



Culture and Psychology

PSYC3324-601-202610

Fall 2025 (August 25 – Dec 7th)

MW – 9:30 to 10:45 am

Brenya Buchalski, MA, JD.

E-Mail Bbuchalski@tamusa.edu

Student Office Hours: Zoom per appointment

Class Location: MADLA 237

Appointments for zoom office hours are preferred; there might be days for which I have to leave early. If I have to be away, I can contact you if you've made an appointment.

You may also make appointments for other times outside office hours.

About the Instructor:

I have over 30 years of experience working with multiculturally diverse individuals and families within the fields of:

Law, Criminal Justice and Psychology

As a Clinician I have served Military Veterans and Foreign Nationals from many countries

I have been blessed to be a Practitioner and also serve as a Part time and also a full time professor since 1986

Course Description:

From the catalog:

Students will be introduced to the broad field of psychology. Subfields will be explored. Students will explore job opportunities and opportunities for advanced degrees. Topics may also include scientific methods, research, reading scientific articles, ethics, critical thinking, the A&M-SA degree plan, and goal setting. Prerequisite: PSYC 2301

Student Learning Outcomes:

To add

COMMUNICATION PLAN

Email is the method of communication with me:

Bbuchalski@tamusa.edu

I do not access any other form of communication

I will make an active effort to respond to class-related email queries within 24 hours. Therefore, **use the email information given above - not** the WebCT email system).

PLEASE READ OVER THE ENTIRE SYLLABUS BEFORE EMAILING ME.

FIRST AND FOREMOST ALL WORK IS DUE on December 6th - at 11:59 PM – No Exception.

My part

Encouragement:

1. Student hours per zoom Meeting
2. Struggling with coursework or experiencing academic challenges at some point is a common part of learning, and is not judged.
3. I faced diverse academic challenges when I was a student. I was able to overcome them with time and strategies
4. We in our Class follow Growth Mindset
5. There is support for diverse student challenges – eg work – life conflict, housing /food issues, mental health
6. Life – Work Balance: I model health and family time – so am not available From Friday @ 5:00 pm to Monday @ 9:00 am
7. I do stick to policy and I do expect you to do your work within six days (by Saturday end of day) I am helping you as a para professional. You are learning through best practices to be a professional. All weekly assignments and work due in six days. Exception has to be syllabus and University sanctioned with Formal Documentation

Skill Development. In addition to learning some basics of careers in psychology, the assignments in this course are designed to help you develop a number of skills that are important to your success as a student:

- Social Interaction (Interacting with Professors and Fellow Students, Overcoming Social Anxiety)
- Using Campus Resources (Library, Writing Center, Career Services)
- Using Digital Tools and the Cloud
- Self-monitoring, Metacognition, and Planning
- Practice Reading Scientific Articles

Textbook Culture & Psychology 6th Edition Publisher Cengage
Authors: D. Matsumoto & L.Juang

Recommended Reference Material (NOT required):

Additional Readings

You will be provided with supplemental readings through Blackboard that will help you understand different topics. You will be expected to find readings on your own as a part of your assignments. These must come from peer-reviewed sources. If you cannot find a PDF of the article, interlibrary loan can usually locate it for you. See the schedule and blackboard for due dates and details.

Quality of Written Work

All written work should be of academic quality submitted in APA format in order to expect full credit.

Withdrawal Policy

Any withdrawals after the last day for an *automatic* “W” date established by the university will receive the grade of “F”.

Grades. All assignments will be submitted through Blackboard, and instructions will be available on Blackboard unless otherwise noted. Your final grade in this class will be calculated as a simple average: your points earned divided by the maximum number of points you

could have earned. In this class you can earn up to a total of 100 points.

Contact Info

Brenya Buchalski, MA., JD

Bbuchalski@tamusa.edu

Late Work. Due dates and times are clearly listed on the materials for every assignment. **Assignments are due in Class** Work turned in after the due date and time is considered late.

- Work turned in after, but within 24 hours of the due date will be graded at 50%.
- After 24 hours, the work will not be accepted. No exceptions. If you have an emergency situation, notify me ASAP for consideration, and include any necessary documentation.

This is a basic time-management skill you must learn to succeed in college and in life. Make a schedule, work ahead; you've got this!

Course Policies

Generative Artificial Intelligence Use Guidance

There are situations and contexts within this course where you may be asked to use artificial intelligence (AI) tools to explore how they can be used. Outside of those circumstances, you should not use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any student work (assignments, activities, discussion responses, etc.) that is part of your evaluation in this course. Any student work submitted using AI tools should

clearly indicate with attribution what work is the student's work and what part is generated by the AI. In such cases, no more than 25% of the student work should be generated by AI. If any part of this is confusing or uncertain, students should reach out to their instructor for clarification before submitting work for grading. Use of AI-generated content without the instructor's permission and/or proper attribution in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

Example from [Texas A&M-San Antonio's Gen AI Policy Options](#)

Video and Audio Recording

For good reason Students are not permitted to Record Videos or Audio of content in class with out express Confidential permission from this Instructor.

As the instructor of this course, I may record meetings and lessons. You are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class. If the instructor or a UTSA office plans any other uses for the recordings, consent of the students identifiable in the recordings is required before such use

unless an exception is allowed by law. For more information on your privacy and class recordings, review [Student Privacy \(FERPA\) in Virtual Classrooms and Other Educational Recordings](#) and the [Guide to Secure Video Conferencing Tools](#).

Academic Freedom

Academic freedom¹ is a cornerstone of the University. Academic freedom in its teaching aspect is fundamental for the protection of the rights of the teacher in teaching and of the student to freedom in learning.² Each faculty member is entitled to full freedom in the classroom discussing the subject that the faculty member teaches.³ The University of Texas at San Antonio will not penalize or discipline members of the faculty because of their exercise of academic freedom.

Along with this freedom comes responsibility. It is the responsibility of faculty members to ensure that topics taught are related to the classroom subject. Students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled.⁴ It is not the proper role of the university or any outside agency to attempt to shield individuals from ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable, or even deeply offensive.⁵ Engaging with

new ideas and perspectives helps students grow intellectually and is beneficial to the educational process.

1. Statement adapted from Texas A&M University's [Syllabus Statement Regarding Academic Freedom](#)
2. 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure
3. Board of Regents Rule 31004; HOP Policy 4.02
4. American Association of University Professors Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students
5. The Chicago Statement

Hours per Week

Student can expect and schedule and plan to complete this online class successfully. For every module that opens (each week) up to six hours work is expected. In other words expect to put into each week (*from January to May*) six to eight hours. The six hours will include your text reading, content review and completing each assignment. Plan for such time commitment. Do be mindful to **Schedule** such to stay organized from week to week.

Grading Information

Grading Schema for Final Grade:

Final grades will be based on the following cumulative point totals:

Total Points	Percentage	Grade
95 – 97.5	95 – 97.5%	A
85 – 87.5	85 – 87.5%	B
75.0 – 77.5	75 – 77.5%	C
65.0 – 67.5	65 – 67.5%	D
<60.0	<60%	F

Detailed Grading Scheme

Grades will sum to a maximum of 100 points in the following manner:

Source	Points	Percent
Orientation Week Introduction Ice Breaker and picking your Team Syllabus Exercise	10	10%
Wednesday August 27 th Team Work Team Contract	5 points	5 %
Week 1 What is Culture Wednesday Sept 3rd	5 points	5%
Week 2 Sept 8 th Review: Cross – Cultural research Chp 2 Nature vs Nurture Impact on Culture	5 points	5%
Week 3 Sept 10 th Wed Enculturation	5 points	5%

Chp 3 Students Testimony – Afghanistan & Pakistan & Empathy from Students		
Week 4 Sept 15 th & 17 th	5 points on Monday Culture Language & Communication chp 10 Culture Language & Communication chp 10 Online Essay Test 5 points	5% 5 %
Week 5 Sept 22 nd Monday	Role Play rubric given and practice in class on Culture, Language & Communication	
Sept 24 Wednesday	Teams do role play in turn	5%
Week 6 Sept 29 th Monday	5 points Culture & Personality Chp 6 (Monday)	5%


Oct 1 Wed	Culture, Self & Identity Chp 5 (Wed)	0
Week 7 Oct 6 & Oct 8	Monday Chp 8 Culture & Cognition Wed Culture & Emotion chp 9 = 5 points	0 5 %
Week 8 Oct 13 & 15	Mon Chp 11 Culture & Health Wed Oct 15 th Essay Test on Culture & Health (online) 5 points	0 5%
Week 9 Oct 20 & 22	Culture & Social Behavior Chp 12 Culture & Psychological Disorders	5 %

Week 10 Oct 27 & 29	Monday Oct 27 th Review State of Nation On Wednesday Oct 29 th : Teams Prep for Role Play exercise	0 5
Week 11 Nov 3 & 5	Monday & Wednesday: 12 minute Role Play Exercise	10
Week 12 Nov 10 & 12	Mental Health in differing Nations Teams Research	10
Week 13 Nov 17 & 19	Team PP Presentation	10
Week 14 Nov 24 & 26	Thanksgiving week Monday discuss our Rituals	
Week 15 Dec 1 & 3	Review Culture & Organizations Chp 15	5 pts on Monday
Finals	Power point slides submit	10
Total	100	100% of total

There are no Bonus points or extra assignments – given our easy flow.


Tentative Course Schedule of Assignments and Exams

Week Date		Topic
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		Read Chapter /View Dr. B Lectures/Discussion /Assignments/Papers
Orientation/Introduction Week 1 MONDAY		Class Approach, introducing each other (<i>who I am, who am I</i>) ➤ Picking your Team - Ice Breaker ➤ Time Mgmt
Week 1 Wednesday	Work on Team Contract with Team	Work on Team Contract with Team
Week 2 Monday		Labor day
Week 2 Wed	Chapter 1 What is Culture	Team discussion
Week 3 Monday Wednesday Psychology with a cultural Perspective Chapter 1	Sept 10th Wed Enculturation Chp 3 Students Testimony – Afghanistan & Pakistan & Empathy from Students	
Week 4 Sept 15 th Monday Sept 17 th Wednesday	Culture Language & Communication chp 10 Online Essay Test On Culture, Language & Communication	Class Team discussion for 5 points 5 points

<p>Week 5 Sept 22nd Monday</p> <p>And</p> <p>Wednesday Sept 24th</p>	<p>Role Play rubric given and practice in class on Culture, Language & Communication</p> <p>Teams do fun Role Play For 5 points</p>	<p>5 points = 5%</p>
<p>Week 6 Monday and Wednesday</p>	<p>5 points Culture & Personality Chp 6 (Monday)</p> <p>Culture, Self & Identity Chp 5 (Wed)</p>	<p>5 %</p>
<p>Week 7 Oct 6 & 8</p>	<p>Monday Chp 8 Culture & Cognition</p> <p>Wed Culture & Emotion chp 9 = 5 points</p>	<p>5 %</p>

<p>Week 8 Oct 13 & 15</p> <p>Monday and Wednesday</p>	<p>Mon Oct 13</p> <p>Chp 11 Culture & Health</p> <p>Wed Oct 15th Essay Test on Culture & Health (online)</p>	<p>0</p> <p>0</p>
<p>Week 9 Oct 20 & 22</p> <p>Monday and Wednesday</p>	<p>Chp 12 Culture & Psychological Disorders</p> <p>Culture & Social Behavior</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>Week 10 Oct 27 & 29</p> <p>Monday and Wednesday</p>	<p>Monday Oct 27th Review State of Nation</p> <p>On Wednesday Oct 29th : Teams Prep for Role Play exercise</p>	
<p>Week 11 Nov 3 & 5</p> <p>Monday and Wednesday</p>	<p>Monday & Wednesday: 12 minute Role Play Exercise</p>	<p>10</p>

Week 12 Nov 10 & 12 Monday and Wednesday	Mental Health in differing Nations Teams Research	10
Week 13 Monday Nov 17 and Wednesday Nov 19	Team PP Presentation	10
Week 14 Nov 24 & Nov 26	Thanksgiving week Monday discuss our Rituals	
Week 15 Dec 1 & 3	Review Culture & Organizations Chp 15	5 points on Monday
Finals Team Presentations	Power point slides submit	10
		Enjoy Your Holiday <small>Source: Retrieved from: www.BuyEssentialOilsHere.com Jana Tzinberg</small>

Syllabus Changes

The syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. Any changes/corrections to the course materials, assignment dates, or other updates will be communicated to the students ahead of time. You are responsible for checking Canvas for corrections or updates to the syllabus.

Important Dates:

August 25	First day of class
September 1	Labor Day – No classes
September 10	Census Date
November 10	Last day to drop with an automatic “W”
November 18	Last day to withdraw from the University
November 28	Holiday – No classes
December	Last day of classes
December	Study Day – No classes
December -1	Final exams

The complete academic calendar:

<https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/academic-calendar/index.html>

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students

with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact Disability Support Services in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210, or at (210) 784-1335 or visit <https://www.tamusa.edu/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment call 210-784-1331 or visit Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance).

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services.

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2'). For more information and self-help resources, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling
Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here:

<https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/campus-information/safety/university-police-department/documents/emergency-operations-plan.pdf> and <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/campus-information/safety/university-police-department/documents/emergency-action-plan.pdf>

Download the SafeZone App for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911.
Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://bit.ly/WLDCCenter>.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources they may possess.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, and special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots’ Casa in-person room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus

community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide reasonable accommodations to pregnant students that would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition and that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child.

These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of

discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, [Student Code of Conduct](#), on our website, University Catalog and to comply with them, as well as federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide an environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notification.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Use of Generative AI Permitted Under Some Circumstances or With Explicit Permission

There are situations and contexts within this course where you may be asked to use artificial intelligence (AI) tools to explore how they can be used. Outside of those circumstances, you should not use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any student work (assignments, activities, discussion responses, etc.) that is part of your evaluation in this course. Any student work submitted using AI tools should clearly indicate with attribution what work is the student's work and what part is generated by the AI. In such cases, no more than 25% of the student work should be generated by AI. If any part of this is confusing or uncertain, students should reach out to their instructor for clarification before submitting work for grading. Use of AI-generated content without the instructor's permission and/or proper attribution in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.