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Introduction to Psychology

Psy 2301.002 | Fall 2024
T Th 1-2:15 PM GR 4.428

Professor: Regina Kakhnovets Ybarra, Ph.D. (she/her)



Regina.Ybarra@utdallas.edu



972-883-2326



Green Hall 4.526



Office Hours in person Tuesdays 10-11AM or
by appointment (in-person or virtually)

Schedule at: <https://tinyurl.com/DrYbarra>

Teaching Assistants:

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Course Description

This course overviews the major theories and scientific research examining the human mind and behavior. The topics range from studies of perception, cognition, memory, language, and thought to studies of development, personality, relationships, motivation, abnormal patterns of thought and behavior, and cultural differences.

General Core Area 080: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Courses in this category focus on the application of empirical and scientific methods that contribute to the understanding of what makes us human. Courses involve the exploration of behavior and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, and events, examining their impact on the individual, society, and culture.

Objectives:

Critical Thinking (CT)

Creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information

Communication (COM)

Effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication

Empirical and Quantitative Skills (EQS)

The manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions

Social Responsibility (SR)

Intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

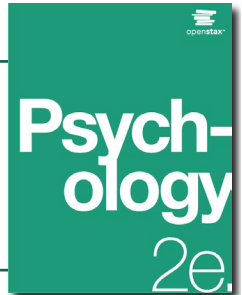
Classroom Safety

To help preserve the University's in-person learning environment and to protect the health and safety of all Comets, **please do not come to class if you are sick**. If you have symptoms of a contagious illness, please stay home and seek medical attention if your symptoms are severe. Please visit <https://www.utdallas.edu/campus-health/> for more information about health on campus.

The course is designed to be a traditional, synchronous, face-to-face class. You are expected to attend live class lectures, participate in class discussion and activities, and complete in-person assessments. Reading assignments, pre-recorded lectures over course topics, and various assignments will be available on eLearning. Course exams will be administered during regularly scheduled class times, and you will have to attend in-person to complete them. During in-person class meetings, we will engage in discussion, demonstrations, and application activities. The live class meetings will not be recorded or streamed. There will be in-class participation activities for which grades points will be assigned. Students who cannot attend class due to extenuating circumstances will be able to complete some asynchronous participation activities on their own. You will be able to complete most of the graded assignments (other than exams) without coming to class. However, I strongly encourage you to attend class as you will learn more, contribute to our class learning community, and will be able to ask questions.

Course Format

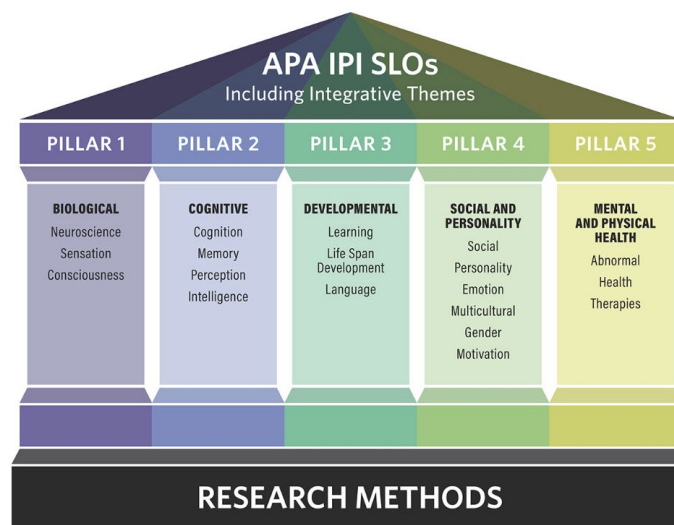
Course Information



Textbook

- *Psychology 2e* from OpenStax – The textbook is free!
We will be using Perusall to read and annotate the required readings
Please access reading assignments through eLearning
The textbook is also available to view at <https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology-2e>

This course follows the American Psychological Association’s Introductory Psychology Initiative Student Learning Outcomes and structure for Introductory Psychology Courses. The following student outcomes are based on the APA IPI recommendations.



STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR INTRODUCTORY PSYCHOLOGY

1. Psychology Content: Identify basic concepts and research findings

- 1.1: Define and explain basic psychological concepts.
- 1.2: Interpret research findings related to psychological concepts.
- 1.3: Apply psychological principles to personal growth and other aspects of everyday life






2. Scientific Thinking: Solve problems using psychological methods

- 2.1: Describe the advantages and limitations of research strategies.
- 2.2: Evaluate, design, or conduct psychological research
- 2.3: Draw logical and objective conclusions about behavior and mental processes from empirical evidence.
- 2.4: Examine how psychological science can be used to counter unsubstantiated statements, opinions, or beliefs.

3. Key Themes: Provide examples of psychology’s integrative themes

- A. Psychological science relies on empirical evidence and adapts as new data develop.
- B. Psychology explains general principles that govern behavior while recognizing individual differences.
- C. Psychological, biological, social, and cultural factors influence behavior and mental processes.
- D. Psychology values diversity, promotes equity, and fosters inclusion in pursuit of a more just society.
- E. Our perceptions and biases filter our experiences of the world through an imperfect personal lens.
- F. Applying psychological principles can change our lives, organizations, and communities in positive ways.
- G. Ethical principles guide psychology research and practice.

Course Tools

Tool	Description
<p>eLearning</p> 	<p>eLearning is an online Learning Management System available for all courses. I will post the course syllabus and announcements here. You will use eLearning to complete some course exams, and to access course assignments, lecture videos and other materials. I will update your gradebook in eLearning so that you can see your progress in the course. You can use the email in eLearning to contact me, but it would be much easier and faster to do in Microsoft Teams (see below).</p> <p>Technical Requirements</p> <p>In addition to a confident level of computer and Internet literacy, certain minimum technical requirements must be met to enable a successful learning experience. Please review the important technical requirements on the Getting Started with eLearning webpage. To become familiar with the eLearning tool, please see the Student eLearning Tutorials webpage.</p> <p>UT Dallas provides eLearning technical support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The eLearning Help Desk includes a toll-free telephone number for immediate assistance (1-866-588-3192), email request service, and an online chat service. In the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents you from completing a time sensitive assignments, please immediately report any problems to the Help Desk and contact me to discuss possible accommodations.</p>
<p>Perusall</p> 	<p>Perusall helps you master readings faster, understand the material better, and get more out of your classes. To achieve this goal, you will be collaboratively annotating the textbook and completing discussion/application assignments with others in your class. The help you'll get and provide your classmates (even if you don't know anyone personally) will get you past confusions quickly and will make the process more fun. While you read, you'll receive rapid answers to your questions, help others resolve their questions (which also helps you learn), and advise me how to make class time most productive.</p> <p>All Perusall annotations must be your own original work. Use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) is not allowed in this course and will be considered as academic dishonesty.</p>
<p>Microsoft Forms</p> 	<p>We will be using Microsoft Forms for in-class participation assignments. This is a quick and easy way for you to submit responses to in-class polls, quizzes, surveys, etc. Microsoft Forms is part of the Microsoft Office suite and thus as a UTD student you have access. Each time you submit a response on Microsoft Forms, you will be asked to log in with your UTD NetID and password. This ensures that your name is recorded and thus you will receive credit for your work. You will also be able you choose to receive a copy of your responses over email, and I highly encourage you to do that as it serves as your receipt of your submission. You will need a device with internet connection to be able to access these forms (Wi-Fi is available in our classroom). I will present you will a QR code and a URL address to allow you to access the assignments.</p>
<p>Microsoft Bookings</p> 	<p>I use Microsoft Bookings to allow students an easy way to be able to schedule meetings with me. By following my scheduling link (https://tinyurl.com/DrYbarra) you can see my availability and schedule a meeting. Once you schedule, the meeting will be automatically added to my calendar and you will receive a confirmation email with the details of the appointment, including a Microsoft Teams Meeting link for online appointments.</p>
<p>Microsoft Teams</p> 	<p>Microsoft Teams is a platform for communication and collaboration. It allows a safe and secure method of communication for students and faculty at UTD. I have created a team for our course and have added you to it. In Teams, you can send me and the course TA direct messages. You can work and communicate with other students. Teams offers a really easy way to be able to communicate with everyone in our class. I will be using Teams for course announcements, questions, and meetings.</p>

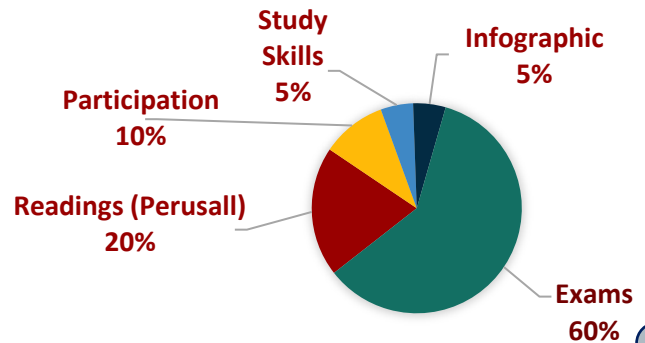
Assignments

Assignment	Description
Reading Assignments	The textbook for this class and reading assignments are available through a collaborative annotation/discussion platform, Perusall. To successfully complete the assignment, please read the chapter and add comments, annotations, and questions. Please start early! Your grade on Perusall assignments can be improved by accessing the readings multiple times, reading in small chunks (rather than all at once) and by responding to the questions of others. <u>I will drop your lowest 2 Perusall reading grades when calculating your final grade.</u> Be sure to look over the Perusall information posted on eLearning. All annotations must be your original work and any outside sources must be cited properly.
Bonus Assignments	Making the Most of Learning with Perusall (5 points): this assignment will help you become familiar with annotations and help you be most successful with Perusall assignments. You must earn at least a 7/10 grade to receive bonus points. Syllabus Discussion (5 points): To help you get more familiar with the course syllabus and Perusall, you will interact with the syllabus in Perusall by asking questions, making annotations, etc. You must earn at least a 5/10 to receive bonus points.
Exams	There are 5 exams in this course which will consist of multiple-choice questions. Exams 1-4 are not comprehensive and will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions each. Test questions will come from the assigned textbook readings and lecture materials. You are responsible for ALL of the assigned text readings whether they are covered in lecture or not. Exam 5 is a comprehensive final exam and will cover all the topics covered in class over the semester and will consist of 100 multiple-choice questions. I understand that sometimes life gets in the way, and it may prevent you from taking the exam or from doing your best on the exam. To help with this, I will drop your lowest exam grade, so only 4 exams will count toward your final grade. <u>If you miss an exam for any reason, that will be your dropped grade.</u>
Class Participation	There will be several activities during the semester for which you can earn class participation points. In-class activities must be completed during class time and cannot be made up if you miss class and cannot be completed if you are not actually in class (sharing links with students not in class is academic dishonesty and will be treated as such according to UTD policy). To earn full credit for participation you must collect 100 points. <u>More than 100 points will be available, so you do not need to complete every activity to earn full credit.</u> There will also be some asynchronous participation activities available for students who cannot attend class due to extenuating circumstances (up to 50 points may be completed asynchronously). Participation points may be earned through some combination of in-class and asynchronous activities.
Effective Study Skills Training Program	For this assignment, you will apply information learned in the course about memory and learning to create a study skills training program for incoming first year students. The assignment will allow you to use your creativity in creating this research supported training program. You will be able to create a video, infographic, training manual, or any other format of the program to convey your information.
Myths in Psychology Infographic	You will create an infographic presenting and refuting one of the myths about psychology that persist in our culture. This assignment requires you to create an infographic – a visual portrayal of data and information – using outside sources, to convince the reader that your myth is false.
Research Experience Credit (REC)	One requirement of all students enrolled in this class is completion of two research exposure credits. Details about this requirement can be found on a separate handout distributed on the first day of class or on the course eLearning page. Research exposure credits must be completed by the date found on the REC instruction sheet or your course grade will be lowered. For each credit you fail to complete, your course grade will be reduced by 1/3 of a letter grade (e.g., for 2 missing credits, a B+ will become a B-). For more information, please see REC handout and the REC FAQ page .

Grading

Assignment	Total Points
Exams (1-5) • 125 points each • Lowest grade dropped	600
Perusall (2-13) • 20 points each, Lowest 2 dropped	200
Participation • 10 points each	100
Study Skills Training	50
Infographic	50
Bonus Assignments (5 points each)	10
Total	1010

*Grade calculated out of 1000 points



I will not respond to emails asking me to "round up," to change grades for any reason other than an error, or to reconsider my grading policy as described in the syllabus. Making adjustments to grades of only some students is unfair to other students and would require me to act unethically.

LETTER GRADES AND CORRESPONDING POINTS							
A+	970-1000	B+	870-899	C+	770-799	D+	670-699
A	930-969	B	830-869	C	730-769	D	630-669
A-	900-929	B-	800-829	C-	700-729	D-	600-629
F 599 or lower							

Attend class and participate

Classes will focus on application, examples, discussion. Participation will help you learn the material. The more you engage with the material through discussion, the easier it will be to remember on the exams.

Start reading early

Read before coming to class.
Split up readings into smaller parts – you will remember more!
Earn points in Perusall for thoughtful comments.
Interact with classmates

Test your learning with reading quizzes

Each reading includes end of chapter quizzes to help you practice retrieval. Try to take the quizzes as much as you can to test your knowledge and understanding.

Write questions about what you are reading

Thinking about the material will help you learn it better. Writing good multiple-choice questions will help you think more deeply about the concepts you are learning. Write questions while reading so that you can test yourself later.

Ask for help

Do not wait until the end of the semester if you are struggling or have questions. The TA and I are available to help!
It is much easier to intervene early in the semester, but you need to reach out to let us know you need help.

How to Succeed in the Course

Course Policies

Classroom Etiquette

Please be courteous to others during class and understand that other students in class may have different beliefs, experiences, and opinions than yours. It is important to be respectful to others in both allowing them to voice their points of view and in how you speak about yours. UTD's Student Counseling Center (972-883-2575) provides students with free and confidential services that may be helpful if the content of this course brings up difficult feelings or thoughts.

Attendance/ Participation

Attendance is not required but I highly encourage you to come to class and participate as much as you can so that you can get the most out of this class. If you miss a class meeting for any reason, you are responsible for all material covered, as well as any announcements made in your absence. There will be several class participation activities that will make up your class participation grade. If circumstances prevent you from attending, asynchronous activities will be available. Please contact other students in the class to get class notes as I will not provide them. Arriving late or leaving early should be avoided as much as possible. However, there are times that this is unavoidable. In such situations, please take a seat quietly in the back of the classroom and try not to disrupt the class.

Late Work/ Missed Exams

No late work or make-up exams are accepted in this course. However, I know that life events may interfere with class, so there is some flexibility already included in the class design. I will drop your lowest two reading assignment grades. There will be more participation points than is necessary to earn full credit. I will also drop your lowest exam grade.

Exam Day Policies

1. Please be sure to be on time for exams. You will not be allowed to start the exam if you arrive after a student has already finished.
2. Please bring your UT ID to the exam.
3. Absolutely no cell phones, tablets, laptops, or smart watches are allowed during an exam.
4. If you leave the classroom during an exam, you may not come back to finish.
5. The final exam will be administered at the Testing Center and that is the only place to take it. If you do not schedule an appointment in time or miss your appointment, no exam make-ups will be available.

Office Hours/ Reviewing Exams

If you would like to meet with me for any reason, I encourage you to come by during office hours or visit my scheduling site (<https://tinyurl.com/DrYbarra>) and pick from one of the available times. You can also email the TA to schedule an appointment.

Reviewing Exams: Appointments are required to look over the exam. Please schedule an appointment with the course TA if possible by using the contact information on the first page of this syllabus. Exams must be reviewed within 2 weeks of the date of the exam.

Class Materials

I will provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course; however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Class Recordings

Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies. Additional information about some of these is below:

Email

All students must use their UTD student email accounts for communication. I will only respond to email messages sent from your official UTD email address. In your email, please make sure to indicate your course title and section. I will try to respond to all emails within 24 hours during the week and by the next business day when emailed over the weekend.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty can occur in relation to any type of work submitted for academic credit or as a requirement for a class. It can include individual work or a group project. Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, and collaboration/collusion. To avoid academic dishonesty, it is important for students to fully understand the expectations of their professors. This is best accomplished through asking clarifying questions if an individual does not completely understand the requirements of an assignment. **Plagiarism** occurs any time someone else's ideas or words are used without proper citation, whether it is intentional or not. This includes taking portions of a paper from the internet, copying the paper of a previous student in the class, producing the same paper as a friend, and paraphrasing someone's research without proper citation. Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence programs is prohibited in this class. Any submissions written by AI will be treated as academic dishonesty. **All academic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Office of Community Standards and Conduct.**

Special Needs

It is the policy and practice of UT Dallas to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need academic accommodations for this class, you are encouraged to register with the AccessAbility Resource Center (ARC). Please speak with me if you receive any accommodations.

Helpful Resources

The [Student Counseling Center](#) offers confidential services to students either for individual appointments or as part of groups. Their main number is 972-883-2575 and the 24/7 Crisis Hotline is 972-883-8255 (972-UTD-TALK).

The [Comet Cupboard](#) is a UT Dallas food pantry initiative dedicated to helping students in need. The Comet Cupboard is located in MC 1.604, on the first floor of the McDermott Library, and can be contacted by calling 972-883-2709.

The [Student Success Center \(SSC\)](#) offers assistance to students in the areas of writing, mathematics, communication, multiple science fields, study skills, and other academic disciplines. Contact info: 972-883-6707 or by sending an email to ssc@utdallas.edu.

Distance Learning Student Resources: Online students have access to resources including the McDermott Library, Academic Advising, The AccessAbility Resource, and many others. Please see the [eLearning Current Students](#) webpage for more information.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

"As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity,
and service in all that I do."

Course Schedule

****Schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced on eLearning****

Date	Topic	Assignment	Due Date (by 1:00 PM on date listed)
T, 8/20	Module 0: Course Introduction	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Course Materials on eLearning	
R, 8/22	Module 1: Introduction to Psychology	<input type="checkbox"/> Perusall Reading: Module 1 (ungraded)	Thur 8/22
		<input type="checkbox"/> Making the Most of Perusall (Bonus)	Tue 8/27
		<input type="checkbox"/> Perusall Practice: Syllabus (Bonus)	
T, 8/27	Module 2: Psychological Research	<input type="checkbox"/> Perusall Reading: Module 2	Tue 8/27
R, 8/29	Module 2: Psychological Research		
T, 9/3	Module 3: Biology of Behavior	<input type="checkbox"/> Perusall Reading: Module 3	Tue 9/3
R, 9/5	Module 3: Biology of Behavior		
T, 9/10	Module 4: Consciousness	<input type="checkbox"/> Perusall Reading: Module 4	Tue 9/10
R, 9/12	Module 4: Consciousness		
T, 9/17	Exam 1 – Modules 1-4		
R, 9/19	Module 5: Memory	<input type="checkbox"/> Perusall Reading: Module 5	Tue 9/19
T, 9/24	Module 5: Memory		
R, 9/26	Module 6: Sensation & Perception	<input type="checkbox"/> Perusall Reading: Module 6	Thur 9/26
T, 10/1	Module 6: Sensation & Perception		
R, 10/3	Module 7: Learning	<input type="checkbox"/> Perusall Reading: Module 7	Thur 10/3
T, 10/8	Module 7: Learning		
R, 10/10	Exam 2 – Modules 5-7	<input type="checkbox"/> Asynchronous Participation 1 (for those who need it)	Thur 10/10

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignment	Due Date (by 1:00 PM on date listed)
T, 10/15	Module 8: Intelligence	<input type="checkbox"/> Perusall Reading: Module 8 (partial chapter)	Tue, 10/15
R, 10/17	Module 8: Intelligence	<input type="checkbox"/> Effective Study Skills Training Program Assignment	Thur, 10/17
T, 10/22	Module 9: Lifespan Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Perusall Reading: Module 9	Tue, 10/22
R, 10/24	Module 9: Lifespan Development		
T, 10/29	Module 10: Social Psychology	<input type="checkbox"/> Perusall Reading: Module 10	Tue, 10/29
R, 10/31	Module 10: Social Psychology		
T, 11/5	Exam 3 – Modules 8-10		
R, 11/7	Module 11: Personality	<input type="checkbox"/> Perusall Reading: Module 11	Thur, 11/7
T, 11/12	Module 11: Personality		
R, 11/14	Module 12: Psychological Disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> Perusall Reading: Module 12	Thur, 11/14
T, 11/19	Module 12: Psychological Disorders		
R, 11/21	Module 13: Therapy and Treatment	<input type="checkbox"/> Perusall Reading: Module 13	Thur, 11/21
Nov 25-Dec 1 – Thanksgiving break REC – SONA Research Participation Due December 1st by 11:59PM (FAQ)			
T, 12/3	Module 13: Therapy and Treatment	<input type="checkbox"/> Myths in Psychology Infographic	Tue, 12/3
R, 12/5	Exam 4 – Modules 11-13	<input type="checkbox"/> Asynchronous Participation 2 (for those who need it)	Thur, 12/5
Finals Week 12/9-12/12	Exam 5 – Modules 1-13 (Available 12/7-12/12) Testing Center – reserve seat no later than 72 hours in advance		