

time but do *not* risk your life in the process especially when the weather is bad.

Use of Electronic Devices in Class

The use of laptops, smartphones, and smart watches in class is prohibited. Many students get off task when using a laptop during class. Additionally, there is considerable evidence that taking notes on laptops is not nearly as effective as actually writing them. Typing notes is basically taking dictation; the problem being that you don't really have to 'process' what you are typing. Understanding and retention are much better when students take notes manually.

Phones. Please silence your phones and put them out of sight. If you are expecting, and receive, an urgent call (e.g., about the status of a sick relative) step into the hall, take the call, and return as soon as possible.

The Only Exception. The only real exception to the electronic device rule is that's okay to use *electronic pads that lie flat*. I realize some students like to take notes on them. Major advantages of these devices are students can write in script which is converted into print, and (unlike laptops) their use does not distract others. Students who ignore reminders about the above policy may be asked to leave class.

Optional Resources

The resources below can be of much value to psychology students.

Stanovich, K. E. (2019). *How to think straight about psychology*. (11th ed.). Pearson.

ISBN-13: 978-0-13-447862-3.

The book costs about \$65.00 new. An e-version is available for less and used copies are available. For your purposes, an earlier edition, which are available at a lower cost, would be fine. **In my opinion, every psychology major and minor should be required to read this book.**

Silvia, P. J., Delaney, P. F. & Marcovitch, S. (2017). *What psychology majors could (and should) be doing: A guide to research experience, professional skills, and your options after college* (2nd ed.).

American Psychological Association. ISBN: 9781433823794.

Silvia, et al. is also highly recommended; it is available new for \$36.00. Used copies are available online for less than \$10.00. Both books are available in the University Library.

Online Resources

[APA Dictionary of Psychology](#)

[Annenberg Learner- History of Psychology Timeline](#)

[Classics in the History of Psychology](#)

[Cummings Center for the History of Psychology](#)

Helpful Video Series

Dr. Stephen Chew has created a free [video series](#) on study strategies for college students. These are the best videos that I have seen on the subject. Viewing the videos is *optional*; (unless specifically assigned); however, I believe doing so would be a *great investment* of your time. The videos are relatively short; however, I recommend you distribute your viewing of them over a week or more, so you have time to reflect on the strategies.

Nearly everyone can improve his or her study skills. If you are satisfied with your overall academic performance, that's great. However, even if you earn the kind of grades you desire it's likely that using some of the strategies could save you considerable time and effort. It is unlikely that every technique Dr. Chew discusses will be of use to you; however, I suggest that you view the videos and try at least a few of them.

Blackboard (Bb)

If you have difficulties with Bb (e.g., trouble submitting assignments) that you are not able to solve yourself, the best thing to do is to contact the [Information Technology Services](#) (ITS) Help Desk; **I can seldom be of help in such matters.**

Electronic Communications on Bb. I will make Announcements during the semester that, in addition to those posted on Bb, will be sent to your Jaguar email account. To remain up to date on class matters, **you will need to check your Jaguar e-mail at least daily** (it is fairly easy to forward your Jaguar email to another email account). Failing to check your Jaguar email is *not* an acceptable excuse for lapses in responding to, or acting on, such messages.

Computer Resources

This course requires that you have access to a reliable computer and internet connection. The internet browsers [Chrome](#) and [Firefox](#) are recommended. In addition, you will need access to both [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) and Microsoft Word; it is recommended that you use the most recent version of Word.

Writing Assignments

Writing is a skill, and as such improving your writing requires practice. This course will provide you with considerable writing practice. To attain maximum benefit, please be sure to carefully review the feedback provided on each writing assignment before writing the next one.

I realize we appear to be in a transitional period when it comes to writing. Some people believe college students no longer need to develop their writing skills, since generative AI can write practically anything for them. However, I do *not* agree. The quality of a student's writing reflects not only their ability to apply the rules of grammar; it also reflects their *analytical abilities*.

The increasing availability and sophistication of generative AI may result in obsolescence of the expectation that college educated individuals should be able to express their original ideas clearly and concisely in written form. However, I am among those who have not abandoned that expectation. See my policy below about the use of generative AI in this course.

Use of Generative AI is Prohibited. Your Instructor assumes that work submitted by students has been written by them alone. Students will *not* submit, as their own work, assignments another person has written, in full or in part.

Neither will students submit assignments as their own work if any or all of them has been written using artificial intelligence (AI) tools such as, but *not* limited to, ChatGPT, Claude, Copilot (an option on MS Word) or any grammar assistance program with the ability to rewrite sentences or larger portions of documents. It seems that even the free version of Grammarly now employs generative AI (I don't know about other grammar correcting platforms), thus use of Grammarly is prohibited in this course. Submitting written work that is not your own qualifies as [*academic dishonesty*](#) and is a violation of the Texas A&M University-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

All written work will be checked by the Blackboard generative AI detector. Your Instructor will notify any student whose submission has a high AI score. Those students must arrange a time to discuss the matter. Students who fail to do so will earn a zero on the assignment in question.

Writing Resources. All assignments will be written in American Psychological Association (APA) style. Whether you are familiar with APA style or not, an extremely valuable reference is the [Purdue Online Writing Lab \(OWL\) – APA Style Guide](#) (you may find the sample paper there especially helpful). Points will be deducted for APA style errors.

Another valuable resource is the [Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center](#). Tutors there work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise written assignments. Students can make face-to-face or virtual appointments with a writing tutor. The Writing Center is located in Central Academic Building, Suite 208. You may make an [appointment](#) via Jagwire.

Format of Assignments

Format of Files

Unless otherwise noted, all written assignments must be submitted **as MS Word [docx](#) files; no pdf, Google docs, or other files please!** Assignments submitted as anything other than a docx file will be returned to the student. Such assignments may be resubmitted; however, a late penalty (**a minimum of 10%**) will apply.

Communicating with your Instructor

Students are welcome to call, email, or take advantage of office hours (including appointments outside of office hours) if they need assistance. **By federal law (the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act [FERPA]) faculty may only communicate with students by email via secure networks (i.e., Jaguar email).** Platforms like Gmail and Yahoo are not secure (you pay for the service with your privacy).

Students are responsible for activating and using their Jaguar email accounts. If you need help setting up your Jaguar email, call the Information Technology Services (ITS) Help Desk at 784-4357 (784-HELP) or send an email to helpdesk@tamusa.edu

Format of e-mail messages

Use the following format for emails. In the subject line - write your name as the lead, followed by the course and section number (i.e., Subject: Your Name PSYC [course number.section #]). **Emails not formatted in this way will be returned unread.**

Evaluation of Student Performance

Point values of all assignments are provided on the Grade Table, which is available on Bb under Syllabus.

Exams and Quizzes

There will be several exams and perhaps quizzes in the course. The questions may be multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and/or short essay. Details will be provided on Bb.

Content of Exams/Quizzes. Exams and quizzes will cover assigned chapters in the textbook and *may* also cover topics raised by PowerPoints, videos, and any other supplemental materials. It is imperative that you read the text and other assigned readings and study all assigned materials to prepare for exams. **Please note that the Powerpoint slides (PPTs) are only an instructional aid; they do *not* substitute for reading the textbook.**

As with exams in most classes, you will be expected to know a number of terms. However, please note - your Instructor is more interested in student's understanding *concepts* and being able to *apply* what they've learned than simply recalling definitions of terms. Expect a number of exam questions to incorporate brief scenarios that illustrate relevant constructs (e.g., Bob did X...this is an example of which of the following concepts?).

Missed Examination Policy. If you have a medical or family emergency that will prevent you from meeting an exam, contact your Instructor (or have someone else contact him) ideally *before* the exam. In any case, your Instructor must be contacted no more than 24 hours following the exam (and be supplied with documentation of the reason you missed the exam) in order for you to be considered for a make-up exam.

Study Guides. I am sorry but I do not provide study guides; my experience with them has not been good. Using review information presented at the end of chapters (in texts that provide them) may be helpful. The PowerPoint slides may also help structure your study for exams.

Oral Presentations. College graduates should have strong verbal communication skills; developing those skills requires practice. Individual or group presentations may be required in this course.

Other Sources of Course Credit

Extra Credit Points

Students may earn the equivalent of 5% of the total raw score points in the class in extra credit (which is *equal to half a letter grade*). Extra credit points may be earned in any combination of three ways: (a) participation in research studies conducted by faculty members or students (the number of credits earned varies by the time commitment); (b) by attending relevant university sponsored events (e.g., the Psychology Speaker Series, the College of Arts & Sciences Speaker Series, or talks at academic conferences [when available]); and/or (c) submission of short papers on TED talks or other videos from a list provided by the Instructor.

What is SONA and why should I care? SONA is the software platform the Psychology Program uses to schedule and keep track of research participation. All students in the course will be enrolled in [SONA](#).

Those

who wish to participate in experiments or get credit for attendance at sponsored speaker events will need to *create an account* and monitor the opportunities posted there. Your Instructor will receive notification of all student's SONA participation at the end of the semester. Please keep track of your participation, but there is no need to report it to your Instructor.

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