

Introduction to Psychology Fall 2016

Course Syllabus

Course Information

PSY 2301 (Section 002) – Introduction to Psychology

Meeting days and times: Monday & Wednesday 4:00 – 5:15, GR 4.428

Welcome to Introduction to Psychology! – Do birds of feather flock together or do opposites attract? How does the scientific study of the person, the mind, and the brain come together to offer explanations for behavioral influences, emotional experiences, and mental mishaps or brain “clouds”? What is “open-minded skepticism” and how does it relate to critical thinking? You are about to embark on a fantastic voyage and journey to a land where we will attempt to answer these and many more burning questions you might have about this exciting and interesting subject that is all around us and affects our everyday lives! By the end of this course I hope you will have as much appreciation for what psychological science can contribute to your well-being, your success in life, and your understanding of an utterly complex species as I do!

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.

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

None

YES I AM ACCESSIBLE

Professor: Dr. Dawn Brinkley

Phone Number: 972-883-4746

Email: dawn.brinkley@utdallas.edu

Office Location: GR 4.818

Office Hours: Monday 2:00 – 3:00; Wednesdays 10:30 – 12:30; or by appointment.

Other Information: Email is the fastest and most reliable way to get a hold of me. I typically respond within 24 – 48 hours. **Please put “INTRO” in the subject line, and email from your UTD email address.**

Teaching Assistant Contact Information

Graduate TA: David Martinez	UGTI: Vuong Dang
Email: dxm124230@utdallas.edu	Email: vhd140030@utdallas.edu
Office hours: Monday 3:00 – 4:00	
Office Location: JO 4.312	

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.

Required Textbooks and Materials

1. Schacter, D. L., Gilbert, D. T, Wegner, D. M. & Mock (2014) Psychology (3rd Edition). New York: Worth
2. You will respond to in-class activities using a Turning Point “clicker”. Clickers can be purchased and sold back in bookstores on and off campus. Be sure to register your clicker in eLearning.
3. Additional assigned readings provided throughout the semester **via eLearning: to be announced**
4. Each exam will require a Pearson Scantron #229630 (pink form) and a #2 pencil, both available in the UTD bookstore and scantrons are **free at the off-campus bookstore. You are required to provide your own scantron for each examine.**
5. 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. 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 or call the UT Dallas Computer Help Desk at 972-883-2911.
6. **You are required to purchase LaunchPad access with your textbook.** LaunchPad assignments are listed in the assignment schedule beginning on **pg. 3** of this syllabus. Your LaunchPad course link can be found by visiting: <http://www.macmillanhighered.com/launchpad/schacter3e/3471482>. LaunchPad assignments and due dates are to be viewed using this link. These assignments will assist you by reinforcing course material and will help to prepare you for exams.
7. **NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES** are permitted during class (**this includes laptops, tablets, and cell phones**). On occasion, there will be instances where these devices will be permitted in class; I will notify you ahead of time of those dates.

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!

*Assignments and Class Schedule

Topics, Readings, Assignment Dates, Exam Dates, and Holidays

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.

Psy 2301-002 Fall 2016 Class Schedule

Date	Class	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Mon. 8/22	1	Introduction – Class overview What is Psychology?	Ch. 1	
Wed. 8/24	2	The Evolution of a Science	Ch. 1	
Mon. 8/29	3	Psychology as a Science CLICKERS NEEDED AS OF TODAY	Ch. 2	Register your clicker in eLearning
Wed. 8/31	4	Methods – What and why of Psychology Ethics	Ch. 2	
Mon. 9/5	5	NO CLASSES Labor Day Holiday!!!!	Review Chs. 1,2	
Wed. 9/7	6	Memory	Ch. 6	
Mon. 9/12	7	Memory	Ch. 6	Assignment 1 Due
Wed. 9/14	8	EXAM 1 – Don't forget your scantron	Chs. 1, 2, 6	
Mon. 9/19	9	Learning	Ch. 7	
Wed. 9/21	10	Learning	Ch. 7	
Mon. 9/26	11	Biology and Behavior (p. 80 – 91, 114 – 125)	Ch. 3	
Wed. 9/28	12	Sensation and Perception (p. 145 – 156)	Ch. 4	
Mon. 10/03	13	Consciousness	Ch. 5	
Wed. 10/5	14	Consciousness	Ch. 5	
Mon. 10/10	15	Emotion (p. 313 – 328)	Ch. 8	Assignment 2 Due
Wed. 10/12	16	EXAM 2 – Don't forget your scantron	Chs. 3,4,5,7,8	
Mon. 10/17	17	Language and Thought	Ch. 9	
Wed. 10/19	18	Intelligence, Development	Ch. 10, 11	
Mon. 10/24	19	Development	Ch. 11	
Wed. 10/26	20	Personality	Ch. 12	
Mon. 10/31	21	Social Psychology (p. 508 – 525)	Ch. 13	
Wed. 11/2	22	Social Psychology (p. 526 -545)	Ch. 13	

Mon. 11/7	23	EXAM 3 – Don’t forget your scantron	Chs. 9 - 13	
Wed. 11/9	24	Stress and Health	Ch. 14	<i>Assignment 3 Due</i>
Mon. 11/14	25	Motivation (p. 330 -347)	Ch. 8	
Wed. 11/16	26	Psychological Disorders	Ch. 15	
Mon. 11/21	Wed. 11/23	Fall Break – NO CLASSES		
Mon. 11/28	29	Psychological Disorders	Ch. 15	
Wed. 11/30	30	Treatment of Psychological Disorders	Ch. 16	
Mon. 12/5	31	Treatment of Psychological Disorders	Ch. 16	
Wed. 12/7	32	EXAM 4 – Don’t forget your scantron	Chs. 8, 14, 15, 16	<i>Last Class – Enjoy your winter break!!</i>

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

Note: Final course grades will be viewable in Orion by Fri. Dec 16th

***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.**

Withdrawal policy: Failing to show up for class does not officially withdraw you from the course

Last day to withdraw without a “W” – <i>Wed. Sept. 7</i>	Approval required – <i>Thurs. Sep. 8</i> thru <i>Thurs. Oct. 27</i>
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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.

	Points	% of final grades
*LaunchPad Extra Credit	5	
*Cell Phone Free Zone Participant	5	
Exams (4 at 50 pts. Each)	200	70% combined
Class Participation (20 @ 1.5 each, min. 16)	30	10%
LaunchPad (20 @ 2 each)	40	10%
Written Assignments (3 at 10 pts. Each)	30	10% combined
* Extra Credit Opportunity		
TOTAL	300	100%

Points Earned	Percent	Letter Grade
278 – 300	93 – 100%	A
269 – 277	90 – 92%	A-
263 – 268	88 – 89%	B+
248 – 262	83 – 87%	B
239 – 247	80 – 82%	B-
233 – 238	78 – 79%	C+
218 – 232	73 – 77%	C
209 – 217	70 – 72%	C-
203 – 208	68 – 69%	D+
194 – 202	65 – 67%	D
0 – 193	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.*

Classroom Etiquette and Expectations

- There are NO stupid or insignificant questions. We are all here to learn and want to create an environment that is conducive to doing so. One of the ways we can accomplish this is by being able to comfortably ask questions.
- Be polite and respectful to one another, particularly when engaged in discussion. In addition, we want to create an open environment; however, be mindful of over sharing.
- Do not carry on conversations with others during lectures.
- **Be mindful of the investment you or someone else has made in you!** This includes taking the time to read, study, and do your own work. Attend class regularly, carefully consider all your course material and take the time to engage with your classmates. The course is designed, ON PURPOSE, to encourage class attendance to assist with both academic and life skills. **Absences beyond what is outlined in the syllabus will negatively affect your overall grade.**
- We are here to work together to create a COMMUNITY of LEARNERS. I hope you are as excited about this as I am. WELCOME!

Planning for Success in this Course ☺

Although this course is exciting and interesting, it can be very challenging because of the breadth and depth of material covered. Students sometimes under estimate the amount of time it will take to be successful in the course, they often feel the course content is “common sense” so they fail to study appropriately, and many students might not have learned effective study techniques. Studying is more than simply re-reading the material (a passive activity). Studying involves actively engaging in the material by doing things such as repeatedly visiting the material and testing yourself. Here are some suggestions to help you succeed:

- **Read the material before coming to class.** The material will make more sense and you’ll have your “aha” moments during our discussions if you read prior to coming to class. You’ll also be better prepared to ask questions and to ask for clarification on certain things if you’ve had exposure to the material.
- **Take notes, but do not try to write down everything** on the slides or everything that I say. Not only will this overwhelm and frustrate you but you may miss key points of what I am saying such as examples and clarifications.
- **Be sure to review your notes and your book after class.** Doing this will help to reinforce the material and clear up any confusion you might have had during your initial introduction to the material. Even if you feel like you know the material, repetition is key.
- **Engage in review testing!** Complete online quizzes in LaunchPad and review any course materials posted to eLearning. Find a study partner or form a study group and hold each other accountable. It helps to review material with someone.
- **Review the Real World section in Ch. 1 of your text** titled “Improving Study Skills”. The section has several research based study techniques that you will find useful.

Course & Instructor Policy

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, however you have two opportunities to earn a total of 10 (5 points each) extra credit points. One of the opportunities will be the opportunity to spend your class period “**cell phone free**”, this extra credit assignment begins on **pg. 9**, and the other opportunity is located under “LaunchPad and Participation on **pg. 8**”. 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 or your TAs 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.** Therefore it is best to plan ahead as all due dates are clearly outlined in your course schedule.

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. In addition to attending class, your Class Participation grade will also be based on participation in class discussions, in-class activities, completion of LaunchPad activities, answering Clicker questions. **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 these things also enhance your classroom experience and add to your success in the course.

Two specific rules about participation:

- Students can miss up to **two** classes with no penalty to their Class Participation grade. If you miss three or more classes, your participation will be affected. **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 two 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.*

DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF GRADED COURSE CONTENT: Exams, Class Participation, and Writing 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.**

IMPORTANT:

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 LaunchPad activities, review any material posted to eLearning, and complete the end of chapter activities found in your textbook as this will reinforce concepts introduced throughout the course. 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 (Be sure to register your clicker or your responses will not be recorded). Our course channel is “45”

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.

You must have attempted a minimum of 16 of the 20 clicker response opportunities to earn **any** participation credit. This means that you cannot earn half credit by attending only 10 classes. **If you miss more than 2 response opportunities, your participation grade will be affected.** Clicker response participation is worth 10% of your final grade.

LAUNCH PAD and PARTICIPATION:

1. You will not be allowed to “make-up” missed LaunchPad assignments. Completion of LaunchPad assignments accounts for 10% of your final grade and is required for you to get class participation credit provided you have not missed more than the allowed 2 classes. **BE SURE TO CHECK LAUNCHPAD WEEKLY** as due dates and assignments are subject to change at my discretion.
2. **Provided you have not missed more than 2 classes** and you complete ***all*** LaunchPad assignments by the due dates, you will earn **5** extra credit points.

3. **There are no exceptions to this so please do not ask! You must have completed ALL assignments by the due dates!!! Thank you in advance for your cooperation.**

ASSIGNMENTS:

Three writing assignments will be assigned throughout the semester. Combined these writing assignments account for 10% of your final grade. Each assignment will address particular course content based on classroom discussions and supplemental readings. These assignments will involve a brief supplemental reading or online activity and a 2-3 page response paper. The specifics of the assignments, including a rubric for grading criteria, will be posted on eLearning. Assignments are due by **4:00pm** on the day listed on the Schedule below (however I welcome early work). Late work will not be graded. **Please submit your assignment 1-week in advance of the deadline if you would like your assignment reviewed by me or the TA. All submitted assignments must be original work.**

Assignments will be turned in **via Turnitin.com** by way of **eLearning**. Turnitin.com will provide an originality report to check for originality of work submitted. Plagiarism of your own or another's work is a violation of University academic integrity policy and may result in a failing grade for the course and sanctioning by the University Judicial Board.

Keeping Track of Your Progress

It is your responsibility to keep up with how well you are doing throughout the course. Therefore, I strongly encourage you to keep track of your grades throughout the semester. Feel free to contact me or your TA to verify grades in our offices, not during class time. It would be helpful if you have checked eLearning first and then come see us for any clarification, verification, or any additional assistance needed. Please let me know if you would like for me to review a grade within **two weeks** of the grade being posted. It is much easier to clarify grades at that time as clarification becomes more difficult as the semester progresses. Please do not wait until the end of the semester.

Psychological Principles in Action –Eliminating Distractions and Providing Positive Reinforcement

You will have an opportunity to earn **5 points of Extra Credit** and experience psychological principles in action by participating in a “**Cell Phone Free**” classroom environment. Although cell phone use is not permitted and will not be tolerated during the course, I am offering students an opportunity to avoid the temptation of pulling out their phones by providing a “**cell phone free zone**” at the front of the classroom each class period. Research has shown that cell phone addiction is real and many of us are on a variable-ratio schedule of reinforcement when it comes to our cell phones (***we’ll address this during the semester, Ch. 7***). We have been conditioned to repeatedly check our phones. Let’s work toward eliminating distractions, changing a learned behavior, and earning extra points!

Extra Credit Requirements:

1. Students are given the opportunity to participate during each class period. Students will not be penalized for not participating, however, if I see you using your cellphone during the class period, you will be asked to leave and you will not receive participation credit for that day.
2. For each class period you participate, you are one step closer to earning the extra credit points toward your final grade. Students **must not have missed more than 2 classes** to qualify for the extra credit and

students must have participated in the “cell phone free zone” for a **minimum of 20 class meetings**. The first day of class and the exam dates are not included in the total.

3. At the beginning of each class period, students participating for the day will sign in and drop off their phones in the designated “cell phone free zone”. **I will take extra care to make sure that no phones are left behind by allowing a few minutes at the end of each session for students to retrieve their phone!**
4. At the end of the semester, students will complete a brief, anonymous, evaluation of the activity. Although the evaluation will be anonymous, students will be randomly assigned a unique 5-digit identifier that will be used to identify who participated and whether they completed the evaluation so that the extra credit can be properly awarded.
5. **Students must meet all three criteria to qualify for the extra credit:**
 - a. Must not have missed more than 2 classes
 - b. Must have participated in the “cell phone free zone” activity for a minimum of 20 class meetings
 - c. Must complete the activity evaluation
 - d. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THESE REQUIREMENTS SO PLEASE DO NOT ASK.**
Thank you in advance for your compliance with this non-negotiable request! ☺

Welcome! I know this is going to be an exciting journey!

Official University Business

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. The **deadline** for completion of these credits is **Dec. 1, 2016**

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

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!**

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 of 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/>
