

*****SAMPLE*** PSYC 2301 (xxxxx): General Psychology ***SAMPLE*****

Instructor:

Office:

Instructor email:

Office Hours:

Class Meeting Days & Time:

Class Meeting Place:

Text:

Gazzaniga, M., Heatherton, T., & Halpern, D. (2011). *Psychological Science, 4th edition*. NY: Norton. ISBN# 978-0-393-91157-2

Course Description

Psychology is a field focused on scientifically understanding how humans think, feel, and act. This course will introduce you to the basic concepts and research within the field of psychology and hopefully you will also gain a better understanding of the self and others. Questions psychologists try to answer are things like: How do people understand the world around them? How do we learn things? How do we remember things? How do we make decisions? How does one person influence another? How do we come to know who we are? How do children learn about their worlds? How are we influenced by groups? How does a person qualify as having a mental disorder? What are ways of treating mental disorders?

Psychology is a field grounded in empirical science; thus, we will focus on psychological research to understand different psychological phenomena and concepts. A variety of teaching methods will be utilized: lectures, discussions (small group and large group), demonstrations, and various forms of media (e.g., videos). Psychology is a field directly relevant to your everyday life, so you are encouraged to consider how the material can inform you outside of this course.

Learning Objectives - by the end of the class, 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 factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior.
7. Consider how psychological explanations may vary across populations and situations.
8. Recognize ways to apply psychological concepts and theories to everyday life and the social world.

Texas Core Curriculum Objectives:

Critical Thinking Skills: to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information

Communication Skills: to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication

Empirical and Quantitative Skills: to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions

Social Responsibility: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Course Components

In-class Exams (60% of course grade)

You will take FIVE in-class exams; these exams will be non-cumulative (see the course schedule for dates and specific exam material). The format of these exams will consist of multiple choice questions and short answer questions. All exams are closed book and closed notes. Exams are intended to test your basic knowledge of important concepts and theories covered during each unit, but also your conceptual understanding of these concepts. Exams will also require you to demonstrate application of course concepts, as well as your understanding of how course concepts relate to each other.

Helps students meet Texas Core Curriculum Objectives of critical thinking and communication, and Learning Objectives 1-6.

Final Exam (20% of course grade)

The final exam is comprehensive and I will conduct a review session prior the final exam. The format of this exam will be primarily multiple-choice. This exam is closed book and closed notes. Just as with the in-class exams during the semester, the final exam is intended to test your basic knowledge of core psychological concepts and theories. Importantly, the exam will also require you to demonstrate application and integration of course concepts across the entire semester.

Helps students meet the Texas Core Curriculum Objectives of critical thinking and empirical and quantitative skills, and Learning Objectives 3-8.

Assignments (20% of course grade)

Throughout the semester a variety of in-class and out-of-class assignments will be due (due dates for out-of-class assignments will be announced in-class and on the blackboard site). These assignments will include reading research articles, writing assignments, and in-class group work. Assignments will assist in your basic understanding of course concepts, but importantly these assignments will facilitate your critical thinking about course concepts and theories.

Two primary assignments:

Psychology in the News – for this assignment you will find examples of psychology being discussed in the popular media (e.g., newspaper article). You will evaluate the presentation of the information, paying particular attention to accuracy and bias, as well as the population being discussed and the influence of culture and demographics on the research discussed in your article.

Helps students meet the Texas Core Curriculum Objectives of critical thinking, communication, and social responsibility and Learning Objectives 4 and 6-8.

Research Article Analysis – for this assignment you will read a research report and identify the primary components of the research, consider the strengths/limitations of the research, the application of the research to society, and how the research may vary across other people or situations.

Helps students meet all four of the Texas Core Curriculum Objectives of critical thinking, empirical and quantitative skills, communication, and social responsibility and Learning Objectives 1, 4, and 6-8.

Grading

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
100%- 93%	92%- 90%	89%- 87%	86%- 83%	82%- 80%	79%- 77%	76%- 73%	72%- 70%	69%- 67%	66%- 63%	62%- 60%	59%- 0%

Foundational Component Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Learning Outcomes	CO	Assessment Methods	Criteria/Targets
1. Identify various research methods and their characteristics used in the scientific study of psychology.	CT, COM, EQS, SR	In-class exams; Research Article Analysis	70% of students will earn a score of acceptable or better
2. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology.	CT, COM	In-class exams	70% of students will earn a score of acceptable or better
3. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology.	CT, EQS, COM	In-class exams; Final Exam	70% of students will earn a score of acceptable or better
4. Use terminology unique to the study of psychology.	CT, EQS, COM, SR	In-class exams; Final exam; Psychology in the news; Research article analysis	70% of students will earn a score of acceptable or better
5. Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation	CT, COM, EQS	In-class exams; Final exam	70% of students will earn a score of acceptable or better
6. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior.	CT, COM, EQS, SR	In-class exams; Final exam; Psychology in the news; Research article analysis	70% of students will earn a score of acceptable or better
7. Consider how psychological explanations may vary across populations and situations.	CT, EQS, SR	Final exam; Psychology in the news; Research article analysis	70% of students will earn a score of acceptable or better
8. Recognize ways to apply psychological concepts and theories to everyday life and the social world.	CT, COM, EQS, SR	Final exam; Psychology in the news; Research article analysis	70% of students will earn a score of acceptable or better

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
1	8/27: Tuesday	Syllabus/Course Policies; Introduction to Psychology	Chapter 1
	8/29: Thursday	Research Methods	Chapter 2
2	9/3: Tuesday	Biology	Chapter 3
	9/5: Thursday	Biology	Chapter 3
3	9/10: Tuesday	EXAM 1	Chapters 1, 2, & 3
	9/12: Thursday	Development	Chapter 11
4	9/17: Tuesday	Development	Chapter 11
	9/19: Thursday	The Mind	Chapter 4
5	9/24: Tuesday	Sensation & Perception	Chapter 5
	9/26: Thursday	Sensation & Perception	Chapter 5
6	10/1: Tuesday	Exam 2	Chapters 11, 4, & 5
	10/3: Thursday	Learning	Chapter 6
7	10/8: Tuesday	Attention & Memory	Chapter 7
	10/10: Thursday	Thinking & Intelligence	Chapter 8
8	10/15: Tuesday	Thinking & Intelligence	Chapter 8
	10/17: Thursday	Exam 3	Chapters 6, 7, & 8

Foundational Component Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
9	10/22: Tuesday	Motivation & Emotion	Chapter 9
	10/24: Thursday	Motivation & Emotion	Chapter 9
10	10/29: Tuesday	Health	Chapter 10
	10/31: Thursday	Social Psychology	Chapter 12
11	11/5: Tuesday	Social Psychology	Chapter 12
	11/7: Thursday	Exam 4	Chapters 9, 10, & 12
12	11/12: Tuesday	Personality	Chapter 13
	11/14: Thursday	Disorders	Chapter 14
13	11/19: Tuesday	Disorders	Chapter 14
	11/21: Thursday	Treatment	Chapter 15
14	11/26: Tuesday	Exam 5	Chapters 13, 14, & 15
	11/28: Thursday	NO CLASS: Thanksgiving Holiday	
15	12/3: Tuesday	New Directions in Psychology	
	12/5: Thursday	Review for Final Exam	
16	12/10: Tuesday	FINAL EXAM	Chapters 1-15

This schedule is tentative and I reserve the right to make modifications to the syllabus at any point during the semester. If any modifications become necessary an announcement will be made in class and on the blackboard site. Please see me if you have any concerns or questions regarding the course.