

Texas A&M University-Texarkana
Course Syllabus
PSYC 2301 - General Psychology
Fall - 2016

Instructor: Dr. Brandy Moore
Office Location: UC 201
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CRN: 80324
Room: UC 214
Day/Time: T/R 2:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Office Hours:

Monday AND Wednesday 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.;
Tuesday AND Thursday 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Extended Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays between Sept 29 and Oct 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and from 3:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. for General Psychology Students

Course Description: Broadly stated, psychology is a discipline whose goal is to understand human mental processes and behavior through scientific study. Just as there are many mental processes and behaviors that human's exhibit, there are many areas of study in the field of psychology. In this course students will be introduced to fields of study such as cognitive psychology, developmental psychology, abnormal psychology and clinical psychology. This course will also discuss the basic principles of learning, memory and motivation, as well as the classic theories that psychology is rooted upon.

Course Delivery Method: Face-to-Face (Attendance is mandatory)

Required Textbook:

Textbook: Hockenbury, Nolan, & Hockenbury. (2015). *Discovering Psychology*, 7th ed. New York, New York: Worth Publishers
ISBN-10: 1-4641-0880-3
ISBN-13: 978-1-4641-0880-8

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the different methods of studying psychology.
2. Demonstrate mastery of basic psychology terminology and concepts.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the major contributors to modern psychology.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the major fields of psychology.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the major theories that influence each major field of psychology.
6. Demonstrate knowledge of the major research studies that have influenced our knowledge of modern psychology.
7. Demonstrate knowledge of the most recent research studies that are influencing our development of new knowledge of modern psychology.
8. Develop critical thinking skills that enable them to compare, contrast, and criticize theories and research.
9. Demonstrate an ability to apply psychological concepts and theories to everyday experiences and behavior.
10. Know how to find peer reviewed journal articles, understand the components of articles, and discuss the research in their own words. They will be prepared to write journal article reviews in APA format for future psychology classes.

Exemplary Educational Objectives (EEOs):

1. To employ the appropriate methods, technologies, and data that social and behavioral scientists used to investigate the human condition.
2. To examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods, social structures, and cultures.
3. To use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
4. To develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.
5. To analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural and global forces on the area under study.
6. To differentiate and analyze historical evidence (documentary and statistical) and differing points of view.
7. To recognize and apply reasonable criteria for the acceptability of historical evidence and social research.
8. To identify and understand differences and commonalities within diverse cultures.

Course Outline:

Date	Day	Assignment
August		
23	Tuesday	Go over syllabus
25	Thursday	Chapter 1

30	Tuesday	Chapter 1 continued
September		
1	Thursday	We have a scheduled tour of the library. Students will learn how to find resources in the library and will also learn about the online database and how to find peer reviewed journal articles. Please be on time and meet in the library. Check these off your Freshman passport after class: 1) Attend a database training in the library 2) Check out an item from the library
6	Tuesday	Chapter 2
8	Thursday	Chapter 2 continued
13	Tuesday	Chapter 3
15	Thursday	Chapter 3 continued Chapter 4
20	Tuesday	Chapter 4 continued
22	Thursday	Chapter 5
27	Tuesday	Chapter 5 continued
29	Thursday	Exam 1 (Chapters 1-5) How to write a term paper and use APA style
October		
4	Tuesday	Chapter 6
6	Thursday	Journal Article Review is Due Chapter 7
11	Tuesday	Chapter 7 continued
13	Thursday	Chapter 8
18	Tuesday	Chapter 8 continued
20	Thursday	Chapter 9
25	Tuesday	Chapter 9 continued
27	Tuesday	Chapter 10
November		
1	Tuesday	Chapter 10 continued
3	Thursday	Exam 2 Chapter 11 Dr. Moore will be out of town for a conference. We will not meet in class.
8	Tuesday	Chapter 11 continued
10	Thursday	Term Paper is Due Chapter 12

15	Tuesday	Chapter 12 continued
17	Thursday	Movie Review 1 is due Chapter 14
22	Tuesday	Chapter 14 continued Chapter 15
24	Thursday	NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING
29	Tuesday	Movie Review 2 is due Chapter 15 continued
December		
1	Thursday	Exam 3 - Chapters 11-15
TBA	TBA	FINAL EXAM (Cumulative)

Methods of Evaluation:

- **Exams - 400 points** (multiple choice questions)
 - Exam 1 = Chapters 1-5 (100 points)
 - Exam 2 = Chapters 6-10 (100 points)
 - Exam 3 = Chapters 11-15 (100 points)
 - Final Exam = Cumulative (100 points)

These exams will assess students' comprehension of learning outcomes 1-9.

- **Journal Article Review & Term Paper - 200 points**

Journal Article Review: (100 points) This will be a review over an article on Memory and will be due on Thursday October 6. Note: 10 points of these 100 points will be obtained by meeting with Dr. Moore in her office during office hours between September 29 and October 4. Please schedule your visit early. There will be extended office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays between Sept 29 and Oct 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and from 3:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. NOTE: You can also get a passport stamp for scheduling an office visit with a faculty member while in my office.

Term Paper: (100 points) This term paper will be over this year's theme "Race and Ethnicity." It is due on Tuesday, November 10 (the day we will go over Social Psychology). Students may opt to save their term papers and submit them to the University's paper competition in the Spring and compete for monetary awards.

1. Must use APA 6th edition
2. Avoid first person writing style
3. Must have a MINIMUM of 5 peer reviewed journal articles cited
4. May cite books (non-textbook) - MAY NOT cite the course textbook but may cite articles and books referenced within it
5. Must use appropriate headings and subheadings
6. Must be a minimum of 5 pages in length

7. Please attend the class where we will go over the requirements of APA. Everything you need to know to write a term paper is also in the APA folder on Blackboard.

These assignments will assess students' comprehension of learning outcome 10, and any other learning outcome they choose to incorporate into the paper.

- **Movie Reviews - 100 points**

When we go over chapters 14 and 15, we will be talking about people with mental disorders. The people we discuss will be characters from movies, but we will discuss them in class as if they are real people, whom we know. Movie reviews will be 50 points each and will each consist of a 5 paragraph essay that makes connections from topics discussed in the textbook and "real life" experiences of the people in the movies. The movie review will NOT be about what happens in the movie. Instead, it will show how the movie exemplifies content in the textbook. A list of movies to review will be provided on Blackboard along with instructions for writing a 5 paragraph essay and sample movie reviews. Students will be required to watch two movies (one for chapter 14 and one for chapter 15). The reviews are due on Thursday Nov 22 for Chapter 14 and Tuesday Nov 29 for Chapter 15.

Movie Options:

Rain Man	A Beautiful Mind	As Good as It Gets	Girl, Interrupted
Silver Linings Playbook	One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest	When A Man Loves a Woman	Silence of the Lambs
Basic Instinct	28 Days	Good Will Hunting	Identity
The Notebook	On Golden Pond	Regarding Henry	Ordinary People
Reign Over Me	A Clockwork Orange	Dangerous Minds	Psycho
Sybil	Fight Club	Shutter Island	What About Bob

These assignments will assess students' comprehension of learning outcome 10, and any other learning outcome they choose to incorporate into the paper.

Grading Scale:

Grade	Percent	# Points Needed
A	90-100	630-700
B	80-89	560-629.9
C	70-79	490-559.9
D	60-69	420-389.9
F	0-59	0-419.9

To calculate your grade, add all of your points together and refer to the chart above. Grades will also be posted in the gradebook on blackboard. Only look at the TOTAL

points that you receive. Then look at the # Points Needed column above to see where you stand.

Student Participation:

The goal of this course is to help students become comfortable discussing the topics raised in the proposed materials. Students are expected to read the textbook before each class meeting and prepare for discussions. Students are expected to connect theoretical principles to live experience and observation and to critique the subject matter. Class participation is part of the learning process. In situations in which one person disagrees with another's opinion, respect for ideas is to be maintained. No one expects that beliefs held on one day will be the same as those held on another - it is anticipated that ideas about subjects discussed in class by each student will change throughout the course. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to understand and apply research methods and to explain the main topics of psychology.

Course Etiquette:

- Please be respectful of classmates
- Please be on time to class
- Cell phones, laptops, and other electronic devices may not be used in class unless a student has the e-book and receives permission to be reading the e-book to keep up with class lectures during class.
- Students who receive prior permission to miss and make up an exam will make up the exam at Dr. Moore's earliest convenience

Disability Accommodations: Students with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations through the A&M-Texarkana Disability Services Office by calling 903-223-3062.

Academic Integrity: Academic honesty is expected of students enrolled in this course. Cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, falsification of research data, plagiarism, and undocumented use of materials from any source constitute academic dishonesty and may be grounds for a grade of 'F' in the course and/or disciplinary actions. For additional information, see the university catalog.

A&M-Texarkana Email Address: Upon application to Texas A&M University-Texarkana an individual will be assigned an A&M-Texarkana email account. This email account will be used to deliver official university correspondence. Each individual is responsible for information sent and received via the university email account and is expected to check the official A&M-Texarkana email account on a frequent and consistent basis. Faculty and students are required to utilize the university email account when communicating about coursework.

Drop Policy: To drop this course after the census date, a student must complete a [Drop/Withdrawal Request Form](#), located on the University Registrar's webpage or obtained in the Registrar's Office. The student must submit the signed and completed form to the instructor of each course indicated on the form to be dropped for his/her signature. The signature is not an "approval" to drop, but rather confirmation that the student has discussed the drop/withdrawal with the faculty member. The form must be submitted to the Registrar's office for processing in person, email Registrar@tamut.edu, mail (7101 University Ave., Texarkana, TX 75503) or fax (903-223-3140). Drop/withdraw forms missing any of the required information will not be accepted by the Registrar's Office for processing. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the form is completed properly before submission. If a student stops participating in class (attending and submitting assignments) but does not complete and submit the drop/withdrawal form, a final grade based on work completed as outlined in the syllabus will be assigned.

Class Participation: Students are responsible for beginning their participation on the FIRST CLASS DAY by coming to class and completing assignments according to the COURSE CALENDAR. Failure to complete assignments between the first day of classes and the University census date (according to the University schedule) will result in an ADMINISTRATIVE DROP from the course.

Students with federal loans and/or grants:

Students who have federal loans and grants must be aware that participation is monitored in online courses. In the event a student withdraws from a course the student will be required to refund all federal funds prorated from the last date of participation. A student's last access to Blackboard would not suffice as participation. The required weekly activity could include a comment to a blog, a discussion board posting, a journal entry, a quiz or exam, a submitted assignment, or other measurable and tracked activity.

Student Technical Assistance:

If you have problems logging into blackboard to view your gradebook, solutions to common problems and FAQ's for blackboard are found on the [Online Student Training](#) page on our website.

If you cannot find your resolution there, you can submit a support request by contacting the IT HelpDesk:

Email: helpdesk@tamut.edu

Phone: 903-334-6603

Submit a [Support Request Ticket](#)

Additional student help for Blackboard can be found here:

[Blackboard Help for Students](#)

Technical Requirements:

The following are the minimum computer requirements for online learning:

A computer capable of handling streaming video. A mid-range multi-core CPU should be adequate.

A sound card.

A high speed internet connection preferably directly connected to the computer via a hard-wired Ethernet connection rather than wirelessly connected.

Virus and adware protection software.

Microsoft Word, minimum version 2007 or above.

[Mozilla Firefox](#) browser available free.

The most recent versions of Java, Flash, QuickTime, Adobe Reader, and Shockwave.

You can check this in the Firefox browser by visiting:

[Firefox Plugin Check Tool](#)

Please note: some instructors may require the use of a headset with microphone and/or a webcam. If so, the cost of these items is not included in your course fees and will need to be acquired at your own expense.

Blackboard Mobile for iOS and Android Devices

Android and iOS devices are currently supported using the Blackboard Mobile App, available for free from your App Store or scan the code below:



The Blackboard Mobile App provides limited access to courses, including the ability to read and contribute to discussions, check grades and announcements, access content, read and comment on blogs, reflect in journals, link to your personal Dropbox, and receive push notifications when courses are updated. Limited course features may also be available via your mobile device's browser; however, your mobile device does not replace your personal computer and should not be used as a substitute for one. High stakes assignments, tests, etc. should be completed on your personal computer, and not on your mobile device.