

PSYC 2301 Sections 151 and 455, Fall 2024

The first 2 pages cover the policies common to *all* sections of PSYC 2301, for *all* professors teaching the course. **Beginning on page 3, you will find information that is specific to Dr. Barr's PSYC 2301 class.**

Common Course Syllabus, Revised August 2023

Department: Behavioral Sciences

Discipline: Psychology

Course Number: PSYC 2301

Course Title: General Psychology

Available Formats: Conventional, INET, ITV

Campuses: Levelland, Lubbock Downtown, Lubbock Center, Plainview, and Dual Credit Campuses

Course Description: Survey of the essential subject areas, major theories, and approaches to the scientific study of behavior and mental processes.

Prerequisites: TSI compliance in Reading

Credit: 3 **Lecture:** 3 **Lab:** 0

Textbook: Open Stax Psychology Text or Noba Project Psychology

Supplies: none unless specified in the specific instructor information

This course partially satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement: Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Component Area (080)

Core Objectives addressed:

- **Communication skills-** effective written, oral and/or visual communication.
- **Critical thinking skills-** creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, synthesis of information.
- **Empirical and Quantitative skills-** manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
- **Social Responsibility-** intercultural knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)/Competencies:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Identify various research methods and their characteristics used in the scientific study of psychology.
2. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thoughts that shaped the field of psychology.
3. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology
4. Use terminology unique to the study of psychology.
5. Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation.
6. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior.

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment:

Dr. Alicia Barr is the faculty member who is responsible for the assessment of the student learning outcomes. She will be sending a list of which SLOs will be assessed for each semester. There are 6 outcomes and these are rotated. Dr. Barr is also the person responsible to entry of the data into Weave for documentation.

Course Evaluation: See the instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in evaluating student performance. However, all courses will have multiple exams and a written assignment that is designated by the instructor.

Attendance Policy: Instructors' attendance policies will be consistent with the *SPC General Catalog* "Class Attendance" policies; specific instructor attendance policies are found in the later part of the syllabus.

Students are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in a course. The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined in the course syllabus. When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor may permit the student to make up work missed. It is the student's

responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period of time as determined by the instructor. Students are officially enrolled in all courses for which they pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Should a student, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, absences will be attributed to the student from the first class meeting.

Students who enroll in a course but have “Never Attended” by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. A student who does not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of “X” or “F” as determined by the instructor. Instructors are responsible for clearly stating their administrative drop policy in the course syllabus, and it is the student’s responsibility to be aware of that policy.

It is the student’s responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through MySPC using his or her student online account. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated, the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, examinations, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, or a mail order term paper mill;
2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or
4. Missing in-text citations.

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet, apps) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment;
4. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage;
5. Taking an examination for another;
6. Altering grade records;
7. Copying another’s work during an examination or on a homework assignment;
8. Rewriting another student’s work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student’s;
9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else’s paper.

Student Code of Conduct Policy: A successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others’ behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is disrespectful or threatening will not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

Other Important SPC Policies: Students can find the Intellectual Exchange Statement, Disabilities Statement, Non-Discrimination Statement, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement, Care Team Contact, and Campus Concealed Carry Statement here: <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>.

Welcome to General Psychology ONLINE, with Dr. Barr!

Fall 2024, online sections PSYC 2301.154 and PSYC 2301.455

CONTACT INFORMATION

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INSTRUCTOR AVAILABILITY—I'm here to help!

I realize that you are enrolled as an online student and may not be able to physically meet with me on campus. Nonetheless, I want to make sure you are aware of ALL the ways in which am available to communicate with you and provide help.

Face-to-Face Office Hours

My face-to-face meeting times are at the Downtown Lubbock Campus, in room 2011. If you are unable to meet with me during my regularly scheduled office hours, we can also meet by appointment. Days and times for office hours are:

Monday Office Hours	Tuesday Office Hours	Wednesday Office	Thursday Office Hours	Friday Office Hrs
8:15-9:15 am and 12:15-1:45 pm	2:15-3:15 pm	8:15-9:15 am and 12:15-1:45 pm	2:15-3:15 pm	10-11 am

Virtual Office Hours

If you would like to meet virtually via Blackboard Collaborate, please send me an email at least 24-hours ahead of time. Ideally, we can schedule a virtual meeting during the office hours listed above. If you cannot meet virtually during my regular office hours, you may call or email me to schedule an alternative virtual meeting time.

Phone

You may reach me at (806)716-4641 during my normal office hours (see above). If you call and reach my voicemail, please leave a message including your full name, your phone number, and a brief reason for your call. I will return your call ASAP.

Email

You may send me an email at abarr@southplainscollege.edu. If you send me an email between Monday morning and noon on Friday, I will reply within 24 hours. However, if you send an email after noon on Friday or during the weekend, I may not be able to reply until the following Monday. **IMPORTANT:** As a college student, you will increase your odds of success by learning to send professional emails. Please follow the "Tips for Using SPC Student Email" below.

TIPS FOR USING SPC STUDENT EMAIL

Email Etiquette

For your success as a student, and as a professional, you need to learn email etiquette. All emails should include:

- A brief subject line that explains your reason for emailing (e.g., "Subject: Question about the syllabus"),
- Your full name, class and section (e.g., Alexis Rose, PSYC2301, sec. 152), and
- *The use of standard English skills* (e.g., correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar).

Here is a very useful guide about emailing your professors: <https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2015/04/16/advice-students-so-they-dont-sound-silly-emails-essay>

How to access SPC Email (and MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint and One Drive)

South Plains College provides all students with a free SPC Google email account. You can access your SPC email (as well as Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and One Drive for FREE!) by going to <https://office.com> and using the username and password provided in your SPC acceptance letter to sign in. Or, you can go to the “Instructor Information” folder in Blackboard and click on the “Send email” button to compose your email message. A third way to access email is to log in to MySPC and find your Outlook email. If needed contact the **help desk** at (806)716-2600 or helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu.

Because email is one of the main forms of communication in college, you should check your SPC email at least once a week. Our email messages may touch on confidential academic matters (e.g., grades, etc.) therefore you **must** email me using your official SPC Student email account (NOT your personal email account, e.g., yahoo).

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY & COURSE MATERIALS FOR ONLINE SUCCESS

Blackboard

All course content is found on Blackboard, and most (if not all) of your coursework will be completed on Blackboard. Thus, you need a computer with internet access. You can access Blackboard at <https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com>. This address will take you to the login page, where you type in your username and password. Once logged in, you will see a list of classes in which you are enrolled (including PSYC2301). Click on the class whose Blackboard page you want to enter.

Noba Project Textbook *and* Perusal Reading App

The FREE textbook we will use is *Noba Textbook Series: Psychology*, R. Biswas-Diener & E. Diener (Eds), Champaign, IL: DEF Publishers. DOI: nobaproject.com. *To access the assigned and graded readings*, you must 1) log onto Blackboard, 2) click on PSYC2301 in your “Courses” list, and 2) click on the “Perusal” link that opens the reading app called Perusal (found in weekly folders). Note: graded reading assignments can ONLY be completed using the Perusal links in Blackboard.

Perusal is a free app that you will use to complete GRADED reading/discussion assignments. You will access Perusal by clicking on Perusal links found in the weekly folders on Blackboard. **Do NOT log into Perusal from their homepage—if you do, your work will not sync into the Blackboard gradebook. Rather, log into/access Perusal through the links in Blackboard.** You can find detailed information about “How Perusal Works” in the “Start Here” module on Blackboard.

Access to a working computer with a reliable internet connection

Because your graded reading assignments are found on Blackboard and completed online, you must have regular access to a computer with the following characteristics:

- A modern operating system (Windows 7 or later is recommended; most class content should be compatible with Mac OS and older versions of Windows, down to XP; Linux operating system is *not* recommended)
- A modern web browser. It is recommended that students use Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome to access Blackboard. Students have reported more problems using Internet Explorer, thus Internet Explorer is *not* recommended.
 - Link: [download Mozilla Firefox](#).
 - Link: [download Google Chrome](#).
- A stable, reliable internet connection. High-speed internet (e.g., Cable, DSL, fiber) is the most reliable.
- It is not required, but it is recommended that you use a computer with a hardwired internet access (e.g., instead of WiFi) especially for Blackboard quizzes and exams. When using WiFi, there is a greater risk of interrupted service.
- The **Blackboard app for smartphones** can be used to access announcements, readings, videos, podcasts, quizzes, exams and grades on Blackboard.

HOW THIS COURSE IS STRUCTURED

In Blackboard, you will find 5 Unit folders, and within each of those you will find weekly subfolders. Each weekly subfolder contains Perusall reading + discussion assignments, videos and/or podcast to watch/listen to. Each Unit ends with a comprehension QUIZ, and an EXAM.

REQUIRED COURSEWORK AND GRADES

Your learning is assessed via: 1) Perusall reading + discussion assignments, 2) comprehension quizzes, and 3) exams.

Perusall Interactive Reading Assignments

- 14 Perusall assignments total; each worth 5 points
- Your 2 lowest Perusall assignment grades will be dropped
- The highest possible point total on your top 12 Perusall assignments X 5 points = 60 points (or 12 % of your final grade)
- This is the main *interactive, social* part of this class. As you read, you annotate by posting comments and questions that your classmates can read and reply to, and you reply to and/or upvote your classmates' comments and questions.
- Perusall points are based on 1) quality of annotations, 2) quantity (#) of annotations, 3) how much you reply to &/or upvote your classmates' posts and how much classmates reply to &/or upvote your posts, 4) active time spent on the assignment, and 5) reading (and posting annotations) throughout the entire chapter (as opposed to just one section)
- **Because I drop your 2 lowest Perusall grades, these assignments cannot be made up if missed. Work that is submitted up to one hour late will only receive partial credit. No credit will be given for an assignment that is worked on more than 1 hour after the due date and time.**

Five Comprehension Quizzes

- 5 weekly quizzes total; 15 questions on each quiz; each quiz worth 15 points
- For each quiz, you get three attempts; the highest quiz attempt will count toward your final grade.
- Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.
- The highest possible point total on your top 4 quizzes = 60 points (or 12% of your final grade)
- Each quiz has 15 multiple choice questions based on readings *and videos* for the week. Note: the 15 questions on the quiz are *randomly drawn* from a set of 35-40 questions, so questions for your first attempt will *not* be identical to questions on your second or third attempt.
- 15-minute time limit, per attempt
- **Because I drop your lowest quiz grade *and* you get three attempts on each quiz, quizzes cannot be made up if missed and late submissions (e.g., a quiz that is submitted at 12:01 am, or 1:17 am, etc.) will not be accepted.**

Five Exams (four within-semester Exams + one Final Exam)

- There are five exams, each worth 100 points, containing 40-50 multiple choice questions.
- You get **one attempt on exams**.
- For Exams #1 through #4, your lowest exam grade will be dropped, and the top three count toward your final grade.
- The Final Exam focuses on the material from Unit 5, but includes some information from previous sections, thus it is a comprehensive final exam.
- Your top 3 within-semester exams, *plus* the final exam, are worth 400 points, or 76% of your final grade.
- **Exams cannot be made up if missed, and late submissions will not be accepted. If you miss one of the first four exams, the zero on the missed exam will become your drop grade. The Final Exam is mandatory and cannot be missed without having a significant negative impact on your final grade.**

Grade Inquiries

If you have a question about a grade in the gradebook, you must contact me within one week of the assignment due date. Otherwise, the grade in the gradebook is final.

FINAL GRADE CALCULATION

Evaluation Method	Total possible points	% of Final Course Grade
Top 12 Perusall Assignments at 5 pts each	60 points	12%
Top 4 comprehension quizzes at 15 pts each	60 points	12%
Top 3 of first four Exams, <i>plus</i> the Final Exam, at 100 pts each	400 points	76%
	<i>Total possible points in class = 520</i>	
Tentative Grading Scale for Final Course Grade (the point total might change based on the material we are able to cover which might affect the grading scale):	90% or more of total possible points (468 points or more):	A
	80-89% of total possible points (416 - 467 points):	B
	70-79% of total possible points (364 - 415 points):	C
	60-69% of total possible points (312 - 363 points):	D
	59% or less of total possible points (311 points or less):	F

Note: the grade scale above does not include extra credit points which can potentially raise your final grade

POLICIES RE: LATE WORK OR MISSING WORK

Due dates for all work are found in this syllabus, and multiple locations on Blackboard. I have done my job of posting all due dates and times for graded work—it is now your job to complete them on time.

NOTE: The only computer issue that warrants a make-up is if the entire class is unable to access Blackboard at the time a Perusall assignment, quiz or exam is due. If this occurs, I will extend the due date for the entire class. Because other computer issues are not an excepted reason for a make-up, you should carefully read about how to prevent and deal with technology problems in the sections following this one.

Missed Perusall Reading Assignments

Because I drop everyone's two lowest Perusall assignment grades, *these cannot be made up if missed*, regardless of the reason for missing the assignment. I drop the two lowest grades to account for the possibility that a student is too sick to complete an assignment or has an emergency that requires their time and attention. *Perusall reading assignments are available for at least 1 week prior to their due date*. If you know you are going to have a busy week due to school + work + life, please work ahead.

Missed Comprehension Quiz

Because I drop everyone's lowest quiz grade and students get three attempts on each quiz, these cannot be made up if a student misses the due date or submits a quiz late. Do your best to manage your time and keep up with the class calendar.

Missed Exam

Because I drop everyone's lowest exam grade out of the first four exams, these cannot be made up if a student misses a due date or submits an exam late. This drop grade is your safety net—it is there in case something out of your control happens and forces you to miss an exam, or you underprepare for an exam. Please use this safety net wisely!

TECHNOLOGY PROBLEMS AND HOW TO GET HELP:

Remember, a computer issue that affects an individual student, but not the entire class, will not merit an extension on a quiz, Perusall assignment, or writing assignment. Thus, it is best to plan ahead and assume that you will experience one or two (or all) of these problems. *If you take the time NOW to review the information below and figure out how you will address these issues if/when they arise, you will not be flustered—instead, you will be ready to execute your backup plan.*

TECHNOLOGY CONTINGENCY (BACK-UP) PLANS	
Problem(s)	Solution
“Argh! My internet is down!” &/or	Free WiFi is available at many area businesses (Starbuck’s, McDonald’s, Chick-fil-A, United Supermarkets), and in the buildings and <i>parking lots</i> of many schools including SPC campuses. You can review SPC WiFi resources by clicking this link: WiFi Resources at SPC
“OMG! My computer is not working!” &/or	Make a list of friends, family members, classmates &/ or even neighbors who might let you borrow their computer, or their WiFi, or their printer in the event yours is not working
“Darn! I need to print [that thing], but my printer is out of ink.” &/or	If you are an SPC student, and within driving distance, we have computer labs with computers, printers and internet access at every campus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPC Downtown Campus computer lab: 1625 13th, Lubbock, First Floor • SPC Levelland Campus computer lab: Technology building • SPC Lubbock Center, 39th & Avenue Q: Room 109 and Room 138 • SPC Plainview Center, 1920 W. 24th St., Plainview, Texas
“Ugh! I’m out of town, and I don’t have a computer [or access to the internet]”	Public libraries (wherever you live) typically have computers available to the public
	If your computer breaks down, contact a local computer repair business (e.g., Best Buy, Office Depot, etc.). Or, if possible, buy an inexpensive computer from sites like Newegg, edealinfo.com, Amazon marketplace, or eBay. Use this link for financial assistance in Levelland/Lubbock: West Texas financial assistance . You can also meet with SPC Health and Wellness staff to discuss financial assistance (call 806-716-2529 for an appointment).
	If you are traveling, find out if the hotel has a computer lab for guests, or if the person you are staying with has a computer with internet access. If not, plan ahead and get your work completed before you leave.

Blackboard, Perusall and Email Technical Support

For Blackboard issues, contact the SPC Tech Support staff at 806-716-2180, Mon-Fri, 8 am – 4 pm; or email blackboard@southplainscollege.edu or go to <https://help.blackboard.com> or call Blackboard Support at (800)424-9299.

For Perusall issues, follow this link to find answers to frequently asked questions: <https://support.perusall.com/hc/en-us/categories/360002173133-Students>, or contact Perusall Support at: <https://support.perusall.com/hc/en-us/requests/new>

For SPC email issues, contact the SPC help desk at (806)716-2600 or at helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu.

OTHER IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION:

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to do their own work on all quizzes, assignments, and exams. Failure to comply with this policy (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

**In the spirit of upholding academic integrity, I am grateful to my colleague, Dr. Will Crescioni, for sharing his online syllabi with me. My syllabus draws heavily from Dr. Crescioni's beautifully formatted and worded syllabus, especially the sections on technology and missed work.

Attendance and Drop Policy: For online students, I will take "attendance" based on your completion of graded work by the due date, and logging into Blackboard. A student *may* be dropped from this course if 1) the student has not logged on to Blackboard for 5+ consecutive days, or 2) the student has not logged onto Blackboard *or* completed any work by the 5th day of classes, or 3) the student has too much incomplete work to pass the course.

In most cases, students manage their destiny in my class. If you feel that you are struggling and might not pass my class, please contact me and we can discuss your grade average. Based on our discussion, it is up to you to decide whether you want to remain enrolled or drop the course. However, do not expect me to read your mind, or automatically interpret missing work or not logging on as a desire or request to be dropped. If you choose to *not* complete the course, it is your responsibility to drop the course by contacting the registrar.

Perusall Expectations

While I do not expect students to agree on every topic that is discussed in Perusall assignments, I DO expect students to communicate with one another, and with me, in a respectful manner. In other words, it is possible for people to disagree with one another and simultaneously speak or write in a pleasant manner—focusing on explaining your point of view and understanding a classmate's point of view, rather than "winning" a debate.

COURSE OUTLINE/CALENDAR FOR PSYC2301 ONLINE, Fall 2024:

Weekly Topic		DUE DATES for Perusall Assignments, Quizzes, Exams
8/26-9/1	Syllabus and Introductions	<i>Optional Extra Credit Perusall over Syllabus due by 11:59 pm 9/1</i>
UNIT 1: 9/2-9/8	History of Psychology and Psychological Perspectives	Perusall #1: History of Psychology <i>and</i> Psychological Perspectives due by 11:59 pm on Tuesday 9/3
9/9-9/15	Research Designs	Perusall #2: Research Designs due by 11:59 pm on Tuesday 9/10
		Quiz #1 due by 11:59 pm on Friday 9/13 Exam #1 due by 11:59 pm on Sunday 9/15 (opens 9/14 at 12:01 am)
UNIT 2: 9/16-9/22	Healthy Life	Perusall #3: The Healthy Life due by 11:59 pm on Tuesday 9/17
9/23-9/29	The Brain and Nervous System	Perusall #4: The Brain and Nervous System due by 11:59 pm on Tuesday 9/24
9/30-10/6	States of Consciousness	Perusall #5: States of Consciousness due by 11:59 pm on Tuesday 10/1
		Quiz #2 due by 11:59 pm on Friday 10/4 Exam #2 due by 11:59 pm on Sunday 10/6 (opens 10/5 at 12:01 am)
UNIT 3: 10/7-10/13	Conditioning and Learning	Perusall #6: Conditioning & Learning due by 11:59 pm on Tuesday 10/8
10/14-10/20	Memory (Encoding, Storage, Retrieval)	Perusall #7: Memory due by 11:59 pm on Tuesday 10/15
10/21-10/27	Personality Traits	Perusall #8: Personality Traits due by 11:59 pm on Tuesday 10/22
		Quiz #3 due by 11:59 pm on Friday 10/25 Exam #3 due by 11:59 pm on Sunday 10/27 (opens 10/26 at 12:01 am)
UNIT 4: 10/28-11/3	Persuasion	Perusall #9: Persuasion due by 11:59 pm on Tuesday 10/29
11/4-11/10	Conformity and Obedience	Perusall #10: Conformity & Obedience due by 11:59 pm on Tuesday 11/5
11/11-11/17	Prejudice, Stereotyping and Discrimination	Perusall #11: Prejudice, Stereotyping and Discrimination due by 11:59 pm on Tuesday 11/12
		Quiz #4: due by 11:59 pm on Friday 11/15 Exam #4 due by 11:59 pm on Sunday 11/17 (opens 11/16 at 12:01 am)
UNIT 5: 11/18-11/24	Mood Disorders	Perusall #12: Mood Disorders due by 11:59 pm on Tuesday 11/19
11/25-12/1	Anxiety Disorders	Perusall #13: Anxiety Disorders due by 11:59 pm on Tuesday 11/26
12/2-12/8	Schizophrenic Disorders	Perusall #14: Schizophrenic Disorders due by 11:59 pm on Tuesday 12/3
		Quiz #5: due by 11:59 pm on Friday 12/6 Final Exam due by 11:59 pm on Sunday 12/8 (opens 12/7 at 12:01 am)

Please keep in mind that each week there are videos to watch, an occasional podcast to listen to, and an occasional activity to complete. While these are not graded, there will be questions about videos (etc.) on the comprehension quizzes and exams. Thus, you need to make sure to complete this work prior to taking quizzes and exams.