job," "I totally agree with you," are words that add nothing new to the conversation. These are nice things to state, just do not include them in meeting the word count. In other words, just because you wrote the minimum number of words does not mean that all of the words will be included in the minimum required word count.

Points will also be taken off for incorrect spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and grammar. Do not write like you do when texting or messaging. You need to use correct Standard English in all of your writing. Think of your discussion posts as mini-essays that you are turning in to your college professor, because that is what they are!

Consult your *Schedule of Work* for the due date for each discussion.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Resource Policy:
There are now websites that will generate semi-unique material that somewhat resembles original material. Since technology is available to create this content, technology is also available to detect this content. Make no mistake, this is plagiarism. The instructor is not asking AI to write any written portion of this course's requirements, but is asking you the student, to create this content.

If the student submits work obtained by using AI or is suspected of utilizing AI, it will be considered plagiarism and receive a grade of zero for the work. This course policy will be provided as feedback for said coursework, letting the student know that AI is suspected, or plagiarism has occurred. It is the student's responsibility to follow up with the instructor within 7 days (one week) of the posted grade if work has been incorrectly flagged for AI use. The student can discuss the coursework in question with the instructor by virtual appointment in order to earn credit. In these cases, the student will need to verbally provide mastery of concepts related to the work in question. Any further attempts at using artificial intelligence as one's own work will continue to earn zeroes for those attempts or may result in a course drop with an F by the instructor. The incidents may also be detailed to the Dean of Students for disciplinary actions.

Matching and/or Multiple-Choice Exercises For each chapter covered, you will have one or more matching or multiple-choice exercises to complete. These exercises are designed to test your understanding of terms and concepts in the chapter, and should help you identify where you may need to spend more time reading your textbook and understanding the content. You have one hour to complete these exercises and two (2) attempts; the attempt with the highest score will count in the gradebook. Consult your *Schedule of Work* for the due date for each exercise. At no time should you print out the quizzes.

EXAMS There will be four (4) exams you will need to complete for this course. Each exam will consist of multiple-choice items. You will have 75 minutes to complete each exam. Consult your *Schedule of Work* for the due date and the chapters each exam will cover.

Please note that the deadline for all work is **11:59:00 p.m.** This means work needs to be submitted by this time. Once your computer or device shows 11:59 p.m., that means the deadline (cut-off) for submissions has passed.

NOTE: It is impossible to accommodate each individual student's schedule in regards to working full- or part-time, trips out of town, harvesting season, extracurricular activities, illness, etc. There is really no reasonable explanation for missing any of the deadlines, as you have the opportunity to work ahead. It is recommended that you DO NOT WAIT until the last minute (or last hour or last day) to complete your work.

GRADING POLICY:

Your final letter grade for the course will be calculated based on total points earned.

How can I earn points?

- Syllabus Quiz   =   10 points
- Introductions   =   10 points
- Matching or Multiple-Choice Exercises   =   210 points
- Discussions (2 at 55 pts. each)   =   110 points
- Exams (4 at 100 pts. each)   =   400 points
- Total possible points   =   740 points

Points necessary for each grade:

- If you earn **666** to **740** points (90.00% - 100.00%), you will earn an **A** for the course.
- If you earn **592** to **665** points (80.00% - 89.99%), you will earn a **B** for the course.
- If you earn **518** to **591** points (70.00% - 79.99%), you will earn a **C** for the course.
- If you earn **444** to **517** points (60.00% - 69.99%), you will earn a **D** for the course.
- If you earn **0** to **443** points (0% - 59.99%), you will earn an **F** for the course.

It is the student's responsibility to plan ahead to submit assignments on time. If you are traveling, etc. and are unsure of your access to the internet, it is strongly recommended that you plan ahead and submit assignments and take quizzes early. If for some reason the Blackboard system is down and the class has trouble accessing the quiz (this is rare but has been known to happen) I will work with the class

to create a new due date. The key is this: internet access is required for this course, if you are unsure of your potential access submit early!

At times, extraordinary circumstances (death in the family, verified illness, etc.) may occur in student's lives that impact their assignment submission. In these circumstances, course assignments (e.g., quizzes, written assignments, etc.) might be granted an extension from the instructor. If you feel your circumstances warrant an extension, please email the instructor within one week of the original due date.

Online Course Expectations

Student Expectations

1. Check the course homepage, schedule of work, your email, and the Blackboard course discussion board *every day Monday through Friday*.
2. Keep up with your reading assignments and chapter exercises. These exercises test your knowledge and comprehension of each chapter's content. While you are completing the exercise, do not click on anything else (such as Facebook, your textbook) or the exercise may submit automatically and you will have to accept the grade earned at that point. If you are "knocked out" of an exercise for any reason it will count as an attempt. *******
3. Complete each exam by the deadline! While you are completing the exam, do not click on anything else (such as Facebook, your textbook) or the exam may submit automatically and you will have to accept the grade earned at that point. If you are "knocked out" of an exam for any reason it will count as your one attempt.
   ***Do not use the wheel on your mouse (if you have one) to scroll up or down during an exam. Using the wheel could result in the item being submitted even if you are not finished!
4. Participate actively in class discussions including but not limited to textbook information, apply the knowledge you have learned, and include your personal experiences when appropriate.
5. In responding to what others have posted on the discussion board, add to what was stated in the original post. *Do not repeat what you wrote in your original post or what was written in the original post you are responding to*. Add new information to what has been shared by another student.
6. Respond in a timely manner (within 48 hours) to any email sent directly to you from the instructor to acknowledge you have read the email. Answer any questions the instructor asks when appropriate.

Instructor Expectations:

1. All communication for this online course should be by email through blackboard with any questions or concerns you may have. I will read my email daily during the week but may not read it daily on weekends.
2. I will respond to your email within 48 hours during the week and within 72 hours during weekends or holidays.
3. I will read discussions but usually don't participate in the discussion forums. If someone posts information that is incorrect or confusing, that is when I typically "jump in."
4. You will receive a grade for your course work within ten working days (14 calendar days) after the deadline unless I notify you otherwise.

Keys to Success

Online courses are not easier or less time-consuming than face-to-face courses; they are just different. Here are some suggestions for your success:

1. Set aside a specific time during the day for this course--the best time that fits your schedule. Use this time for preparation (reading, studying, etc.) and for participation (reading and posting to the discussion board, completing quizzes and exams).
2. Don't put off the work--you need to keep up so you can more effectively participate in discussions.
3. Don't be afraid to ask questions--just like in a F2F class, there are probably several others who are wondering the same thing. If several students email me with the same question, I will send an email to all students in the class in case others have the same question.
4. Keep advised of when the SPC computer system is scheduled to "go down" for maintenance. Have a backup plan in case your server is down or you have computer problems as these are not sufficient excuses for missing work.
5. Check in and complete work in the class several times a week--this will keep you engaged, on-track, and moving steadily toward your goal!
6. Let me know about any problems you are having right away so we can resolve them quickly. Contact me if you have questions about course *content*. Contact technical support at blackboard@southplainscollege.edu or (806)716-2180 for *computer* issues and email me within Blackboard so I will know about the issue. But again, have a backup plan.
7. Have Fun!!!

Adapted from: Susan Kossman, R.N., Ph.D., http://my.ilstu.edu/~skossm/online_course_expectations.htm and from: : http://www.usm.maine.edu/~atkinson/course_expectations.htm

Technical Support for Blackboard

A note here, for online courses or courses with an online component there is a portion considered *course content* and that portion includes all of the course information set up by the instructor for the particular course you are taking to help students learn and understand the information. For **ALL** course content questions, contact your instructor using the method of contact stated in your syllabus.

Then there is the *technical* component of the course. This portion of the course has to do with the functioning of Blackboard. This would include issues like (but not limited to) the following: quizzes freezing up, not being able to access videos, not being able to open documents, not being able to log into Blackboard, etc.

In the case of *technical* issues, contact your instructor to let them know about the problem **AND** also contact **Technical Support** through email at blackboard@southplainscollege.edu or by phone at (806) 716-2180 (8:00 am – 4:00 pm Monday through Friday).

You will find **Blackboard Ultra Student Tutorials and Ultra Help Center** on the entry page of Blackboard. Students that are new to Blackboard or have questions are strongly encouraged to check these resources before contacting the instructor or technical support.

On the entry page of Blackboard Ultra you will also find **Ultra for Students** and **a Video: Introduction for Students.**

Online and Discussion Board Netiquette

Some of you may have participated in on-line courses and/or discussion boards before and some of you may not have. The following are expectations of students in this course as far as emails, assignments, and posting on the discussion board. These expectations are in addition to the instructions that are included in your syllabus. I encourage each of you to familiarize yourself with the instructions and these expectations. The points available for you to earn on the discussion board are a major part of your grade and I know that all points are valuable to you. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Read Before Participating. Read the syllabus so that you understand the instructions for the discussion board. I will be most impressed with individuals who can incorporate course materials into their posts. This is a part of the grading requirement and lack of participation could result in being administratively dropped from the course. Good writing is a key skill you should leave college with which includes the ability to support your position and express your ideas, thoughts, and/or opinions in writing.

Communicate Clearly. Write clearly when you compose a message. Review your message carefully before clicking **Submit**. Typos can be confusing. Remember, if your message can be misunderstood, it will be.

Writing Standard. All discussion postings and e-mails should be presented using the conventions of Standard Written English. While slang, regional idioms, and informal kinds of self-expression are appropriate in some

contexts, they are out of place in academic writing. I expect all students to demonstrate proficiency in using the conventions of academic English in their written work. This means that you need to spell correctly, use the proper word (example: know when to use "there" or "their", etc.), use paragraph formatting, correct punctuation, etc.

Do not use ALL CAPS. Typing in all capital letters is frowned upon; it's the equivalent of screaming. It's considered an aggressive way to post and it doesn't come off as being very friendly. It also makes your message more difficult to read.

Be Respectful, Kind and Honest. Don't issue personal attacks, use profanity, or post threatening, abusive, harassing, or otherwise offensive language or images. Keep your messages appropriate and courteous at all times. Please disagree with other opinions respectfully. If you are unsure if something is inappropriate, ask yourself these questions: Would you say it to the person if she were standing right in front of you? Would you say it to your best friend or loved one? Are you calling someone names? How would you feel and react if faced with the same message from someone else? If it would anger or upset you, you might consider re-framing your thoughts in a less objectionable tone.

Disagreements. There will be disagreement and this is good, otherwise we will be bored. Disagreement can be very constructive; it encourages us to reconsider our own positions and either recommit, expand, or discard them. However, I must at all times hear/see you debating the idea and not making a personal attack on an individual. Note that this is a skill to learn like any other – how to debate and get your point heard. Personal insults and attacks impede the development of critical thought. Avoid "you" statements, which can be more easily interpreted as accusations ("you don't know what you're talking about", "the problem is people like you," etc.). Try, instead, to use "I" statements ("I disagree with your position on "X" or "I find that Durkheim was actually saying …").

Misunderstandings. People have to be given the benefit of the doubt on occasion. Because this is an online class and we cannot see each other's facial expressions or hear the tone in our voices, it is important to clarify issues that are confusing. Before jumping to a conclusion and putting words in someone's mouth, ask them to clarify their point. And if someone asks you to restate your opinion, do not be afraid to restate it.

Problems with Another Poster. If you find yourself having a problem with another poster, it is poor form to voice your concerns on the forum. It is much better to contact the instructor through email.

Remember the Golden Rule. It is very easy to misinterpret a person's word when you cannot see them and/or hear their tone, so please keep in mind the Golden Rule of Discussion Board Etiquette: It's not just *what* you say; it's *how* you say it.

Adapted From: Article by Michelle Lehmann, 2007, Lotsofkids.com, Soc 101: Introduction to Sociology An Online Course, by Professor Marisol Clark-Ibanez, Ph.D.