

## The Psychology Major

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**PSYC 2302 014 • Fall 2026**

Brenya Twumasi (Buchalski)  
Senator Frank L. Madla Building • Room 254

2:00 pm to 3:15

### Course Description

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-San Antonio degree plan, and goal setting.

### Prerequisite: PSYC 2301

Please contact me directly through your university email rather than through Blackboard messages.

This course is about learning how to navigate psychology as a discipline, as a major and eventually as a professional identity

Our hour plus is designed to be interactive and exploratory. It shall not be a lecture heavy psychology Class. Your Team shall be involved in various fun Team role plays and discussions. We as Team members shall enjoy extraordinary good conversations.

You don't simply take Psyc 2302

You move through a journey – from. Becoming a psychology Major to beginning to see yourself as a psychology Professional

I'm a psychology Major – How do I do this well – how do I think like a psychologist- where do I fit in – what path do I choose – how do I become a Professional – How do I enjoy my Professional Flow as I have enjoyed being a student

### Skill Development

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

- Social Interaction — interacting with professors and fellow students and 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 & Reference Materials

### Free Text Book:

<https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology-2e>

**Required/Introductory Book Reference:** OpenStax College, Psychology (free online textbook)

**Recommended Reference Material (not required):** APA Manual (7th edition). American Psychological Association (2019).

APA College Dictionary of Psychology. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. ISBN: 978-1-4338-0433-5.

### Additional Readings

You will be provided with supplemental readings through Blackboard that will help you understand different topics. You will also be expected to find readings on your own as part of your assignments.

Additional sources must come from peer-reviewed publications. If you cannot find a PDF of an 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 and submitted in APA format in order to receive full credit.

### Grades

All assignments will be submitted through Blackboard, and instructions will be available on Blackboard unless otherwise noted. Your final grade will be calculated as a simple average: points earned divided by the maximum number of points possible. In this class, you can earn up to a total of 100 points.

### Late Work

Due dates and times are clearly listed on the materials for every assignment. Assignments are due Fridays at midnight.

- Work submitted 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 as soon as possible 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!

### **Withdrawal Policy**

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

Office hours – per appointment on Zoom

### **Dr. B's Instructional flow:**

CONCEPT → EXPERIENCE → TEAM CONVERSATION → ROLE PLAY /  
EXPLORATION → REFLECTION → PROFESSIONAL CONNECTION

WEEKS 1      Becoming a Psychology Major

Who am I as a psychology major? How does the discipline work? How do psychologists think?

Week 2      Making the Most of Your University Experience

Week 3      Becoming a Psychological Thinker

Week 4      Finding Your Place in the Field

Where do I fit? What areas, populations, careers, and professional pathways interest me?

Week 5      Exploring Psychology Pathways

Week 6      Connecting Psychology to the Real World

Week 7      Becoming Professional

What does professional psychology actually look and feel like? What skills, identities, ethics, and experiences do I need?

Week 8      Ethics & Professional Responsibility

Week 9      Building Your Professional Self

Week 10 Professional Flow

How do I see myself moving forward—and how do I want to inhabit this profession?

**Fall 2026 Course Calendar**

| Week |                                                                       | Assignment       | Points earned |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 8/24 | Introductions & choosing Teams for semester                           | Study Plan       | 5             |
| 8/26 | Sub fields and other options                                          | Class Discussion | 5             |
| 8/31 | Making the Most of Your University Experience- How to be a Psyc Major | Team Discussion  | 5             |
| 9/2  | 360 degrees – Organizing self                                         | Class Discussion | 5             |
| 9/9  | Becoming a Psychological Thinker                                      |                  | 5             |
| 9/14 | Finding Your place in the Field<br>Plus Review SONA in Class          |                  | 5             |
| 9/16 | Becoming a Scientist: Psychology Is a Science                         | Class Discussion | 5             |

|               |                                                    |                        |          |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| 9/21          | Becoming a Scientist: Making Science Work for You  | Team Discussion        | 5        |
| 9/23          | Becoming a Scientist: What Is Scientific Research? | Class Discussion       | 5        |
| 9/28          | Research Methods continued                         | Class Discussion       | 5        |
| 9/30          | Research Methods continued                         | Class Discussion       | 5        |
| 10/5          | Cultural Competency                                | Class Discussion       | 5        |
| 10/7          | Team Role Play Practice                            | Career Path Assignment | 5        |
| 10/12         | Team Role Play Roll out                            | Teams 1 to 5           | 5        |
| 10/14         | Team Role Play                                     | Left over Teams        |          |
| <b>10/19</b>  | How to be a Psych Major: How Do I Earn My Degree?  |                        |          |
| 0             |                                                    |                        |          |
| <b>10/21</b>  | <b>Which core classes and electives</b>            |                        | <b>0</b> |
| <b>10/26</b>  | Psych Major Options: Finding the Area for You      |                        |          |
| 0             |                                                    |                        |          |
| <b>10/28.</b> | Psych Major Options: What Degree Is Right for You? |                        |          |
| 5             |                                                    |                        |          |
| <b>11/2</b>   | Psych Major Options: The APA Divisions             |                        |          |
| 0             |                                                    |                        |          |
| <b>11/4</b>   | <b>SONA Review</b>                                 |                        | <b>0</b> |
| <b>11/9</b>   | - Psych Major Option: Grad School options          |                        | 5        |
| <b>11/11</b>  |                                                    |                        | 5        |
| <b>11/16</b>  |                                                    |                        |          |

**11/18** I'm a Psychologist: What Do I Do Now?

5

**11/23** Week of Thanksgiving

**12/2 – final - Reflection**

0

**12/4 – study day**

### **important Dates**

**August 24** First day of class

**September 7** Labor Day Holiday — No classes

**September 10** Census Date

**November 14** Last day to drop with an automatic “W”

**November 25** Last day to withdraw from the University

**November 26** Study Day — No class

**November 27–29** Holiday — No classes

**December 3** Last day of class

**December 4** Study Day — No class

**December 6–12** Final exams

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

### **Important Policies & Resources**

#### **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.

Contact: (210) 784-1335 • <https://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-Support-Services/index.html> • [dss@tamusa.edu](mailto: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 disability-related needs with Disability Support Services as soon as possible.

#### **Academic Learning Center**

The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled Texas A&M University-San Antonio students. Appointments can be made through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform, accessible in the Tools section of Blackboard.

Contact: [tutoring@tamusa.edu](mailto:tutoring@tamusa.edu) • (210) 784-1307 • Central Academic Building, Room 202.

### **Counseling / Mental Health Resources**

The Student Counseling Center (SCC) provides free and confidential services (as allowed by law), including brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services.

Contact: (210) 784-1331 • Madla 120. Additional information:  
<http://tamusa.edu/studentcounseling>

Crisis support is available 24/7 through the SCC at (210) 784-1331. The TELUS Student Support App also provides mental health resources, including in-the-moment distress support, an anonymous peer-to-peer network, screenings, podcasts, and articles.

### **Emergency Preparedness**

JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification system. To register or update information: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com>

Emergency Operations Plan and Emergency Action Plan:  
<https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/emergency-management/>

SafeZone App: <https://safezoneapp.com/>

Emergency: (210) 784-1911 • Non-emergency: (210) 784-1900

### **Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance**

Under 34 CFR 668.21, a student can receive Title IV funds only when Title IV eligibility criteria, including class attendance, are met. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with electronic notification if a student has not attended by the published Census Date. Students receiving federal financial aid who do not attend prior to the Census Date may have their aid terminated and returned to the U.S. Department of Education. Students who stop attending 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 undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff. Tutors assist with reading skills, oral presentations, planning, drafting, and revising written assignments. Digital studio tutors support projects such as ePortfolios, presentations, and multimedia work.

Appointments can be scheduled through JagWire under Student Services. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information is available at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics>.

### **Meeting Basic Needs**

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food, or who lacks safe and stable housing and believes this may affect course performance, is urged

to submit a CARE referral: <https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html>. Students may also notify the professor if they are comfortable doing so.

### **Office Hours**

All faculty with teaching assignments should include regularly scheduled office hours on each syllabus in addition to “by appointment.” Please review your appointment letter for the number of weekly office hours expected. Regularly scheduled office hours should also be posted outside the faculty member's office door, where applicable.

### **Military Affairs**

Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to contact the Office of Military Affairs with questions regarding federal or state VA Education Benefits.

Patriots' Casa, Room 202 • [military.va@tamusa.edu](mailto:military.va@tamusa.edu) • (210) 784-1397

### **Religious Observances**

Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented on campus and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their traditions. Students will be provided an opportunity to make up examinations, study, or coursework missed due to religious observance when they notify instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular-session courses.

### **The Six-Drop Rule**

Students are subject to Senate Bill (SB) 1231, passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six non-punitive course drops during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect GPA; course drops exceeding the maximum may be treated as F grades and affect GPA.

### **Statement of Harassment and Discrimination**

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. The university 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, in accordance with applicable federal and state law.

Individuals who believe they have experienced prohibited harassment or discrimination are encouraged to contact the Civil Rights Officer at (210) 784-2061 or [titleix@tamusa.edu](mailto:titleix@tamusa.edu).

### **Title IX / Sex- and Gender-Based Misconduct**

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing a safe learning environment. Students experiencing sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, may contact the Title IX Coordinator for support and resources.

Title IX Coordinator: [titleix@tamusa.edu](mailto:titleix@tamusa.edu) • (210) 784-2061 • CAB 439K.

Most university employees, other than designated confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates, are required to report information about such

discrimination and harassment to the Title IX Coordinator. Students seeking confidential support may contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit Madla 120.

### **Pregnant / Parenting Students**

Texas A&M University-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or related issues, to take a leave, withdraw, limit studies, participate in an alternative program, change a major/degree/certificate, or refrain from participating in university courses or activities. Reasonable modifications may be provided as appropriate.

Questions may be directed to the Title IX Coordinator: [titleix@tamusa.edu](mailto:titleix@tamusa.edu) • (210) 784-2061 • CAB 439K.

Young Jaguars may support eligible parenting students with childcare. Contact: [youngjaguars@tamusa.edu](mailto:youngjaguars@tamusa.edu) • (210) 784-2636.

### **Students' Rights and Responsibilities**

Students have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas; participate in university activities free from discrimination and harassment; personal privacy except as provided by law; and fundamentally fair processes in disciplinary matters.

Students are responsible for respecting the rights and property of others; knowing and following University Student Rules, the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, University Catalog, and applicable laws; recognizing that their actions reflect on the university community; supporting a safe learning environment; and checking university email for official updates.

Students are expected to behave in a dignified, respectful, and courteous manner and to uphold high standards of honesty and integrity. Academic misconduct includes acts or attempts that provide an unfair advantage, as well as behavior prohibited by the faculty member in the syllabus or class discussion.

### **Generative AI Policy**

#### **Option 3 — Broader Use of Generative AI Permitted Within Guidelines**

Use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including ChatGPT, is permitted in this course for students who wish to use them. To adhere to our scholarly values, students must cite any AI-generated material that informed their work (this includes in-text citations and/or use of quotations, and in the reference list). Using an AI tool to generate content without proper attribution qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M University-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

Guidance for citing AI generators such as ChatGPT is available from APA Style: <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>

### **Instructor Note**

This is a small, interactive course. Our goal is not simply to learn about psychology, but to help you learn how to be a psychology major: how to organize yourself, think

scientifically, communicate professionally, explore the field, and begin building your own path.

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