



PSY 2301.02W Introduction to Psychology
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2014

Professor: Dr. Stephen Reysen

Class Location: Online

Office Location: Binnion 213

Office Hours: M 8:00AM to 1:00PM, and by appointment

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COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description: In this course we will cover the fundamental theories and research conducted in psychology. We will cover both classic and modern psychological research. We will read journal articles and book chapters each week. I will have these available on eCollege in the doc sharing section. The purpose of the readings is to give you a deeper understanding of specific research topics in psychology. The textbook will cover a variety of classic theory and research, while the article readings will focus on specific topics within psychology.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to recognize their own subjectivity, follow the arguments of others, and interpret data. To demonstrate critical thinking, students in introductory psychology will be asked to recognize their own biases (i.e., subjectivity) regarding a psychological phenomenon we cover in class in a written assignment. This will be assessed via a final paper in which students will describe how their subjective views of the phenomenon have changed after exposure to particular empirical research.
2. Student communication will follow conventions of grammar and syntax appropriate to the audience, purpose and message. To demonstrate effective communication, students in introductory psychology will be asked to write a paper that follows the conventions of grammar and syntax appropriate to the audience, purpose, and message. The instructor will assess whether the final paper uses appropriate grammar and syntax, is appropriate for the audience, and displays a clear and purposeful message.
3. Students will be able to interpret, test, and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data. To demonstrate empirical and quantitative skills, students in introductory psychology will be asked to interpret and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data in a written assignment. The instructor will assess whether students are able to interpret and demonstrate proper use of empirical data to support their arguments.
4. Students will demonstrate awareness of societal and/or civic issues. To demonstrate social responsibility, students in introductory psychology will demonstrate an awareness of societal or

social issues in a written assignment. The instructor will assess if students are able to display an awareness of how psychology may affect society or social issues.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grading:

1. Exams: There will be two online exams. Each exam will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions, and are worth 50 points each. Exams will cover the readings (textbook and articles). You will have 5 hours to complete each exam. Please allow yourself at least a full hour on the computer for each exam (you cannot start and stop the exam time).

Exam 1 is due by Sunday March 9th by 11:59PM

Exam 2 is due by Friday May 2nd by 11:59PM

2. Reaction Papers: Students will complete 15 half-page (single space) reaction papers (one for each week's readings). The purpose of the reaction paper is to apply the concepts in a given article/chapter to your own life (e.g., past experience, expectations, ideas of how the concepts can be applied in other areas of life, research ideas). There is no specific requirement for these papers except to show that you have thought about the concepts presented in the class readings. The reaction paper can cover just the chapter, just the article, or both. The reaction papers should be written in a word document (to catch spelling and grammar errors). The text should then be copied and pasted into the discussion section of eCollege (for that week). Please do not attach the paper in the discussion board, rather copy/paste the text into the discussion box. You can write more than a half page, however you will be docked points if your reaction paper is less than ½ page. The reaction papers are due by Sunday night at 11:59PM for that week (there is one exception to this rule: the last reaction paper is due Friday May 2nd by 11:59PM). **Within each paper please write one multiple-choice question on that topic.** I highly recommend that you work ahead (e.g., post reactions a couple days (or weeks) in advance of when they are due) to avoid a last minute rush to post your reaction. Late reaction papers will be accepted, however points will be docked. Each paper is worth 10 points (150 total points).

3. Final Paper: The final paper will consist of a 2-page paper (double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, saved as .docx .doc or .rtf). In this paper you will (1) describe a belief/preconception about a particular psychological phenomenon you held prior to participating in this class, (2) describe evidence (i.e., empirical research findings) from psychology that led you to change your mind regarding that belief, and (3) describe how a wider understanding of the psychology that informed your new belief may impact societal and/or social issues. The paper will be graded to assess if you are able to:

1. Recognize your own subjectivity, follow the arguments of others, and interpret data.
2. Follow conventions of grammar and syntax appropriate to the audience, purpose, and message.
3. Interpret, test, and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data.
4. Demonstrate an awareness of societal and/or social issues.

The paper is due the Friday before finals week (by 11:59PM) to the dropbox on eCollege. The paper is worth 50 points.

Assessment:

Exams: 100 points

Reaction Papers: 150 points

Final Paper: 50 points

A = 270-300

B = 240-269

C = 210-239

D = 180-209

F = 179 and below

EXTRA CREDIT

There is a small amount of extra credit available for this course. 10 points are available for posting comments, thoughts, and reactions to other students' work online (i.e., engaging others on the discussion board). These points are determined at the discretion of the instructor. In addition, I will offer another 20 points of extra credit for participation in online research studies. I will offer 5 points for each 0.5 credits of research (max 20 raw points or 2 experiment credits). You can find a guide to participating in research at the bottom of the syllabus. Also, in doc sharing I have a pictorial guide to get you started. If you would like an alternative assignment for extra credit instead of participating in research contact me by email. Additionally, the first time you log into SONA (the web system the psychology department uses to schedule participation) you will be asked to complete a prescreen survey. Completion of the prescreen is worth 0.5 experiment credits if done in the first two weeks of the semester.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

You will need access to a computer with internet to access eCollege.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor: Please feel welcome to contact me by email. All email should receive a response within 48 hours. If you have not received a response then assume your email did not go through and please try again to make contact. All email should include student's last name, first name, course name, and brief description of the reason for contact.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Student Behavior:

My expectations in this area should be very simple to fulfill. (1) Immaturity will NOT be tolerated! If a student's behavior is disrupting the class, he/she will be asked to stop. (2) Respect: Given the nature of this course, we may discuss issues that some of you may find embarrassing, uncomfortable, and/or even "inappropriate." To remain in this class, you must be respectful of others and maintain a mature and professional manner at all times. Failure to do so will result in your expulsion from the course. (3) The Student's Guidebook addresses the issues of academic cheating and plagiarism. These are a breach of conduct, and students are subject to disciplinary actions. It's simple. Do NOT cheat (to cheat is to act dishonestly or unfairly in order to gain an advantage) or plagiarize (to plagiarize is to take the work or idea of someone else and pass it off as one's own)!

Changes to Class:

Minor changes may be made to this schedule; modifications will be announced on eCollege.

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is the best way to study for the test?

A: Print out and read over the articles and have the textbook with you as you take the test. The questions on the test will be based on the questions students post in the reaction papers. Thus, it is a good idea to study those questions.

Q: I forgot to post my reaction paper can I still post it?

A: Yes, I will take late papers. However, I will take a couple points off for being late. The one exception to this is that all work in the class must be completed by 11:59PM of the Friday before finals week. I will not accept any late work after that time.

Q: I forgot to post my reaction paper can I still post it?

A: Yes, I will take late papers. However, I will take a couple points off for being late.

Q: Why where points taken off my reaction paper?

A: In eCollege there is a way to see any comments I may give. If points are taken off the paper I will put a comment. The two most common reasons for deducting points are (1) the paper is too short (i.e., less than ½ page single-spaced) and (2) the response is missing the multiple-choice question.

Q: Do I need to understand the statistics in the articles?

A: No, the purpose of the articles is to expose you to actual research and theory. Often students are only exposed to the textbook. One sentence in the textbook usually represents years of research and theory on a topic. The purpose of the articles is to expose you to that side of psychology. I do not expect you to understand everything in the article (however, you may have to google some of the terms to gain a fuller understanding of the article). I DO expect you to grasp the gist of the article (i.e., the general thesis of the article).

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week 1: History

January 13th to 19th
Textbook: Chapter 1

Week 2: Methods

January 20th to 26th
Textbook: Chapter 2

Week 3: Brain

January 27th to February 2nd
Textbook: Chapter 3

Week 4: Perception

February 3rd to 9th
Textbook: Chapter 4

Paper 1: Adams, G., & Dzokoto, V. A. (2007). Genital-shrinking panic in Ghana: A cultural psychological analysis. *Culture and Psychology, 13*, 83-104.

Week 5: Consciousness

February 10th to 16th
Textbook: Chapter 5

Paper 2: Bargh, J. A., & Morsella, E. (2008). The unconscious mind. *Perspectives on Psychological Science, 3*, 73-79.

Week 6: Development

February 17th to 23rd
Textbook: Chapter 6

Paper 3: Sameroff, A. (2010). A unified theory of development: A dialectic integration of nature and nurture. *Child Development, 81*, 6-22.

Week 7: Learning

February 24th to March 2nd
Textbook: Chapter 7

Paper 4: Dunlosky, J., Rawson, K. A., Marsh, E. J., Nathan, M. J., & Willingham, D. T. (2013). Improving students' learning with effective learning techniques: Promising directions from cognitive and educational psychology. *Psychological Science in the Public Interest, 14*, 4-58.

Week 8: Memory

March 3rd to 9th
Textbook: Chapter 8

Paper 5: Coman, A., Brown, A. D., Koppel, J., & Hirst, W. (2009). Collective memory from a psychological perspective. *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society, 22*, 125-141.

TEST 1 (includes Weeks 1 to 8)

Week 9: SPRING BREAK

March 10th to 16th
No Assignments

Week 10: Thinking

March 17th to 23rd

Textbook: Chapter 9

Paper 6: Fryberg, S. A., Markus, H. R., Oyserman, D., & Stone, J. M. (2008). Of warrior chiefs and Indian princesses: The psychological consequences of American Indian mascots. *Basic and Applied Social Psychology*, 30, 208-218.

Week 11: Emotion

March 24th to 30th

Textbook: Chapter 10

Paper 7: Parkinson, B. (1996). Emotions are social. *British Journal of Psychology*, 87, 663-683.

Week 12: Personality

March 31st to April 6th

Textbook: Chapter 11

Paper 8: Jenkins, S. T., Reysen, S., & Katzarska-Miller, I. (2012). Ingroup identification and personality. *Journal of Interpersonal Relations, Intergroup Relations and Identity*, 5, 9-16.

Week 13: Disorders

April 7th to 13th

Textbook: Chapter 12

Paper 9: Frances, A. J., & Widiger, T. (2012). Psychiatric diagnosis: Lessons from the DSM-IV past and cautions for the DSM-5 future. *Annual Review of Clinical Psychology*, 8, 109-130.

Week 14: Therapy

April 14th to 20th

Textbook: Chapter 13

Paper 10: Lilienfeld, S. O. (2007). Psychological treatments that cause harm. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 2, 53-70.

Week 15: Social Psychology I

April 21st to 27th

Textbook: Chapter 14

Paper 11: Adams, G., Biernat, M., Branscombe, N. R., Crandall, C. S., & Wrightsman, L. S. (2008). Beyond prejudice: Toward a sociocultural psychology of racism and oppression. In G. Adams, M. Biernat, N. R. Branscombe, C. S. Crandall, & L. S. Wrightsman (Eds.), *Commemorating Brown: The social psychology of racism and discrimination* (pp. 215-246). Washington, DC: APA Books.

Week 16: Social Psychology II

April 28th to Friday May 2nd

Paper 12: Cialdini, R. B. (2001). Harnessing the science of persuasion. *Harvard Business Review*, 79, 72-79.

TEST 2 DUE FRIDAY MAY 2ND BY 11:59PM (test covers Weeks 10 to 16)

ALL WORK FOR CLASS (INCLUDING RESEARCH EXTRA CREDIT) MUST BE COMPLETED BY FRIDAY MAY 2ND BY 11:59PM.

Students' Guide to Research Participation for Extra Credit
Department of Psychology, Counseling, & Special Education
Texas A&M University-Commerce

- **What is Research Participation?**

Exposure to research is essential to your gaining a better understanding of the scientific study of psychology. It is how we add new knowledge in psychology. Being involved in research is a good way to experience first-hand and learn about the scientific enterprise. We believe there are two key ways to experience research activity at this level: 1) read about related scientific investigations; 2) experience research as a volunteer participant; or some combination of both. The class in which you received this handout offers extra credit through one or both of these activities.

- **What if I am not yet 18 years old?**

In order to participate in research you must be at least 18 years old. If you are not yet 18 years old, please see your instructor, and ask him/her about alternative ways of earning extra credit.

- **In what type of research studies will I participate?**

All studies you will participate in have been reviewed and approved by the Texas A&M University-Commerce Institutional Review Board (IRB) and by the Department of Psychology, Counseling, & Special Education. Studies vary widely. Many involve completing questionnaires or carrying out tasks on the computer. Some are even fun, and you'll learn something from all of them.

- **What are my rights as a research participant?**

Your participation is voluntary and you may withdraw from any study at any time. Your data will be kept confidential. If you have any further questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact the IRB head, Carmen Salazar (Carmen.Salazar@tamuc.edu). More information about your rights will be provided to you prior to each study for which you sign up.

- **How will my research participation credit be calculated?**

You will receive 1 credit for each hour of research participation. Studies lasting 15 minutes or less are worth 0.25 credit. For example, a 15 min. study = 0.25 research credits; 30 min. = 0.5 credits; 45 min. = 0.75 credits; 60min = 1 credit; 1½ hours = 1.5 credits... etc.

- **How many research credits may I complete?**

You are encouraged to participate in as much research as you wish, but your instructor will inform you of how many credits are offered for extra credit.

- **What if I do not wish to participate in research studies?**

Participation in research is voluntary. Your instructor is offering you the opportunity to earn extra credit by participating in research (and helping psychology).

- **How do I find and sign up for research participation opportunities?**

Throughout the semester, researchers in the Psychology Department will post their research studies in the Experiment Management System (EMS) online. It is up to you to check the EMS regularly to find and sign up for research studies that fit into your schedule. Detailed instructions for how to use the EMS are listed in the following pages of this handout.

- **What if I cannot go to a study I signed up for?**

If for whatever reason you cannot attend a study that you have signed up for you need to cancel your appointment before the start of the study. There are 2 ways to cancel an appointment. First, if you cancel 24 hours before a study you can do this online through the Experiment Management System (EMS) website. Second, if it is the same day of the study you can call or email the experimenter – their contact information will be available in the EMS.

How do I use the Experiment Management System (EMS)?

(Create a new participant account unless you already have one and your login information works. If you do not remember your login information click on the “lost your password?” on the front page of the EMS website and follow the directions on the site, and if that does not work email curt.carlson@tamuc.edu. A list of courses will be presented, from which you must select the courses you are taking this semester for which you will receive credit for participation. If your course is not listed, see the instructor for that course.)

A. How to create a participant account on the EMS

1. Go to <http://tamuc-commerce.sona-systems.com/>
 - a. Click on New Participant “request an account here” link on the left of the screen.
 - b. This takes you to a screen on which you must enter your name, a unique User ID, your University ID number, and primary email address (reminders of studies you sign up for will be sent to that email address). You will also need to highlight the course(s) in which you are enrolled, and for which you will be earning credits. If more than one, highlight all that will be involving you in research participation. However, each study in which you participate will only provide you credit for ONE course. In other words, there is no “double-dipping” allowed. **BE CAREFUL TO SELECT THE CORRECT COURSE AND SECTION # – IF YOU CHOOSE THE WRONG ONE, YOUR INSTRUCTOR WILL NOT BE INFORMED OF YOUR CREDITS!** After you submit your information, you will be emailed your login information. (After you have received your login information, I recommend that you login into EMS and go to your “Profile” and change your password to something that you can remember.)

If you encounter any problems with creating your account (e.g., login information not sent to you), contact the EMS administrator, curt.carlson@tamuc.edu with your full name and a detailed description of the problem.

2. When you first log into the EMS at the beginning of the semester you will be asked to take a prescreen survey. This is a short survey that researchers will use to decide if you meet the specified requirements for some studies (e.g., as a researcher I may only allow participants who are female. If you do not complete the prescreen you will not be eligible to participate in this study). In other words, if you do not complete the prescreen you will have fewer studies that you are eligible to participate in. **IF YOU COMPLETE THE PRESCREEN IN THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF THE SEMESTER YOU WILL GET 0.5 CREDIT.** Take it even if you have done it before – it has probably changed, and you will still earn the 0.5 credit.

3. You are now ready to use the EMS to sign-up for research studies.

B. Sign-up for studies—login to the EMS with your User ID and password that was emailed to you after creating your account

1. Click **Study Sign-Up**. A list of all available studies for which you qualify will appear. You can sign-up by clicking on either the study name or **Timeslots Available**, and you will go to a new screen showing more information about the study, with a link to **View Time Slots for This Study**.
2. Click the **Sign-Up** button to schedule your time. You should then write down or print out the study information (name of study, place, time, name and contact information of experimenter, etc.) that appears in the final window. You will also receive an email reminder the day before the study time you have selected.

C. Canceling a Sign-Up (MUST be done if you know you will not show up)

1. If you need to cancel a timeslot you have signed up for, you can do this from the **My Schedule and Credits** page. Choose the **My Schedule and Credits** option from top toolbar.
2. You will see listed all of the studies for which you have signed up, as well as those you have completed (see the Tracking Your Progress section below for more information).
3. Studies for which you have signed up that you are allowed to cancel will have a **Cancel** button next to them. If you cannot attend the study session you signed up for, you need to cancel it, either within the EMS system or by contacting the researcher directly prior to the start of the study. Keep in mind that there is a time limit before the study is to occur, when it is too late to cancel online. This restriction is listed at the bottom of the page (it can be 24 hours before your timeslot, or much less, such as just 2-4 hours). If you cannot cancel online please email or call the experimenter to cancel. **IF YOU DO NOT CANCEL ONLINE, BY EMAIL, OR OVER THE PHONE BEFORE THE START OF THE STUDY YOU WILL BE COUNTED AS A “NO SHOW.”**
4. If you cancel the first part of a two-part study, the second part will also be cancelled. If you cancel the second part of a two-part study, the first part will *not* be cancelled, but you will need to ask the researcher to sign you up for the second part again, if you would like to participate in it at a later date. However, this is up to the researcher.

D. Tracking Your Progress

1. You may track your progress at any time by choosing the **My Schedule and Credits** option from the top toolbar.

3. When you view this page, you will see at the top a list of the number of credits you are required to earn, and how many you have earned so far. Below that, if you have signed up for any studies, those are listed as well. In the list of studies, you will see information about your credit status. If you have a no show for a study you will see that the status for that study is “failure to appear.”

Note: Your login session will expire after a certain period of inactivity, usually 20-60 minutes. This is done for security purposes. If this happens, you can always log in again. When you are finished using the system, it is better to explicitly log out, to prevent any problems that may arise if someone uses your computer before the session expires. This is especially important if you are using a public computer lab.

E. Frequently Asked Questions

1. Immediately after I login, as soon as I click on any menu option, I am taken back to the login page and I see a message that my authentication has expired. What does this mean?

Your web browser is not properly configured to accept cookies. You should turn on cookies in your web browser, use a different web browser (for example, try Firefox if you are currently using Internet Explorer), or try a different computer. Detailed instructions can be found if you go to the site and enter the URL “cookie_help.asp” in place of “default.asp” in the address bar of the browser, when you are on the front page of the site.

2. I participated in a study, but I have yet to receive credit. How do I receive credit?

The researcher must grant you credit. This is usually done within a few days after your participation. If it has been some time and you have still not received credit, contact the researcher (his or her contact information should be listed when you click on the study name within the system).

3. How do I change the email address where email notifications from the system are sent?

You can change the email address where notifications are sent by going to **My Profile** and editing the email address you see there.

4. I forgot where and when a study is that I signed up for. What do I do?

If you forget when or where your study is, check your e-mail for the **EMS reminder**, or logon to EMS and check your appointments.

5. Should I keep some sort of record of my participation and credits earned?

The system will keep track of the credits you earn and your instructor will have access at the end of the semester to a report of credits earned by students enrolled in the class.

It is a good idea, however, to occasionally print a personal copy of your credits earned and hold on to that printout as a back up to the system.

6. I showed up for a study on time, and no one was there! What do I do?

First refer to your information about that study session, to make sure you are in the right place at the right time. If you are, then wait at least 10 minutes for the researcher. If they are still not there at that point, you can leave and must send them an email within 24 hours, stating that you were present at the correct place and time for the study (refer to the study name). It is up to the researcher to try to reschedule with you.