

**Introduction to Psychology (Psy 2301.002 and .003)**  
**Spring 2015**  
**Texas A&M University-Commerce**

Instructor: Jessica Mayberry  
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Office hours: Monday, 11-11:45; Tuesday, 11-3; by appointment if necessary

**Course description:** The goal of this course is to provide students with a general understanding of the basic principles of psychology.

**Student learning outcomes:** By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- Define psychology as a science
- Differentiate between major schools of thought in psychology
- Apply psychology concepts to your life and the lives of those around you
- Display a general knowledge and understanding of psychology

**Required reading:** Huffman, K., and Sanderson, C. A. (2014). *Real world psychology*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.

Additional materials, such as research articles, may be e-mailed or passed out in class.

**Technology requirements:** You will need Internet access, as well as access to Microsoft Word 2007 or later.

**All coursework must be typed and submitted as a Word document (not Notepad, pdf, etc.). Students are expected to turn in quality work, which, in addition to meeting course requirements, is grammatically correct and free of spelling errors.**

**Check your e-mail daily for class and university announcements.**

**Grading:** Grades will be determined based on the total number of points earned on reading glossary assignments, quizzes, examinations, and writing assignments.

**Quizzes:** You will be taking a 10-question, pass/fail quiz over each reading assignment. 60%, or 6 out of ten, constitutes passing on these quizzes. These quizzes are not intended to be stressful, but are merely to ensure that you read the required material, and that you (hopefully) retain what you read.

**Reading Glossary Assignments:** For each assigned chapter, you are expected to read the chapter, identify and define five glossary terms from the chapter that you believe to be important, and provide an example (different from an example provided in the textbook) for each of those terms.

- a. Your personal reading glossary is expected to be typed and submitted to that week's online dropbox by 11:59 pm on the due date
- b. Late assignments and hand-written assignments **WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Writing assignments: You will be assigned two writing assignments over the course of the semester. One will be a summary of a peer-reviewed empirical research article. The other will require you to prepare a two-page paper that addresses some preconceived idea concerning human psychology that you believed upon entering the class. In this paper, you will discuss the evidence, which will consist primarily of empirical studies, that either supports or refutes this idea. As part of this discussion, you should address the principles addressed in the empirical data, the ways that these principles were tested, and how the results apply to the established (or preconceived) principle. In addition, you will discuss the relevance of this knowledge to general society and how such knowledge might be used for bettering the social (or human) condition. In preparing this paper, you will be expected to follow proper principals of grammar and syntactic structure so as to demonstrate appropriate communication skills

Examinations: There will be three non-cumulative exams, as well as a cumulative final exam. These will be multiple choice/fill-in-the-blank/true or false exams. You are required to provide your own Scantron sheets, which can be found in the bookstore.

Course grades are based on the following:

Reading Glossaries: 110 pts  
Quizzes: 40 pts  
Article summary: 100 pts  
Common Myth Paper: 100 pts  
Exam 1: 100 pts  
Exam 2: 100 pts  
Exam 3: 100 pts  
Final exam: 200 pts  
Total: 850 pts

A = 765+ pts  
B = 680-764 pts  
C = 595-679 pts  
D = 510-594 pts  
F = <510 pts

**Late Policy:** There will be ABSOLUTELY NO MAKEUP EXAMS, unless specifically arranged well in advance of the testing date. I am the judge of what constitutes "well in advance." Except for emergency situations, there is no excuse to not email me a week or more in advance to arrange an alternative time to take your exam. Make-ups will only

be given in the case of **verifiable** medical or legal emergencies or university-approved events. Verifiable means that written documentation is provided (e.g., signed doctors' notes, court appearance tickets, funeral programs, etc.). I generally do not accept late assignments. I give assignments with plenty of time to complete them. However, if there is a legitimately good excuse (again, I am the final judge of this!), I *may* accept a writing assignment late. However, there will be a grade deduction for each day that passes beyond the due date. Ultimately, all final decisions regarding late/makeup exams and assignments rest with the instructor.

**Research Participation:** One of the goals of this course is to help familiarize students with psychological research. To help accomplish this goal, as well as to contribute to the research efforts of TAMU-C faculty and students, you will be required to participate in the psychology department's research studies. Six hours will be required; however, "good" participants (e.g., those who are punctual) will be granted full credit for just four hours. In other words, if you show up to your experiments on time you will only need to complete 4 experiment credits. When you first sign into the experiment system (SONA) you will be asked to take a prescreen. The prescreen takes about 20 minutes to complete. If you complete the prescreen in the first two weeks of the semester you will receive ½ free experiment credit. You are only allowed to complete 2 experiment credits with online studies, the remaining experiment credits will need to be obtained by participating in laboratory studies. Additionally, extra credit can be earned by participating in extra research. You can earn one point per hour towards your final grade, 6 points max. If you are unable or unwilling to complete your required research participation, alternative writing assignments will be provided.

These research participation credits do not count towards your grade (with the exception of extra credit hours). However, failure to complete the required research participation will result in a full letter grade drop in your final grade. In other words, if you have earned an A in the class, but failed to meet your research participation requirements, your grade with drop to a B.

**Student Conduct and Attendance:** "All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." Students are expected to follow the code of conduct in class described in the Student Handbook (Policies and Procedures, Code of Conduct). Violation of the code will lead to an initiation of disciplinary processes described in the Handbook. Proper student conduct also includes maintaining a standard of academic honesty. This means that neither cheating nor plagiarism will be tolerated and students who engage in either will be subject to the disciplinary processes described in the Code of Student Conduct. Plagiarism essentially means that you cannot use the words and ideas of another person without giving them credit. Therefore, "quotation marks should be used to indicate the exact words of another. Each time you paraphrase another author you will need to credit the source in the text" (APA, 2001, p. 249). If you have any questions about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, please see me. Ignorance about what constitutes plagiarism/cheating is not a defense. Students who plagiarize any material or engage in cheating in any way will earn a grade of F for the course.

Students are expected to attend all classes unless they have excused absences as described in the Student's Handbook (Policies and Procedures, Academics). When students are absent from class they are responsible for making up the work covered in class and speaking with me about these arrangements. More than 3 absences during the semester is considered excessive. "It is the prerogative of the faculty to drop students from courses in which they have obtained excessive absences as defined in the course syllabus. In such cases, faculty recommend through the department head to the appropriate college dean that a student be dropped from a class. The faculty member will make a reasonable effort to communicate with the student prior to recommending a drop. If approved, the college dean will forward the recommendation to the Records Office (Systems Policy 13.2)." If you miss more five (5) classes you will receive a drop in letter grade no matter what your average may be; after the first five absences, every five absences after will result in an addition drop in letter grade.

Students are responsible for following University procedures to drop a class. If you stop attending class for any reason, you must initiate the process of dropping, or you will receive an F.

**Tardiness:** It happens. However, we take quizzes at the beginning of class. If you are not present when we take a quiz, you will not be allowed to make it up. Additionally, if you are tardy, you will need to see me after class to sign the attendance roster. If you fail to do so, you will be counted absent for the day.

**Cell Phone Use:** In the past, I have been more lenient about cell phone use. My students are adults, and should, in theory, should be treated as such, which includes being trusted to be responsible and respectful with their cell phones in my class. However, in practice, this has caused distractions. Therefore, I now enact a no cell phone policy. I do not want to hear it, I do not want to see it. If I see you on your cell phone during class, you will be asked to leave, and will not receive attendance credit for that day.

\*\*This prohibition includes, but is no limited to: earbuds, headphones, Bluetooth sets, and all other in-ear listening devices. No exceptions.

**Nondiscrimination Statement:** A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

**Accommodations:** 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**

**Schedule:** This schedule is tentative, and subject to change at my discretion.

Week 1, January 19-23: No class Monday; Syllabus, Introduction to Psychology; RG for chapter 1 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>

Week 2, January 26-30: Chapter 1 quiz and lecture; RG for chapter 2 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, February 1st

Week 3, February 2-6: Chapter 2 quiz and lecture; RG for chapter 4 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, February 8th

Week 4, February 9-13: Chapter 4 quiz and lecture; RG for chapter 5 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, February 15th

Week 5, February 16-20: Chapter 5 quiz and lecture; Exam 1 review

Week 6, February 23-27: Exam 1 (over chapters 1, 2, 4, and 5) on Monday; Go over exam; Discuss first writing assignment (article summary); RG for chapter 6 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, March 1st

Week 7, March 2-6: Chapter 6 quiz and lecture; RG for chapter 7 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, March 8th

Week 8, March 9-13: Chapter 7 quiz and lecture; RG for chapter 8 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, March 22nd

**Spring Break – March 16-20**

Week 9, March 23-27: Chapter 8 quiz and lecture; Exam 2 review

Week 10, March 30 – April 3: Exam 2 (over chapters 6, 7, and 8) on Monday; Go over exam; Discuss 2<sup>nd</sup> writing assignment (common myth paper); RG for chapter 10 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, April 5th

Week 11, April 6-10: Chapter 10 quiz and lecture; RG for chapter 11 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, April 12th

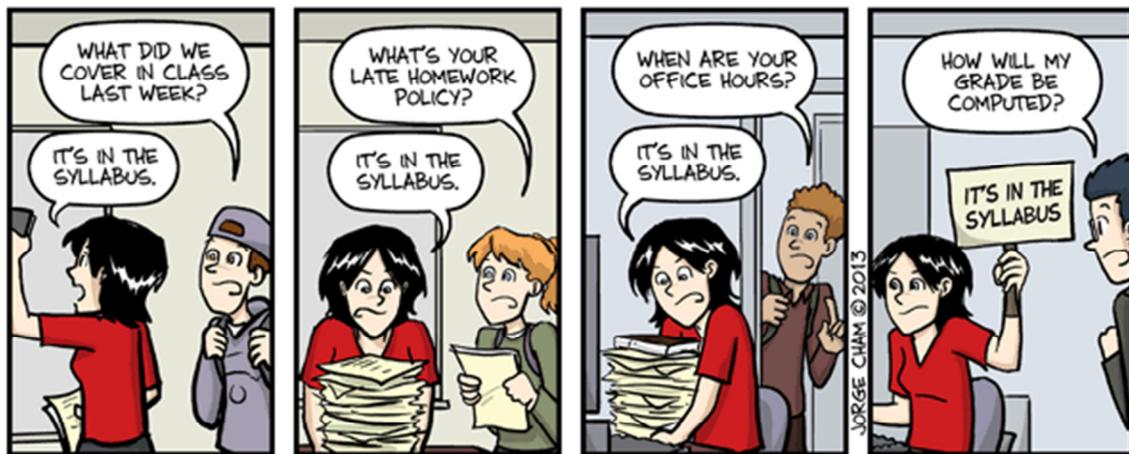
Week 12, April 13-17: Chapter 11 quiz and lecture; RG for chapter 12 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, April 19th

Week 13, April 20-24: Chapter 12 quiz and lecture; RG for chapter 14 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, April 26th

Week 14, April 27 – May 1: Chapter 14 quiz and lecture; Exam 3 review

Week 15, May 4-8: Exam 3 (over chapters 10, 11, 12, and 14) on Monday; Go over exam; Final exam review; Common myth paper due by 11:59pm Saturday, May 9th

**FINAL EXAM: MWF 2-2:50 class: Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1:15pm-3:15pm**  
**MWF 12-12:50 class: Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 8am-10am**



# IT'S IN THE SYLLABUS

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