Introduction to Psychology

PSY 2301.001 - Spring 2025
Class meeting times: MW 11:30am - 12:45pm
Class location: JO 3.516

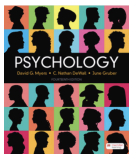
Instructor: Salena Brody, Ph.D. (she/her/hers)
Email: salena.brody@utdallas.edu
Office: GR 4.818
Student visiting hours: In person - Mondays @ 10am. Online meetings by appointment (send an email & I'll set up a video conference outside of office hours). *Please feel free to reach out to set up a meeting to say hi and introduce yourself. You don't have to have a reason to come to come by!*

TA: see elearning copy of syllabus

~~~~~~~~WE ARE HAPPY TO MEET WITH YOU!~~~~~~~~

PSY 2301 - Introduction to Psychology (3 semester credit hours) 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. (3-0)

Required text:



Myers, Dewall, & Gruer (2024) Psychology, 14th edition. ISBN: 978-1-319-48984-7
*The most cost effective option is to just purchase a 6 month subscription to Achieve -- this automatically includes the ebook. You can follow the link to purchase from within eLearning. This is a required course element. You can start using Achieve and the ebook with a free trial. Make sure you use your UTD email address for the free trial. Links to register and start your free trial/purchase in the START HERE folder in eLearning. Estimated price for all course materials: ~$110. Contact me if this is a financial impossibility at the moment. I will try to help and connect you with resources to succeed.

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Learning objectives:

PLO 1. Explain, analyze, and apply key concepts, principles, and theories in psychology's major subfields

PLO 2. Effectively communicate psychological concepts to diverse audiences through written and oral formats, demonstrating proficiency in interpersonal communication, teamwork, and essential technological skills.

Evaluation criteria:

Assignment	Point value	Learning outcome
4 unit exams + Final exam (125 points each, lowest score dropped)	500 points	PLO1
Applied Psych Reflection	50 points	PLO1 PLO2
14 Perusall Guided Reading assignments + 1 Final Course Reflection (15 x 20 points each)	300 points	PLO1 PLO2
Achieve Learning Curve assignments (30 assignments out of @ 5 points each)	150 points	PLO1
****IMPORTANT - SEE REC requirement BELOW!!****	**TOTAL = 1000 points**	

🚨Research Exposure Credit Requirement (REC): 🚨- FIRM DEADLINE: 5/1
READ THIS - MISSING IT WILL LOWER YOUR GRADE ! BBS Requirement!

One requirement of all students enrolled in this class is completion of two research exposure credits. This requirement provides students practical and direct experiences with research and is an important means to understanding behavioral research. Details about this requirement appear on the separate Research Exposure Credit Requirement handout distributed on the first day of class. A link to "Research Exposure Credit (REC) Requirement" is also posted on the BBS Information Center in eLearning (link on the left side).

Failure to complete the research exposure requirement will result in lowering your total grade in this class. For each Research Exposure Credit you fail to complete, your course grade will be reduced by 1/3 letter grade. For example, if you only complete one of the two required credits and your grade for all other course requirements is a B+, then your grade would be lowered from an B+ to an B. If you do not complete both credits, your grade would be lowered from an B+ to B-. The deadline for completion of these credits is found on the REC instruction sheet.

KEYS for SUCCESS in this course: This course covers a lot of content - no matter who you take for Intro, it's a LOT of chapters we all have to cover! For those of you thinking about taking the MCAT, you will be well prepared for the Psychology subsection from this course. Each week, expect to spend 2+ hours carefully reading the chapter, 1 hour completing LearningCurve assignments, and 3-4 hours completing Perusall assignments. We hit the ground running as soon as the course begins. The course is doable if you are motivated, disciplined, and organized about time. You can do it!

SCHEDULE OF READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS

Date	Topic	To Do
1/21 - 1/26 Week 1	**The Story of Psychology** **Thinking critically / Research methods**	Prologue / Ch. 1 **2 Learning Curves due SUNDAY, 1/26 @ 11:59pm (Ch1) *after signing up on Achieve site and linking accounts, you can access the Learning Curve assignments directly from eLearning in the Content Module)** **Perusall Reading #1 & Perusall Reading #2 DUE SUNDAY 1/26 @ 11:59pm (just click on the Perusall assignment links to start the assignments. See Ch1 Content Module on Learning).** 👀**HEADS UP: Complete the Applied Psych Reflection by SUNDAY, 2/2, 11:59pm (find the assignment in the Content Module "Applied Psych Reflection" and submit there)**
🚨**DO THIS RIGHT AWAY**🚨 **- Make Testing Center reservation for the Final exam. You can always cancel it later if you opt out of the final, but spots fill up. Get your reservation NOW!** **Note: All other exams are in the classroom.**		
1/27 - 2/2 Week 2	**The Biology of Mind**	Ch. 2 **2 Learning Curve due SUNDAY, 2/2 @ 11:59pm (Ch2)** **Perusall Guided Reading #3 DUE SUNDAY 2/2 @ 11:59pm (remember: always access these through the eLearning link for grades to transfer)** **Complete the Applied Psych Reflection by SUNDAY, 2/2, 11:59pm (find the assignment in the Content Module "Applied Psych Reflection" and submit there)**
2/3 - 2/9	**Nature, Nurture & Human Diversity**	Ch. 4

Week 3		**1 Learning Curves due SUNDAY, 2/9 @ 11:59pm (Ch4)** **Perusall Guided Reading #4 DUE SUNDAY, 2/9 @ 11:59pm**
WEEK 4: **Monday 2/10: Lecture** **Wednesday 2/12: Take Exam #1 in class.** Bring: Comet Card, Study Buddy, pencil, eraser. Covers: (Chapters 1, 2, 4) **Exam will be multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, and short answer. You may use the StudyBuddy template, provided all rules have been followed (e.g. directly handwritten on the page, no use of technology, writing on front and back is allowable, different colored ink or highlighting is allowable)**		
👀 ~Heads up!~ Double chapter week ahead! You can magically turn it into a single chapter week by getting started as soon as Exam 1 is finished. 🐰 **(WORK AHEAD FOR YOUR FUTURE SELF!**		
2/17 - 2/23 Week 5	Developing Through the Lifespan Sensation & Perception	Ch. 5 Ch. 6 **5 Learning Curves due SUNDAY, 2/23 @ 11:59pm (Ch5/Ch6)** **Perusall Guided Reading #5 & Perusall Guided Reading #6 DUE SUNDAY 2/23 @ 11:59pm**
PSST: Did you make your Testing Center reservation for the Final Exam? Triple check!		
2/24 - 3/2 Week 6	Learning	Ch. 7 **2 Learning Curves due SUNDAY, 3/2 @ 11:59pm (Ch7)** **Perusall Guided Reading #7 DUE SUNDAY 3/2 @ 11:59pm**
WEEK 7 **Monday 3/3: Lecture**		

Wednesday 3/5: Take Exam #2 in class. Bring: Comet Card, Study Buddy, pencil, eraser. Covers: (Chapters 5, 6, 7)

Exam will be multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, and short answer. You may use the StudyBuddy template, provided all rules have been followed (e.g. directly handwritten on the page, no use of technology, writing on front and back is allowable, different colored ink or highlighting is allowable)

3/10 - 3/16 Week 8	Memory	Ch. 8 **3 Learning Curves due SUNDAY, 3/16 @ 11:59pm (Ch8)** **Perusall Guided Reading #8 DUE SUNDAY 3/16 @ 11:59pm** (WORK AHEAD FOR YOUR FUTURE SELF!
SPRING BREAK! Enjoy! **3/17 - 3/23**		
~heads up~ double chapter week coming up You can magically turn it into a single chapter week by getting started early.		
3/24 - 3/30 Week 9 (double chapter week)	Intelligence Emotions, Stress & Health	Ch. 10 Ch. 12 **4 Learning Curve due SUNDAY, 3/30 @ 11:59pm (Ch10/Ch12)** **Perusall Guided Reading #9 & Perusall Guided Reading #10 DUE SUNDAY 3/30 @ 11:59pm**

WEEK 10:

Monday 3/31: Lecture

Wednesday 4/2: Take Exam #3 in class. Bring: Comet Card, Study Buddy, pencil, eraser. Covers: (Chapters 8, 10, 12)

Exam will be multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, and short answer. You may use the StudyBuddy template, provided all rules have been followed (e.g. directly handwritten on the page, no use of technology, writing on front and back is allowable, different colored ink or highlighting is allowable)

PSST: Did you make your Testing Center reservation for the Final Exam? Triple check that you did!

4/7 - 4/13	Social Psychology	Ch. 13

Week 11		**3 Learning Curves due SUNDAY, 4/13 @ 11:59pm (Ch13)** **Perusall Guided Reading #11 DUE SUNDAY 4/13 @ 11:59pm**
4/14 - 4/20 Week 12	Personality	Ch. 14 **2 Learning Curves due SUNDAY, 4/20 @ 11:59pm (Ch14)** **Perusall Guided Reading #12 DUE SUNDAY 4/20 @ 11:59pm**
PSST: Did you make your Testing Center reservation for the Final Exam? Quadruple check!		
4/21 - 4/27 Week 13	Psychological Disorders	Ch. 15 **4 Learning Curves due SUNDAY, 4/27 @ 11:59pm (Ch15)** **Perusall Guided Reading #13 DUE SUNDAY 4/27 @ 11:59pm**
4/28 - 5/4 Week 14	Therapy	Ch. 16 **2 Learning Curves due SUNDAY, 5/4 @ 11:59pm (Ch16)** **Perusall Guided Reading #14 DUE SUNDAY 5/4 @ 11:59pm**
👀**Look ahead -- Final Course Reflection assignment is due on Sunday 5/11 & there are 2 exams coming up before you are finished with the course! Use this time to study hard for Exam 4 and the Final Exam.**		
WEEK 15:		

Monday 5/5: Lecture
Wednesday 5/7: Take Exam #4 in class. Bring: Comet Card, Study Buddy, pencil, eraser. Covers: (Chapters 13, 14, 15, 16)

Exam will be multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, and short answer. You may use the StudyBuddy template, provided all rules have been followed (e.g. directly handwritten on the page, no use of technology, writing on front and back is allowable, different colored ink or highlighting is allowable).

*****If you are happy with your 4 exam scores and plan to opt out of the final exam, please cancel your Testing Center reservation you made earlier in the semester. This will open up spots for those who need them!*****

Final Course Reflection Due Sunday, 5/11 @ 11:59 pm on eLearning (see Content Module Final Course Reflection)

Week 16: Take FINAL EXAM at the Testing Center (5/12 - 5/14)
Covers: Entire course
***Remember that I count your 4 best exams. If you are happy with your performance on the 4 unit exams, you can opt out of taking the Final!**

Final Exam will be all multiple choice and taken on elearning at the Testing Center. You must have a reservation made well in advance and bring your CometCard. No exceptions, per their policies.

Engagement in this class will enrich your educational experience. It cannot be emphasized enough: **Reading the required text is essential to your success in the course.** In each unit, you will find a "greatest hits" mini-lecture that highlights the key take-aways from each chapter, but it is important that you carefully read the chapters. I have posted lecture notes and chapter study guides with key terms to help you focus on important concepts while reading. **Don't skip the review questions that exist between sections in the textbook - these are excellent comprehension checks. If you cannot answer these questions, you should STOP and review the prior content before moving forward.** Do the LearningCurves earnestly! (You can do them over and over again after the due date for no grade). Together, these tools are the BEST ways to check whether you have understood course content and are ready for exams. I will also be available to answer questions during in person office hours and via Microsoft Teams one-on-one or via small groups, depending on needs and interest. Please reach out to me or your TA to set up a session! You can do this by sending an email, including your name and course section. VERY IMPORTANT - You need to be checking your UTD email several times a week. There will be announcements of interest to you - **maybe even time sensitive extra credit opportunities**.

Extra credit: Attend class! You never know when an extra credit surprise will happen for students who are present. Any other extra credit opportunities will be announced over email. There will never be one-off extra credit opportunities for one student who asks for extra ways to earn points.

Civility: A positive attitude is expected. Disrespect directed at anyone in our classroom community will not be tolerated in any way. Let's please aim for being our best selves during the time we have together.

Exams (4 unit exams + Final exam x 125 points each / 500 points): You will see a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and fill in the blank questions on the 4 units exams. You will take the 4 unit exams in the classroom. You must bring your CometCard to the exam - you will need your CometCard number for the scantron and you will show your ID when you turn in your exam. The final exam is multiple choice and must be taken at the Testing Center if you choose to take this exam (Reservation required). You must also have your CometCard for the Testing Center and adhere to all Testing Center policies. **Only your four highest exam grades will be counted.** **VERY IMPORTANT!! All four unit exams will be taken in-person in the classroom, unless you have gone through the Accessibility Resource Center and have accommodations paperwork on file**. Exams are timed (75 minutes), with multiple choice and T/F questions completed on a scantron form that I provide and fill-in-the blank questions completed in the exam itself.

Grades will be released as soon as they are graded (usually same day). Once the exam is over, your TA will post times for you to review your exam 1:1.

NO HASSLE EXAM POLICY -- Sometimes life happens and you just can't manage to take an exam. Maybe you forgot, maybe there are more pressing concerns. Don't worry! You just need to take 4 out of the 5 exams. If you miss one, just move forward and take the remaining exams. **All students need to take at least 4 out of the 5 total exams. If you take all 5 exams, the lowest score will automatically be dropped.** If there are serious, extenuating circumstances that prevent you from taking a total of 4 exams (e.g. extended hospitalization, eviction), please contact me to discuss your unique circumstances and we will provide alternate arrangements such as an oral exam.

Applied Psych Reflection (50 points): Your first assignment in this course is to complete the Applied Psych Reflection found on eLearning. This assignment is designed to help you see the utility of Psychological research in your everyday life. This assignment involves watching a short video, summarizing the research findings, and answering a question prompt. Responses will be evaluated on clarity/writing (25 points) & thoroughly/effectively addressing all parts of the prompt (25 points). Submit file as pdf (preferred), docx, txt, or rtf. Applied Psych Reflection DUE SUNDAY, 2/2 by 11:59pm on eLearning. It is incredibly important that you write your paper on your own, without the use of generative AI to produce content for you (e.g. ChatGPT). Write simply, follow the directions, and you will be successful on this assignment. If there are red flags raised about your reflection, your work will be submitted to the Office of Conduct for official review. Please do not take shortcuts and create a headache for yourself and the teaching team.

Perusall Guided Reading assignments (14 x 20 points each / 280 points): These assignments are designed to help you more deeply engage with the course material and to foster a sense of community, connectedness, and engagement among students in the course. The assignments might ask you some targeted questions from the chapter, ask you to watch a video related to the chapter and connect to course concepts, to listen to a podcast, or to think creatively about the chapter topic. The goal is for you to relate each chapter to your own life and to reflect more deeply about what you are learning.

Perusall's set up resembles social media. You will (1) click on the link to the assignment from eLearning (very important to initiate your assignment in eLearning for the grade to sync), (2) you will see a pdf from me for that week's assignment containing several opportunities for learning, (3) read the assignment's specific requirements for the number of responses that are necessary and post your responses (4) read other students' response to see their takes on the content and interact with each other, (5) upvote your favorite comments. The Perusall system rewards deep engagement with each item and with peers, the algorithm gives you higher scores the more deeply engaged you are. Your best responses are used to calculate your grade for the assignment (and you can access feedback within Perusall for how you did). The Perusall system will break down our large class into groups of ~20, so you are always engaging with a much smaller group. Your TA will be monitoring Perusall comments as well! The assignments are always designed to generate a sense of wonder and curiosity, so I have no doubt you will have plenty to discuss amongst each other. Perusall content is covered on exams. Enjoy this interactive way to earn points in the course!

Achieve Learning Curves (30 x 5 points each / 150 points): Learning Curve assignments are completed through the textbook companion site, Achieve. 30 Learning Curve assignments (@ 5 points each) have been selected for you to reinforce your learning. These assignments are based on Mastery Learning, meaning that you only have to reach the point goal (usually 300-450 points) in order to receive full credit for the assignment. The system is calibrated to address deficits in your learning and will direct you to the place in the textbook to find the correct answer. If you miss questions, you are not penalized, you simply answer more questions until you master the concept and reach the point target. Therefore, completing the assignment means you automatically receive a 100%. Incomplete/unsubmitted assignments will receive a grade of 0. Translation: Make sure you hit the point target. For example, if the point target is 450 points, a student who earns 449 points will receive a zero. It is up to the student to make sure you have hit the point target and earned your grade for the assignment. **Learning Curve assignments have due dates (SUNDAY nights @ 11:59pm)**. I have set the system to have a grace period for Learning Curve assignments for 24 hours past the due date. If you forget to complete Learning Curves beyond this amnesty deadline, you will receive zeros on those missed assignments. Feel free to work ahead to submit these assignments.

Research Exposure Credit: All students in the course are required to complete two research exposure credits online via the SONA system. Details will be posted on eLearning. Failure to complete two research credits will result in a grade penalty (see Final Letter Grade Determination Chart in the syllabus). **You should receive several emails from the SONA system over the semester about completing your SONA requirement online. Follow the instructions on how to proceed (this is a BBS requirement).**
*** * * * * Questions about this requirement should go to SonaBBS@utdallas.edu* * * * ***

Policy on late papers / technical problems:

PLEASE do the LearningCurves well before the deadlines. For this assignment only, I have set the system to allow no penalty for LearningCurves that are submitted up to 24 hours after the Sunday night deadline. Beyond this, there are no make-up opportunities. Most students do end up forgetting a LearningCurve assignment or two. Please don't sweat it - this is a very minor part of your grade! If there are extenuating circumstances and you need an extension on a LearningCurve assignment beyond the 24 hour grace period, you may request this at least 24 hours ahead of time by contacting your TA. Translation: LearningCurves are due on Sunday nights @ 11:59pm. You don't need to get approval to take advantage of the 24 hour grace period. If you need time *beyond Monday @ 11:59pm* then you need to make your request before Saturday, 11:59pm. If you make your request for an extension per these parameters, we are happy to set up an extension agreement with you.

It is your responsibility to reserve your exam spots at the Testing Center EARLY. If you fail to do this ahead of time and the Testing Center cannot accommodate you, it will be your dropped exam.

Because the Perusall assignments are interactive with your peers, these should be done before the fixed due dates. If there are extenuating circumstances and you need an extension on a Perusall Guided Reading assignment, you may request this at least 24 hours ahead of time by contacting your TA. Extensions will be arranged on a case-by-case basis.

NOTE: We do not grant extensions on assignments AFTER due dates. If you are in need, be sure to reach out AT LEAST 24 hours before an assignment is due. Under most circumstances, extension requests on assignments (not exams) will be granted if you ask at least 24 hours prior to the deadline. If a due date has passed, the answer to an extension request will be a firm no.



BE KIND TO YOUR FUTURE SELF -- as best you can, work early.

Policy on attendance: You will receive the most out of the course experience by coming to every class If you have to miss class, mini-lectures are available to you. Reach out when you need help. **I am more than happy to chat with students either one-on-one, or in small groups if you would like.** Your TA and I are here for your success, please don't hesitate to reach out!

Policy on class recordings: No recording of any class session is permitted. If you have accommodations that allow recordings, please see me to discuss your accommodations. The video lectures posted on eLearning are not to be shared, distributed, or posted in any place or in any manner.

Policy on class materials: Assignments, notes, and resources for this class will be made available to all students registered for this class to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course, however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials, including videos, 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.

Policy on academic honesty: I trust and expect you to do the right thing as a community of learners. No form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. This includes plagiarizing scholarly works, passing off generative AI creations as your own written work, re-using work you have written in another course, and copying text from internet sources without proper documentation of the author. **Importantly, -- to be clear -- it is considered academic dishonesty to collaborate IN ANY WAY about exam questions. This includes texting, calling, participating in a GroupMe or other group communication about exam content. In addition, it is considered academic dishonesty to turn in work that you personally did not write for this class as you own. This includes AI-produced written work.** Your work in this class should originate from your mind and reflect your thinking. The consequences of academic dishonesty can be severe, ranging from failing an assignment to failing the class to being on academic probation. **I will not hesitate to first arrange a face-to-face meeting with you to discuss possible red flags and submit any flagged work to the Office of Student Conduct for their review.** You will need to follow UTD standards for all written work in this class. If you are unclear about the line between paraphrasing other's work and plagiarism, please see me for clarification. Please see official policy and examples of plagiarism at: http://www.utdallas.edu/student/slife/scholastic.html

Managing Life Crisis and Finding Support: Should you encounter an unexpected crisis during the semester (i.e. securing food or housing, addressing mental health concerns, managing a financial crisis, and/or dealing with a family emergency, etc.), I strongly encourage you to contact the Graduation Help Desk for yourself or a peer in need of support. If you are uncomfortable doing so on your own, please know that I can submit a referral on your behalf--just email me or schedule a meeting with me. To learn more about the Graduation Help Desk Office, please find their website here: https://oue.utdallas.edu/special-programs/graduation-help-desk

Basic needs support: The UT Dallas Basic Needs Resource Center (BNRC) connects students with on- and off-campus resources and services in areas such as housing and food insecurity, clothing donation, pregnancy and parenting support and short-term emergency aid. Temoc's Closet provides free clothing and menstrual products. Need food? The UT Dallas Comet Cupboard is a food and basic needs pantry that you have free access to use as a student.

How do I know my grade? In eLearning, you will see a column called "GradeEstimate." This is your running total in the class out of 1000 points. At the end of the course, it will automatically keep only your 4 highest exams. Take the number in GradeEstimate and see where you fall in this table.

FINAL LETTER GRADE DETERMINATIONS ARE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING: (based on 1000 point scale)

Letter grade	Minimum	Maximum
A	940	1000+
A-	900	939
B+	870	899
B	840	869
B-	800	839
C+	770	799
C	740	769
C-	695	739
D+	670	694
D	640	669
D-	600	639
F	0	599

Reminder: Research Exposure Credit Requirement (REC) - DUE MAY 1st! - FIRM DEADLINE - Do not ignore emails from the SONA system!
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 in the BBS Information Center on eLearning. 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-).**

A note on final course grades and "bump up" requests: **Please note that the above determinations are firm. PLEASE do not put me in an uncomfortable position at the end of the semester by asking for a "few extra points" to bump you to the next grade** so that you can graduate with honors, pass, maintain your GPA, or avoid losing your academic scholarship (all real requests I have received). I simply cannot in good faith honor these one-off requests and I appreciate you for understanding my responsibility as a UTD instructor. The best way to achieve the grade you desire is to work hard and work smart and communicate at least 24 hours BEFORE deadlines if you need extra time. **I am very happy to assist students by meeting with you in person to discuss work before due dates** (plan ahead to schedule a time!).

Please go to the following link for UT Dallas policies: http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies