



Introduction to Psychology PSY 2301.04E

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2014

Instructor: Nancy Lamphere
Office Location: Binnion 225
Office Hours: TBA
Office Phone: 903-886-5594

University Email Address: nancy.lamphere@tamuc.edu

Class location: AGIT 253
Class time: T/R 9:30-10:45 a.m.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook Required

Schacter, D. L., Gilbert, D. T., & Wegner, D. M. (2013). *Introducing psychology* (2nd edition). New York, NY: Worth Publishers.

ISBN: 978-1-4282-4230-1

Course Description

According to the course catalog, "The aim of this course is to give a general understanding of the basic principles of psychology."

My hope is that you will find the course much more interesting than that description makes it seem because we humans are fascinating! If you have ever wondered why people do the things they do then you have signed up for the right course! That's exactly what psychologists attempt to do – understand human behavior. I say "attempt" to understand because humans are unbelievably complex, and trying to explain what we do and why we do it is a lot more complicated than most people realize. Together, we will look at how psychologists study (and have studied) the human mind and behavior, and what has been discovered so far...

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, and assuming you fulfill the expectations below, you should be able to:

1. Explain what psychology is and what psychologists do
2. Apply psychological concepts to the real world
3. Critically assess the accuracy of statements about psychological concepts, theories, and issues
4. Describe several ways that culture influences human behavior

Course Expectations:

Your success in this class ultimately depends on your willingness to put in whatever time and effort is necessary. I am available to help you, but you should realize that this depends in part on your level of commitment to the course. The ways I determine your commitment include:

- **Class attendance** – Be seated and ready to start before I am
- **Assigned materials read prior to lectures** – You will get much more out of the class lectures if you are already familiar with what will be covered
- **Attentiveness and participation during class** – Phone is put away; make occasional eye contact, nod your head when you agree or understand, actively engage with in-class activities (laugh at my jokes!)
- **Assignments completed on time** – Due dates are announced well in advance; internet issues are not an excuse unless eCollege is down

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

This is a web-enhanced course. In addition to class lectures, discussions, and activities, you will be using the Internet to access the two online components of this course: eCollege and the textbook companion site. You will use eCollege to check your grade, download handouts, turn in assignments, and be able to email the instructor and/or classmates. The textbook companion site is the location of some online assignments, as well as many resources specific to your textbook that will aid in test preparation.

There is a variety of assessments to gauge your understanding of the material. Detailed instructions will be provided for each assignment when appropriate.

GRADING

Course grades are based on the following:

Pre-Lecture Quizzes (best 10 of 12 @20 pts each)	200
Exams (4 @100 pts each)	400
Learning Activities	150
Common Myths paper	100
Research Participation	50
Final Exam	<u>100</u>
Total pts:	1000

Grade Distribution

A	≥90%
B	80%-89%
C	70%-79%
D	60%-69%
F	<60%

Detailed instructions will be provided in class for each assignment.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course.

- Internet access/connection – high speed recommended (not dial-up)
- MS Word 2007 or later (available on all campus computers)

Additionally, the following hardware and software are necessary to use eCollege:

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0).

Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari (2.0 or better).

Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems. However, some students report problems with certain functions in eCollege when using Safari and Firefox that do not seem to be an issue when using Internet Explorer.

It is strongly recommended that you perform a "Browser Test" prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login in to eCollege, click on the 'myCourses' tab, and then select the "Browser Test" link under Support Services.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Although we meet in the classroom, this course will also utilize certain aspects of eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce (e.g., Gradebook, Doc Sharing, email). To access eCollege, go to <https://leo.tamuc.edu/login.aspx>.

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

eCollege Technical Support

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week:

- Chat Support: Click on 'Live Support' on the tool bar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.
- Phone: 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with eCollege Technical Support Representative.
- Email: helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with eCollege Technical Support Representative
- Help: Click on the 'Help' button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege (i.e., how to submit to Dropbox, how to post to Discussions)

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Class announcements: Important class announcements are sent out via email, so check your LeoMail daily, including at least once on the weekend!

Communication with the instructor: **Email is the best way to reach me outside of class.** If you don't use eCollege to email me, then include the course number in the subject (PSY 2301). I will make every effort to respond within 24 hours to emails received on Mondays - Thursdays, and on Mondays to emails received on Fridays and over the weekend. If I haven't responded within those time frames, please send a gentle reminder.

Always send an email follow-up to any in-person conversations we have that require further action.

Email etiquette:

- **Do** include the course number in the subject.
- **Do not** treat an email exchange with an instructor like a conversation with your friends.
- **Do** remember that emails to instructors reflect your ability to express yourself in a professional manner.
- **Do** use complete sentences with correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
- **Do not** use texting acronyms!
- **Do** include your first and last name within the email.
- **Do** reread your email before you send to be sure that it makes sense, it doesn't have any major typos, and it says what you mean.
- **Do** remember that emails can be saved, reread, and *forwarded*.

University Academic Support

Texas A&M-Commerce has several programs in place to help students succeed academically (this list is not all-inclusive).

- Academic Success Center (ASC)
<http://web.tamuc.edu/CampusLife/CampusServices/AcademicSuccessCenter/default.aspx>
- Writing Center
<http://web.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/literatureLanguages/writingCenter/default.aspx>
- TRiO (for those who qualify)
<http://web.tamuc.edu/CampusLife/CampusServices/trioPrograms/default.aspx>
- JAMP Room (Science building)
- Math Lab

<http://web.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/scienceEngineeringAgriculture/departments/mathematics/mathLab.aspx>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures

- If you must come in late (and class has started), quietly take a seat that does not disturb other students (i.e., near the door).
- Turn cell phones off during class.
- No recording or photos during class (this includes with your phone!) without prior permission.
- My PowerPoint slides are not provided to students, but lecture outlines will be available in Doc Sharing that can be downloaded, printed, and brought to class for taking notes.
- Late assignments are severely penalized – PLAN AHEAD! Internet problems are not an excuse!
- **No make-up exams unless** due to a university-approved absence. I understand that things do come up, so exceptions are possible if prior arrangements are made with me.

University Specific Procedures

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

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

Academic Integrity: The most serious offense in an academic sense is plagiarism, which is presenting the work or ideas of others as your own. Many students do not realize that, in addition to the obviously unacceptable copying and pasting off the internet into a paper, plagiarism includes using another person's idea without citing that fact, copying another student's homework, and even collaborating on out-of-class assignments (like homework) without instructor permission. Don't believe anyone who says that the university doesn't do anything about students who are caught cheating – it does. And ignorance about what constitutes plagiarism is not a defense! Take the time to know what your responsibilities are so that all your hard work gets you what you want – your degree!

COURSE OUTLINE/CALENDAR

Tentative Lecture & Exam Schedule			
Approximate dates	Topics	Reading	Approximate exam dates
1/14 to 2/4	Intro Methods Neuropsychology	Chapters 1-3	2/6
2/11 to 3/4	Sensation & Perception Consciousness Memory	Chapters 4-6	3/4
3/18 to 4/1	Learning Emotion & Motivation	Chapters 7-8	4/3
4/8 to 4/17	Personality Social Psychology	Chapters 11-12	4/22
4/24-4/29	Psychological Disorders Psychological Treatments	Chapters 13-14	n/a
TBA	Comprehensive Final Exam		TBA

NOTE: This is a preliminary syllabus and is subject to change. A more detailed syllabus and class schedule will be provided on the first day of class.