



General Psychology PSYC 2301-602
COURSE SYLLABUS
Texas A&M University- San Antonio
College of Arts and Sciences

Doris K. Williams, Ph.D.

Email: dwilliams@tamusa.edu

Room: This is an online course.

Office hours: By appointment via zoom

Text:

In an effort to help reduce the cost of attending this university, we have chosen to adopt a textbook from OpenStax.org. This is a free textbook. See the following link for the textbook and more information about openstax.org.

Link to textbook

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

If you prefer a hard copy of the text, you can download and print it yourself for no charge or order a bound copy on Amazon for \$30.80 (paperback) or \$38.50 (hardcover).

If you are buying it online, make sure you are looking at the second edition.

Catalog 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.

Course Delivery: This course is an online course. You are expected to be in class every day.

Course Objectives

Objectives:

- Students will develop an understanding of the major theories of psychology, including personality, learning, and social psychology, and they will be able to visualize the connection between biology and psychology.
- Students will develop an elementary understanding of the way in which research is conducted by psychologists.
- Students will develop an appreciation of how the study of psychology can relate to all people of the world, not just psychologists, psychology majors, and people in therapy. As an example, students will learn how stress affects people physically and psychologically.

Assessment of Student Learner Outcomes

Students will evince attainment of course objectives through their performance on unit exams, quizzes, and projects.

Schedule (subject to change):

Other readings will be assigned periodically throughout the semester.

GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY

Spring 2024

<u>Day</u>	<u>Activities</u>	<u>Required Assignments</u>
Tuesday, Jan. 16	Syllabus Self- Introduction	Read Syllabus Entirely Self-Introduction (Initial Response)
Wednesday, Jan. 17	Chapter 1: Introduction to Psychology	Read Chap 1
Thursday, Jan. 18		Self-Introduction (Respond to Two Classmates)
Friday, Jan. 19	Journaling	Journal Entry
Monday, Jan. 22	Chapter 2: Psychological Research	Read Chap. 2
Thursday, Jan. 25	Current Event	Current Event (3 Big Things Happening in San Antonio this week as they relate to psychology)
Friday, Jan., 26	Journaling	Journal Entry
Sunday, Jan. 28	Exam	Exam 1 Chaps. 1 & 2 Chapter 1: Introduction to Psychology Chapter 2: Psychological Research
Monday, Jan. 29	Chapter 3: Biopsychology	Read Chap. 3
Thursday, Feb. 1	Discussion	Research: What are the 4 major sections of a research paper? Then, explain why these major parts are important.
Friday, Feb. 2	Journaling	Journal Entry

Sunday, Feb. 4	Exam	Exam 2 Chap. 3 Biopsychology
Wednesday, Feb. 7	Current Event	Current Event (3 Big Things Happening in the United States this week as they relate to psychology)
Friday, Feb. 9	Journaling	Journal Entry
Monday, Feb. 12	Chapter 4: States of Consciousness	Read Chap. 4
Thursday, Feb.15	Discussion	Research: Why is reading journal articles critically important.
Friday, Feb. 16	Journaling	Journal Entry
Saturday, Feb. 17	Chapter 5: Sensation and Perception	Read Chap. 5
Tuesday, Feb. 20	Self- Reflection	At this point in the semester, what are the pros and cons of attending Texas A&M University-San Antonio
Friday, Feb. 23	Journaling	Journal Entry
Saturday Feb, 24	Chapter 6: Learning	Read Chap. 6
Monday, Feb. 26.	Chapter 7: Thinking and Intelligence	Read Chap. 7
Friday, Mar. 1	Journaling	Journal Entry

Sunday, Mar. 3	Exam	Exam 3: Chaps. 4-7 Chapter 4: States of Consciousness Chapter 5: Sensation and Perception Chapter 6: Learning Chapter 7: Thinking and Intelligence
Monday, Mar. 4	Chapter 8: Memory	Read Chap.8
Wednesday, Mar. 6	Current Event	Current Event (3 Big Things Happening in the World this week as they relate to psychology)
Friday, Mar. 8	Journaling	Journal Entry
Monday, Mar. 11- Sunday Mar. 17	Spring Break	No Classes
Monday, Mar. 18.	Chapter 9: Lifespan Development	Read Chap. 9
Friday, Mar. 22	Journaling	Journal Entry
Sunday, Mar.24	Exam	Exam 4: Chap. 9 Lifespan Development
Monday, Mar. 25	Chapter 10: Emotion and Motivation	Read Chap. 10
Thursday, Mar. 28	Chapter 11: Personality	Read Chap. 11
Friday, Mar. 29	Journaling	Journal Entry
Sunday, Apr. 7	Exam	Exam 5: Chaps. 10 & 11 Chapter 10: Emotion and Motivation Chapter 11: Personality

Monday, Apr. 8	Chapter 15: Psychological Disorders	Read Chap. 15
Wednesday, Apr. 10	Current Event	Current Event (3 Big Things you would like to change in your Neighborhood as they relate to psychology)
Friday, Apr. 12	Journaling	Journal Entry
Monday, Apr. 15	Chapter 16: Therapy and Treatment	Read Chap. 16
Thursday, Apr. 18	Discussion	Research: Explain why it is important in academic writing for a researcher to give appropriate in-text citations and references?
Friday, Apr. 19	Journaling	Journal Entry
Monday, Apr. 22- Friday, Apr. 26	Q&A	Open Questions and Answers
Tuesday, Apr. 30	Study Day	No Classes
Friday, May 3	Final Exam	Final Exam Chaps. 15 &16 Chapter 15: Psychological Disorders Chapter 16: Therapy and Treatment

Assignments :

Self-Introduction : (1) self-introduction will allow students the opportunity to highlight some their best qualities and communication skills with classmates and instructor.

Exams : (5) exams will be given during the semester. Each exam, except the final, is worth an equal amount to the final grade. Your average can be calculated by finding the number of points you have earned and dividing it by the total possible number of points. **The exams are open book.**

Final exam: (1) comprehensive final exam will be given during the final exam period. This exam will count as one- and one-half regular exams.

Journaling: There will be (12) journal entries. According to expert opinion, journaling allows you to create and maintain a dialogue with yourself about your goals—what they are, how you'll reach them, and your progress and challenges along the way. Articulating and tracking your goals in writing makes them real, increasing your motivation and personal accountability.

Discussion: There will be (3) discussions among classmates. This will give you an opportunity to talk about various topics as they relate to scientific research.

Current Event: There will be (4) current events as they will help you gain a better understanding of issues in the news today.

Self-Reflection: There will be (1) brief self-reflection essay. Allows students to reflect on how they see things going on at Texas A&M University-San Antonio, and how they've gotten from point A to point B.

Course Grades:

Each student's grade will be based solely on his/her performance. Students will not compete against one another for grades (i.e., the instructor will not limit the number of As, Bs, etc.). An individual's course grade is based on his or her raw score points (i.e., the total number of points earned during the semester). For example, using the table below, a student who earns 900 points during the semester will earn a "A." A student who has a total of 800 points at the end of the semester will earn a "B" in the course.

<i>Letter Grade Cutoff Table</i>		
<i>Course Letter Grade</i>	<i>Percentage Correct</i>	<i>Raw Score (total raw score points earned)</i>
A	90% or more	900 or more
B	80 to 89%	800 to 899
C	70 to 79%	700 to 799
D	60 to 69%	600 to 699
F	59% or less	599 and less

Grades will be posted on Blackboard so that any time during the semester, you can check your grade at any time.

Grading Breakdown:

Self-Introduction	=40 points
Journaling	=30/360 points
Discussion	=50/150 points
Current Event	=25/100 points
Self-Reflection	= 50 points
Exams	= 50/250 points
Final Exam	= 50 points
Total	1000 points

Class Participation:

Very few students who miss a lot of coursework perform well in the course. Since you are paying a lot of money per class period, it is to your advantage to login daily. I do include participation in my grading system for final grade points at the end of semester, because class participation depends on meeting deadlines for submitting required assignments on time. Students who login every class day and participate in all required assignments will receive extra credit. You might find it advantageous to drop the class and retake it if you miss several required assignments. You need to take responsibility for your missed work FIRST, then contact me for help if you still need it. I will be VERY willing to help you when you show me that you have put some prior effort into the missed material. This is for your benefit too--if you have worked with the material already, my help sessions will be much more useful to you.

Make-Up or Late Work:

Assignments which are turned in on time must be turned in on the date which it is due unless I have specified another time. Each day the assignment is late, **(ten) points** will be taken off the grade for the assignment. For example, if a student turns in a perfect assignment two days late, the grade for the assignment will be 80. There are **NO** makeup exams. As they are online. Exams will open a week in advance of the due date, giving you enough time to complete them.

***If you are in the hospital, you must email me **BEFORE** the exam. Notifying me beforehand does not guarantee you will be able to make it up, but your request will be heard. If you are leaving town on a planned trip, take it before you leave. ***

There are **NO** exceptions for computer malfunction, if you understand your home computer is not working properly, take your exams and final at the university. This is an online course. Make sure your computer is in its very best working order at all times during the semester. At **NO** time will I hear about your computer problems.

Other Classroom Policies:

Please be respectful of others. Be very careful what you communicate via online during discussions. What is said does not always stay in the course room.

**All rules listed in the Student Code of Conduct must be followed in class. **

University Email Policy and Course Communications

All correspondence between professors and students must occur via University email accounts. You must have Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at sahelp@tamusa.edu or at 210-784-4357. They are located on the second floor of the CAB building.

Course Emails:

In preference to emailing me and my response back to you in a timely manner. I usually read and respond to emails twice a day. But my policy/standard is to respond back to you within 24-48 hours.

Keep in mind, every email does not require me to respond to them. Emails are for business purposes (i.e., assignments) only. Sometimes students get luck, and I am online at the time an email comes in, and I respond then, but not always.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio does not require me to respond to your emails on the weekend. For example, if you email on Saturday; I will respond back to you during business hour Monday.

Academic Misconduct Policy

Students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes cheating,

plagiarism, fabrication, multiple submissions, misrepresentation of academic records, facilitating academic dishonesty, unfair advantage, violating known safety requirements and ethical misconduct. This includes holding other students to the same standards and reporting any incidents of alleged violation of the honesty policy to the instructor involved or, if necessary, to the appropriate academic department head. All students are responsible for being familiar with the Academic Misconduct Policy, which may be found in the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Student Handbook.

University policy prescribes serious consequences for acts of academic misconduct including, but not limited to, a grade of 'F' on the particular paper or assignment or a failing grade in the course. Also, a referral may be issued to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities where the sanctions can vary up to possible expulsion from the University. Considering the potential consequences of academic misconduct, it is obviously in students' best interests to avoid even the appearance of such behavior. If you are ever unclear whether a specific act might constitute academic misconduct, please contact your instructor for an assessment of the situation.

All student term papers, and other written assignments are subject to analysis by anti-plagiarism software.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

This section is required by the university

Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Title II of the ADAAA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require that students with disabilities be guaranteed equal access to the learning environment through the provision of reasonable and appropriate accommodation of their disability. If you have a diagnosed disability that may require accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is dss@tamusa.edu.

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 is an appointment-based center where appointments are made through the Navigate platform. Students access Navigate through Jagwire in the Student Services tab. The Center is active on campus outreaching to students to highlight services offered. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu or calling (210)-784-1332. Appointments can also be made through JagWire under the services tab.

Counseling 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 or someone you know is experiencing life stressors, emotional difficulties, or mental health concerns at Texas A&M University – San Antonio, please contact the Student Counseling Center (SCC) located in Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance) or call 210-784-1331 between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM. All mental health services provided by the SCC are free, confidential (as the law allows), and are not part of a student's academic or university record. SCC provides brief individual, couples, and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

In a crisis situation, please walk-in to the Student Counseling Center (SCC) any time between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM to be seen by a licensed clinician. After hours, please contact UPD at 911 or text "HOME" to 741-741 24/7/365 to connect with a trained crisis counselor. The National Suicide Prevention hotline also offers a 24/7/365 hotline at 1-800-273-8255.

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 and/or phone call with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Preparedness and the Emergency Response Guide can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/upd/index.html>.

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.

Jaguar Writing Center:

The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. The Writing Center is currently holding all appointments digitally. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the student services tab. 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 at www.tamusa.edu/Writing-Center. 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 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@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.

Respect for Diversity:

We understand that our students represent diverse backgrounds and perspectives. When we are equity-minded, we are aware of differences and inequalities and are willing to discuss them so we can act to resolve them. The University is committed to building cultural competencies, or the attitudes, skills, and knowledge that enable individuals and organizations to acknowledge cultural differences and incorporate these differences in working with people from diverse cultures. Respecting and accepting people different than you is vital to your success in the class, on campus, and as a future professional in the global community. While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

- Share their unique experiences, values, and beliefs.
- Be open to the views of others.
- Honor the uniqueness of their colleagues.
- Value each other's opinions and communicate respectfully.
- Keep confidential discussions that the community has of a personal (or professional) nature.
- Use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in this course and across the A&M-San Antonio community.

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, diversity, pluralism 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, or gender expression. 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 helping create 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 has staff members trained to support survivors 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 university. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those

designated as confidential resources such as counselors and other healthcare providers 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. If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331, Modular C.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities:

The purpose of the following statement is to enumerate the essential provisions for the student freedom and responsibility to learn at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. All students are required to follow all policies and regulations as set forth by The Texas A&M University System. This includes the A&M-San Antonio Student Code of Conduct.

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 procedure 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, genetic information 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 the 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 students must comply with them and the laws of the land.
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.
6. 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.

No Use of Generative AI Permitted

[General Psychology Psych 2301-602] assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

****Any material on this syllabus is subject to change if a compelling situation arises. You will be notified via email and Bb announcement. ****