

***Introduction to Psychology Spring 2015***  
***Green Hall 4.428 (GR4.428)***  
***Course Syllabus***

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**Course Information**

PSY 2301 (Section 002) – Introduction to Psychology  
Spring 2015  
Tuesday & Thursday 4:00 – 5:15, GR 4.428

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**Professor Contact Information**

Professor: Dr. Dawn Brinkley  
Phone Number: 214-648-0653  
Email: [dawn.brinkley@utdallas.edu](mailto:dawn.brinkley@utdallas.edu)  
Office Location: JO4.314 (Office hours only)  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:00 – 3:00 or by appointment  
Other Information: Email is the fastest and most reliable way to get a hold of me. **Please put “Intro Psychology” in the subject line, and email from your UTD email address.**

**Teaching Assistant Contact Information**

TA: Kerrienne Morrision  
Office Location: JO4.312  
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:45 – 3:45 or by appointment  
Email: [kerrienne.morrison@utdallas.edu](mailto:kerrienne.morrison@utdallas.edu)

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**Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or other restrictions**

None

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**Course Description**

This course introduces students to the phenomena, principles, and theories of psychology. Psychologists study how biological, cognitive, social, and cultural factors interact to determine how we develop such a complex range of behaviors, emotions, and cognitions. Psychologists seek to understand why and how risk factors lead some individuals to suffer from psychological disorders, while others are resilient in the face of adversity.

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**Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- 1.1 Describe and explain the nature of psychology as a scientific discipline
- 1.2 Describe and analyze major theoretical perspectives and overarching themes of psychology and their historical development.

- 2.1 Identify and explain different research methods used by psychologists.
  - 2.2 Explain and apply basic statistical analyses and employ critical thinking to evaluate the appropriateness of conclusions derived from their use.
  - 3.1 Use critical thinking to evaluate popular media and scholarly literature.
  - 3.2 Demonstrate how psychological principles can explain and inform clinical issues, social issues, organizational issues, and public policy.
  - 4.1 Demonstrate effective writing skills in summarizing and evaluating technical reports.
  - 5.1 Apply psychological concepts, theories, and research findings to issues in everyday life.
  - 5.2 Identify appropriate applications of psychology to mental health and organizational problems.
  - 80.1 Explain and apply major theoretical and scholarly approaches, empirical findings, and historical trends in a social/behavior science.
  - 80.2 Explain and apply basic research methods in social/behavioral science.
  - 80.3 Apply modes of critical thinking used in social/behavioral science.
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## Required Textbooks and Materials

- 1. Schacter, D. L., Gilbert, D. T., Wegner, D. M. & Mock (2014) Psychology (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition). New York: Worth
  - 2. Additional assigned readings provided throughout the semester **via eLearning: to be announced**
  - 3. Each exam will require a Pearson Scantron #229630 (pink form) and a #2 pencil, both available in the UTD bookstore and free at the off-campus bookstore. **You are required to provide your own scantron for each examine.**
  - 4. eLearning will be an important resource throughout the semester. Your grades will be posted through eLearning, supplemental readings will be provided, and homework assignments will be submitted this way. Make sure you have access to eLearning.
  - 5. **NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES** are permitted during class (**this includes laptops, tablets, and cell phones**).
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If you experience any problems with eLearning, please call the eLearning Helpdesk at 866-588-3192. If you experience any problems with your UT Dallas account you may email [assist@utdallas.edu](mailto:assist@utdallas.edu) or call the UT Dallas Computer Help Desk at 972-883-2911.

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My goal is for you to do well in this course. **Please see me for help any time!** I am here to answer any questions you might have and provide any assistance you might need, however, if you wait until the end of the semester or after exam 4, there is *nothing* I or your TA can do!

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## Assignments and Class Schedule

*Topics, Readings, Assignment Dates, and Exam Dates*

IMPORTANT: To get the most benefit from your time in this class, read the material to be discussed *before* you come to class. You will find classes to be much more interesting and involving if you *come prepared* to discuss each day's topic.

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## Psy 2301-002 Spring 2015 Class Schedule

Date	Class	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Tues. 1/13	1	Introduction – Class overview-What is Psychology?		
Thurs. 1/15	2	The Evolution of a Science	Chapter 1	
Tues. 1/20	3	The Evolution of Science	Chapter 1	
Thurs. 1/22	4	Methods - Psychology as a Science <b>CLICKERS NEEDED AS OF TODAY</b>	Chapter 2	<b>Register your clicker in eLearning</b>
Tues. 1/27	5	Methods – What and why of Psychology and Ethics	Chapter 2	
Thurs. 1/29	6	Biology and Behavior (p. 80 – 91, 114 – 125)	Chapter 3	
Tues. 2/3	7	Sensation and Perception (p. 145 – 156)	Chapter 4	<b>Assignment 1 Due</b>
Thurs. 2/5	8	<b>EXAM 1 – Don't forget your scantron</b>		
Tues. 2/10	9	Consciousness	Chapter 5	
Thurs. 2/12	10	Consciousness	Chapter 5	
Tues. 2/17	11	Memory	Chapter 6	
Thurs. 2/19	12	Memory	Chapter 6	
Tues. 2/24	13	Learning	Chapter 7	
Thurs. 2/26	14	Learning	Chapter 7	
Tues. 3/3	15	Emotion (p. 313 – 328)	Chapter 8	<b>Assignment 2 Due</b>
Thurs. 3/5	16	<b>EXAM 2 – Don't forget your scantron</b>		
Tues. 3/10	17	Language and Thought	Chapter 9	
Thurs. 3/12	18	Language and Thought	Chapter 9	<b>(Read Chapter 10)</b>
Tues. 3/17	Thurs. 3/19	<b>Spring Break – NO CLASSES ENJOY!</b>		
Tues. 3/24	19	Development	Chapter 11	
Thurs. 3/26	20	Development	Chapter 11	
Tues. 3/31	21	Personality	Chapter 12	

Thurs. 4/2	22	Personality	Chapter 12	
Tues. 4/7	23	Social Psychology – Social Behavior (p. 508 – 525)	Chapter 13	
Thurs. 4/9	24	Social Psychology (p. 526 -545)	Chapter 13	<i>Assignment 3 Due</i>
Tues. 4/14	25	<b>EXAM 3 – Don't forget your scantron</b>		
Thurs. 4/16	26	Stress and Health	Chapter 14	
Tues. 4/21	27	Motivation (p. 330 -347)	Chapter 8	
Thurs. 4/23	28	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 15	
Tues. 4/28	29	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 15	
Thurs. 4/30	30	Treatment of Psychological Disorders	Chapter 16	
Tues. 4/21	31	Treatment of Psychological Disorders	Chapter 16	
Thurs. 4/23	32	Special Topic		
Tues. 4/28	33	<i>Wrap Up/Catch Up</i>		
Thurs. 4/30	33	<b>EXAM 4 – Don't forget your scantron</b>		<b>Last Class</b>

**THERE WILL BE NO FINAL EXAM DURING THE SCHEDULED FINAL EXAM SLOT**

Note: Final course grades will be viewable in Orion by Tues. May 12<sup>th</sup>

**Because my commitment to you is ensuring that you have the best learning experience possible, I might make changes to the syllabus such as assignments, exams, timelines, etc.; however, all changes will be discussed in class.**

## Grading Policy

Final course grade will be based on the following criteria. Grades will be reported as percentages and will correspond to the letter grades listed below.

Although grades will be posted in eLearning, please do not use eLearning to calculate your grade.

	Points	% of final grades
Exams (4 at 50 pts. Each)	200	80% combined
Class Participation	20	11%
Media Assignments (3 at 10 pts. Each)	30	9% combined
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>100%</b>

Points Earned	Percent	Letter Grade
232 – 250	93 – 100%	A
224 – 231	90 – 92%	A-
219 – 223	88 – 89%	B+
207 - 218	83 – 87%	B
199 – 206	80 – 82%	B-
194 – 198	78 – 79%	C+
182 - 193	73 – 77%	C
174 - 181	70 – 72%	C-
169 - 173	68 – 69%	D+
162 – 168	65 – 67%	D
0 - 161	0 – 64%	F

*I encourage you to make the effort to take an interest in your grade early in the semester (i.e., long before the last week or last day of class). By the end of the semester it is simply too late for me to give extra assignments, particularly when you are provided opportunities throughout the semester to take an active role in your success in this course. Please come to me or your TA **EARLY** in the semester if you are having trouble keeping up or are concerned about your progress. We are here to help you.*

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## Course & Instructor Policies

**NO LAPTOPS or other electronic devices will be allowed to be used during class time. This includes cell phone, notebooks, and tablets.** I have found that these items tend to distract from your learning and the learning of others around you. In addition, studies show that taking notes on a lap top reduces learning when compared to taking handwritten notes. Failure to comply with this policy will result in you being asked to leave the classroom and you will not get credit for class participation on that day.

Extra Credit: **No individualized extra credit will be given out.** Please spend your time working on the material assigned and reading your text. If you find that you are experiencing difficulties in the class, please come talk to me so we can discuss strategies to help you succeed at learning the material.

*Late Work:* All assignments are due by 4:00 PM on the due date listed in the class schedule. **Late work will not be accepted.**

**Attendance & Class Participation:** **Classroom attendance and participation is required and necessary for success in this course.** Class meetings will consist of lectures, discussions, supplemental readings, and demonstrations using YouTube clips and films that complement our course of study. Content covered in the course will frequently include material that is not covered in the textbook.

Please take note that “**attendance**” refers to **physically being in the classroom** and attending to the material being presented. Your Class Participation grade will also be based on participation in class discussions, in-class activities, as well as coming to class. **Think about this:** Obviously you cannot participate if you are not present! Participation will be assessed using Clickers, therefore, you must remember to bring your Clicker to class every class session. Not having your Clicker, arriving to class late, leaving early may affect your participation points for that day.

Treat your college courses as you would a professional position. Attending class, showing up on time, and class participation are not only an indication of your commitment and professionalism, but also enhance your classroom experience and add to your success in the course.

Two specific rules about participation:

- Students can miss up to **three (3)** classes with no penalty to their Class Participation grade. **There will be no opportunities to make-up missed Class Participation credit, regardless of the reason,** so use your freebies wisely. I highly recommend saving up your freebies for unforeseen circumstances that may indeed arise.
- Students do not need to submit any documentation for missed days of lectures, the first three missed days will simply be dropped, and all subsequent missed days will result in a deduction, regardless of the reason **(this does not apply to Exams; see below).**

***ON THAT NOTE!!:*** Please be sure to acquire missed lecture notes, assignments, handouts, and announcements **from a classmate—NOT from me.** YOU are responsible for **all** information given in class. *This includes any changes to the syllabus, content and format of exams, and details given regarding assignments.*

***Reminder:*** *Because your learning is my top priority, changes to this syllabus are at my discretion, particularly if the changes facilitate learning for you!*

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## **UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures**

The information contained in the link below constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies

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### **Academic Integrity:**

Academic integrity and honesty are of the utmost importance. The work you do in all of your courses is expected to be your own. The penalties for violations of Academic Integrity (such as copying answers on an exam, plagiarism or your own or another’s work, giving your work to someone else, or using another student’s

work ) are severe. They include receiving a failing grade for the course, and sanctioning by the University Judicial Board. Violations of academic integrity will not be tolerated.

Please refer to the following website for the full policy:

<http://www.utdallas.edu/deanofstudents/integrity/>

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### **Official University Course Evaluations:**

Please note that all students in the UT System are now required to complete online evaluations of every course that has an enrollment of five or more students. Course evaluations are valuable in helping faculty improve their courses and their teaching, affect faculty professional development, and influence overall evaluations of faculty at the institutional level. Students who complete course evaluations will have priority access to course grades, once grades have been officially submitted to the registrar. Students who do not complete course evaluations will not have access to course grades until the “Final Grades Viewable Online” date listed in the academic calendar.

Toward the end of the semester, you will receive an official university email that will contain links you may use to complete the evaluation forms for each of your classes. You also can log in to Course Lookup to complete the course evaluations. Evaluation responses are anonymous. **Thank you in advance for completing your course evaluation!**

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### **Research Exposure Credit Requirement (REC):**

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. “*Instructions for Research Exposure Credit Requirements*” are also posted on the BBS Information Center in eLearning (link on the left side under *Content*) and on the BBS website. There have been several policy changes effective Spring 2015; please be aware of these changes.

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 an A+, then your grade would be lowered from an A+ to an A. If you do not complete both credits, your grade would be lowered from an A+ to A-. The **deadline** for completion of these credits is **May 1, 2015**.

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### **Detailed Descriptions of Graded Course Content: Exams, Class Participation, and Popular Media Assignments**

#### **Exams:**

1. **Four non-cumulative exams** will cover all material since the previous test. The exams will focus on material covered in the textbook and lectures, however material from supplemental readings and classroom activities may also be used. Tests will consist of short essays and multiple choice questions.
2. **You must be present for all exams.** Make-up exams will be given **only** if: (a) you were seriously ill with verifying documentation, (b) you were unavoidably detained the day and time of the exam, or (c) you made arrangements prior to the exam for an urgent family matter (e.g., a funeral). In any of these cases, **you must**

**notify me in advance of the time of the exam (even if that simply means leaving a voicemail).**

Appropriate documentation will be required prior to taking the exam. Missing an exam for any other reason will result in a “0” for that test. You must contact me **before** the scheduled time of the exam. **If you wait until after** to contact me, you will not be allowed to make-up the exam and you will receive a “0” for that test.

**PAY ATTENTION TO THIS:**

For an approved absence with proper documentation, you will have **1 week** to make up the test. It is your responsibility to get in contact with the Professor about arranging the make-up. Keep in mind that make-up exams are intended to be more comprehensive to compensate for additional study time. Make-up exams will not necessarily be multiple choice format.

3. Reading, comprehending the material, and reviewing your notes is the best advice I can give you in reference to studying for the exams. It will also help if you complete the online activities and end of chapter activities found in your textbook as this will reinforce concepts introduced throughout the course. Gathering material for the **Popular Media Assignments** (see below) should also help you in preparing for the exams. In addition, you can see me or the TA before the exam with any questions you might have related to the content we have covered. It will help if you have reviewed the material and come to us with specific questions.

**If you are concerned about an exam grade, please contact me or the TA within one week of the grades posting to schedule a time to discuss the issue.**

**Clickers and Class Participation:**

This course will require the use of a clicker. A clicker is an audience response device that resembles a small calculator. This allows you to provide real-time feedback to your instructor during class. Class summary results are displayed graphically, providing students and the instructor a gauge as to how well the class is grasping the material. You can purchase (and sell back) your clicker at the UTD Bookstore.

Class participation will be monitored by your responses to clicker questions. The use of the clickers will also assist me in gauging whether or not students are comprehending class material and to measure class opinions or perspectives. In addition, responses to clickers will assess whether or not you have read the material and paid attention to the lectures and discussions. Clicker credit can only be obtained by using the Clicker (i.e., you cannot write the answer on a piece of paper and turn it in. If you forget your Clicker, it runs out of batteries, etc., you can use that as one of your “free” days.

**Popular Media Assignments:**

Psychology is everywhere once you start to look for it. I am hoping that you will begin to recognize associations between what we discuss in class and how these concepts can be applied in the real world. **You will be required to complete three popular media assignments throughout the semester.**

**Step 1:** Submit illustrations of any topic discussed either in class or in the book. Illustrations can be articles, comic strips, advertisements, pictures, or other media such as a newspaper, magazine, internet clip (e.g., YouTube), TV show\*, song lyric\*, or web site not already mentioned in class or in our readings.



Entire movies or books are not acceptable, though you may feel free to submit particular clips or excerpts from books that are relevant. YouTube clips that explicitly address a psychological principle, such as a psychologist discussing or demonstrating a particular phenomenon, will not be accepted. If you are unsure about whether a particular source is acceptable, please ask.

**Step 2:** Include source information for your submission. If you bring in an actual article or excerpt, do not write on the illustration itself.

**Step 3:** Include a paragraph describing how the illustration demonstrates a particular psychological principle, along with the corresponding textbook page(s) **and/or** lecture date.

If you submit a YouTube clip, please include the following:

- 1) The channel name (If you're unsure, make sure I can access the video)
- 2) The clip title

\*If the clip is longer than two minutes, please indicate the times that are most relevant to the concept being illustrated.

**Note:** To receive credit for a TV show or song lyrics you will need to provide one of the following:

- 1) A link online where the show or song may be accessed;
- 2) A DVD of the relevant TV segment or mp3 file of the relevant song (if available); or
- 3) A verbatim reproduction of the relevant TV segment (equivalent of a script) or the entire song lyric.

The purpose of this is so that I can see that you have actually demonstrated your knowledge of the concept.

\*Additionally, you must explicitly link the lyrics or script content to the psychological concept being illustrated.

Assignments are due by **4:00pm** on the day listed on the "Schedule" (however I welcome early work). **All submitted assignments must be original work.** Each assignment is worth 3% of your final grade for a total of 9%.