



Department of Health & Behavioral Sciences

PSYC 2301.613: General Psychology

Fall 2026

Instructor:	Stephanie A. Gooding, MS
Office:	REMOTE
Office Hours:	By Appointment (24 hrs. in advance)
Email:	Stephanie.Gooding@tamusa.edu
Course:	PSYC 2301.613
Class Time:	Online – Asynchronous (No scheduled meeting times)
Location:	Blackboard

Course Description

A survey of general psychology: theories, methods, and basic principles and how these apply to human behavior. Topics include research, the brain, social psychology, learning, memory, and psychological disorders. The course emphasizes the understanding that psychological concepts are derived from the scientific method. Prerequisites: TSI Reading/Writing.

Required Course Materials

Textbook:

Intro Book reference: OpenStax College, Psychology. Link to FREE textbook:
<https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology-2e>

Communication and Course Engagement

Please contact me through **Blackboard Messages**. This is my **preferred** method of communication as emails can get buried in inboxes. This ensures your messages are organized and replied to in a timely manner. I check Blackboard daily but may respond within 24 hours on weekdays.

- On the weekends, I am generally not available by email but will reply on the subsequent Monday. If you need to contact me, please plan, especially when it comes to clarifying assignment instructions and/or submission requirements.
- In all communications, please be professional and be specific in your message (i.e., avoid informal correspondence styles like text messaging).

- I will be available to meet during student hours (see times listed above) by appointment. You must make your appointment **24 hours in advance**. Student hours are dedicated to interacting with and providing students with assistance regarding course work.
- If there is a specific assignment/materials or topic you want to discuss, providing advance notice will allow me to have these resources ready.
- **Because this course is asynchronous, you will connect with classmates primarily through four Unit Discussion Boards. Read prompts and classmates' posts carefully, contribute substantive ideas, and communicate respectfully.**

If the listed student hours do not work for you, request an alternative appointment through Blackboard Messages. Meetings may be held online by mutual arrangement.



Specific Learning Objectives: As a result of completing this course, you will be able to:

To introduce the many disciplines in psychology and characterize psychology as a science.

- To emphasize the importance of basic research (human and nonhuman) to understanding behavior and applying this understanding to our everyday lives.
- To introduce concepts, theories, and methodology used in a variety of psychology disciplines.
- Recognize and explain the scientific method.
- Discriminate between reliable and less reliable information to make informed decisions.

Missed / Late Homework Policy

Missed assignments will be assigned a grade of zero. You must contact me about a missed assignment **before** the due date or as soon as possible after the emergency that causes you to miss the deadline. ***You will not be allowed to earn credit for late assignments and will receive a zero for that assignment unless you experience an emergency/illness. Excused absences include family emergency and death in the family. Work conflicts, technology problems reported only after a deadline, or lack of preparation generally do not qualify as emergencies. Plan to begin online work early enough to address routine technical issues.***

Legitimate reasons include, but are not limited to:

- Illness and/or injury (personal)
- Illness of friend or family member that requires your assistance
- Transportation
- Athletic and/or organizational obligation
- Death or injury of friend or family member

Non-legitimate reasons for missing exams, but **NOT** for make-ups include:

- Vacation
- Lack of preparation and/or just not feeling like it

Late coursework will not be accepted for reasons other than those outlined above.

Assessment and Evaluation:

All coursework will be administered and submitted through Blackboard. No paper copies will be accepted unless otherwise noted. Because this is an asynchronous course, attendance and participation are demonstrated through academically related activity, such as submitting an assignment, completing a quiz or exam, or posting a substantive discussion contribution. Logging in by itself does not constitute attendance. Complete all work independently unless an assignment specifically authorizes collaboration.

Blackboard Tips

All assignments **MUST** be submitted on the desktop web version of the application. The mobile app and often mobile web versions DO NOT submit properly.

If you have trouble with Blackboard automatically populating your dashboard or syncing to your calendar, please contact me immediately to correct this.

Grading:

Final grade: This is the accumulation of total points earned throughout the semester.

Course Component	Value	Number	Total Points
Chapter Quizzes	10	12	120
Unit Discussion Boards	25	4	100
Unit Exams	100	4	400
Research Experience Credits (REC/SONA)	5	1	5
TOTAL			625

A = 563–625; B = 500–562; C = 438–499; D = 375–437; F = 0–374

Course Schedule

The following schedule is subject to change, and I will do my best to send an accompanying announcement through Blackboard in the event of any changes, but it is ultimately your responsibility to check the course schedule in Blackboard on a regular basis.

Chapter Quizzes will be due on Sundays at 11:59 pm. Read the chapters and watch the accompanying videos found in Blackboard. The OpenStax textbook has plenty of resources and a guide to walk you through the best way to maximize its usage. **(10 points each.)**

Discussion Boards (DBs 1-3) will open on the Wednesday Prior to their due date and will be due on the following Monday at 11:59 pm. DB 4 still opens on the prior Wednesday; however, the due date is due on Sunday due to Final Week scheduling. These Discussion Boards allow you to demonstrate your understanding and application of psychological concepts through critical thinking. Because this course does not include midterm or comprehensive final exams, these assignments carry greater weight. You will analyze, connect, and synthesize information from three chapters by responding to case studies, ethical dilemmas, questions, or other prompts provided by the instructor. A rubric will accompany each assignment.

Replies to classmates are NOT required but ARE encouraged because they can broaden your understanding of the topic. Please allow up to one week for grading due to the number of students enrolled and the instructor's responsibilities across multiple courses. Each Discussion Board is due the week before its corresponding Unit Exam. **(25 points each.)**

Research Experience Component (REC)—5 points

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zObEkIT9M4k>

The REC provides an opportunity to learn how psychological research is conducted. Options include participating in an approved SONA study, attending an approved research presentation, or completing an instructor-approved alternative. REC points count toward your course grade and are not college

semester credit hours. Instructions, options, and deadlines will be posted in Blackboard.

****See the Module labeled “REC Info” in Blackboard for more information, options, and instructions.****

Unit Exams: There are 4 Unit Exams that will be 50 multiple choice and T/F questions that are worth 100 points each. These are your only exams. I do not believe in Midterm or Comprehensive Final exams.

WEEK	DATES	READING	DUE DATES	POINTS
1	8/24 – 8/30	Ch1: Introduction to Psychology	Ch1 Quiz Due: 8/30 11:59 pm	10
2	8/31 – 9/06	Ch2: Psychological Research	Ch2 Quiz Due: 9/06 11:59 pm	10
3	9/07 – 9/13	Ch3: Biopsychology DB#1 Opens Wed (9/09)	Ch3 Quiz Due: 9/13 11:59 pm DB#1 Due: 9/14 11:59 pm	10 25
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4	9/14 – 9/20	Unit 1 Exam: Ch. 1 – 3 Opens Tues (9/15)	Unit 1 Exam Due: 9/20 11:59 pm	100
5	9/21 – 9/27	Ch4: States of Consciousness	Ch4 Quiz Due: 9/27 11:59 pm	10
6	9/28 – 10/04	Ch5: Sensation & Perception	Ch5 Quiz Due: 10/04 11:59 pm	10
7	10/05 – 10/11	Ch6: Learning DB#2 Opens Wed (10/07)	Ch6 Quiz Due: 10/11 11:59 pm DB#2 Due: 10/12 11:59 pm	10 25
8	10/12 – 10/18	Unit 2 Exam: Ch. 4 – 6 Opens Tues (10/13)	Unit 2 Exam Due: 10/18 11:59 pm	100
9	10/19 – 10/25	Ch7: Thinking & Intelligence	Ch7 Quiz Due: 10/25 11:59 pm	10
10	10/26 – 11/01	Ch8: Memory	Ch8 Quiz Due: 11/01 11:59 pm	10
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11	11/02 – 11/08	Ch10: Motivation &	Ch9 Quiz	10

		Emotion DB#3 Opens Wed (11/04)	Due: 11/08 11:59 pm DB#3 Due: 11/09 11:59 pm	25
12	11/09 – 11/15	Unit 3 Exam: Ch. 7, 8 & 10 Opens Tues (11/10)	Unit 3 Exam Due: 11/15 11:59 pm	100
 VETERANS DAY 				
13	11/16 – 11/22	Ch11: Personality	Ch11 Quiz Due: 11/22 11:59 pm	10
14	11/23 – 11/29	Ch12: Social Psychology REC Credits/Assignment	Ch12 Quiz Due: 11/29 11:59 pm REC Due: 11/29 11:59 pm	10 5
 HAPPY THANKSGIVING 				
15	11/30 – 12/06	Ch15: Psychological Disorders DB#4 Opens Wed (12/02)	Ch15 Quiz Due: 12/06 11:59 pm DB#4 Due: 12/06 11:59 pm	10 25
16	12/07 – 12/12	Unit 4 Exam: Ch. 11, 12 & 15 Opens Mon (12/07)	Unit 4 Exam Due: 12/11 11:59 pm	100

Assignment Descriptions

Assignments consist of 13 Chapter Quizzes, four Unit Discussion Boards, and four Unit Exams. Read the assigned OpenStax chapter before taking its quiz. Chapter Quizzes are online in Blackboard, worth 10 points each, timed for one hour, and allow two attempts; the higher score is recorded. The quizzes provide low-stakes retrieval practice and help you prepare for the Unit Exams.

There will be four Unit Discussion Boards, one per unit. Each discussion gives you an opportunity to apply concepts from the unit, explain your reasoning, and learn from classmates. Complete both the required initial post and peer responses by the deadlines in Blackboard.

All four Unit Exams will be completed online in Blackboard during the posted exam window. Exams are worth 100 points each and must be completed independently in one sitting unless an approved accommodation states otherwise. Begin early enough to allow time for routine

technology troubleshooting.

Exam 4 serves as the final exam and will be completed online during the University's Fall 2026 final-examination period, December 5–11. The exact Blackboard availability window and deadline will be announced in the course.

AI Policy

The use of generative AI, such as ChatGPT, is prohibited *without my express permission*, except in the following ways:

- To ensure proper usage of English in students' original self-written materials
 - Prompt: Review the text below and note any grammatical errors. Be detailed and provide examples/explanations.
- To clarify or condense *portions* of students' original self-written materials
 - Prompt: Review the text below and concise the information. Be detailed and provide examples/explanations.
- To identify areas of improvement in students' original self-written materials
 - Prompt: Review the text below and identify areas of improvement. Be detailed and provide examples/explanations.

Students who choose to utilize generative AI tools for this purpose MUST:

- Declare the use of AI tools by identifying the program and purpose (i.e., allowed uses)
- Cite the tool in the reference section
- Include their original writing as an appendix to any assignment submission

Students are cautioned that all written assignments are checked for integrity using Turnitin, an AI program that detects plagiarism and language based generative AI content.

If generative AI usage is detected and not declared upon assignment submission, the student may be held accountable for violating the Academic Integrity Policy. The first step following any flagged material is a one-on-one conversation in a timely manner with the student to discuss the situation further and to determine what course of action is appropriate.

Class Etiquette

This online asynchronous course is a shared learning space. Log in regularly, follow the weekly module sequence, complete readings and coursework on time, and engage

respectfully with classmates and the instructor.

In discussion boards and other online interactions, write professionally, stay focused on course ideas, protect classmates' privacy, and allow room for thoughtful disagreement. Asynchronous participation does not require everyone to be online at the same time.

your microphone muted when not speaking, and participate professionally in chat discussions.

Respectful communication is expected at all times. **Disagreement is part of learning, but it should be expressed thoughtfully and constructively.** These guidelines help create a supportive, focused environment where everyone can learn effectively.

IMPORTANT POLICIES & RESOURCES

University Email Policy and Course Communications: All correspondence between professors and students must occur via University email accounts. You must have your Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at helpdesk@tamusa.edu or at 210-784-HELP (4357). If you don't hear back within 48 hours, contact them again. They have many requests during the first part of the semester, so you may need to follow up with them.

Academic Accommodations for Individuals 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, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us at the [website](#) 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 academic accommodations with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. 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. Online tutoring is also available for after hours and weekend assistance.

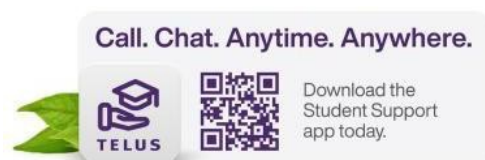
While tutoring hours may change based on tutor schedules and availability, the current tutoring hours for MATH in the ALC are as follows:

	Appointments available	Walk in Tutoring – No appointment needed
MONDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
TUESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
WEDNESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
THURSDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
FRIDAY	8 am – 5 pm	11 am – 4 pm

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and 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, visit our website, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

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 24/7/365 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 or through the TELUS student support App.*

The TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including 24/7/365 support for in the moment distress, crisis support, an anonymous peer-to-peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.



Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification system. 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](#). Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) 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 by the published Census Date (the first week of class). Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend prior to the published Census Date (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.

Jaguar Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center (WLDCC): The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Writing 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. The Writing Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. Students wanting to work in realtime with a tutor can schedule an “Online Appointment.” Students wishing to receive asynchronous, written feedback from a tutor can schedule an “eTutoring” appointment. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our [website](#) . The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing writingcenter@tamusa.edu.

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 submit a [CARE report](#) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources. A food pantry is available on campus; click [here](#) for hours and contact information.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or

state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots' Casa building, 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 wide variety 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 course 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, equal 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 on our campus and within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees are to 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, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the University's Civil Rights Officer at 210-784-2061 or titleix@tamusa.edu.

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 discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking based on sex, 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, sexual violence, or other related sex-based 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 such reasonable accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition 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. Young Jaguars can support parenting students with daycare if students meet this criteria: (1) must be enrolled in classes at Texas A&M-San Antonio in the current semester, (2) must be Pell eligible or a single parent, (3) child(ren) must be aged 3 to 12-years-old, and (4) child(ren) must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. For more information, please contact Young Jaguars at youngjaguars@tamusa.edu or call (210) 784-2636.

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, and pregnancy/parenting 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, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with 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 a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

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, or disability. Conduct that infringes 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](#) or visit the resources available in the [OSRR website](#)

PSYC 2301: General Psychology – Fall
2026