

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

Instructor: Jessica Mayberry

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Office hours: Monday, 2-5; Thursday, 1-3; Please contact me in class or via e-mail first!

**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, posted on ecollege, 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/homework 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, hand-written assignments, and any assignments not in a Word document **WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
- c. These assignments are to be done individually. If any evidence of collaboration or copying is found, or if I have reasonable suspicion of it, all parties involved will receive zeros on the assignment.

Some weeks, there will be a different or additional type of homework assignment required. I will go over instructions for these assignments in class.

Writing assignments: You will complete 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 two non-cumulative exams, as well as a hybrid half non-cumulative/half cumulative final exam. These will be multiple choice/fill-in-the-blank/true or false exams. You are required to provide your own long, skinny, green or orange Scantron sheets, which can be found in the bookstore.

**Course grades are based on the following:**

Reading Glossaries/Homework: 120 pts

Quizzes: 30 pts

Article summary: 100 pts

Common Myth Paper: 200 pts

Exam 1: 100 pts

Exam 2: 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 will 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.

**In-Class Technology 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, nor do 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 also includes and encompasses, but is no limited to: tablets (such as iPads), electronic reading devices (such as Kindles), handheld gaming systems (such as Nintendo DS), as well as ear buds, headphones, Bluetooth sets, and all other in-ear listening devices. No exceptions.

I do not allow laptops during my lectures unless they are used for the sole purpose of taking notes and following along with class material. If it is discovered that a laptop is being used for any other purpose during my class, that student will be prohibited from using their laptop in my class for the rest of the semester.

**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, Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> & Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>: Syllabus, Introduction to Psychology; Lecture over monism vs. dualism; RG for chapter 1 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>

Week 2, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> & Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>: Chapter 1 (Intro to Psychology and Research Methods) quiz and lecture; RG for chapter 2 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>

Week 3, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> & Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>: Chapter 2 (Neuroscience and Biological Foundations) quiz and lecture; read chapter over evolutionary psychology (in doc sharing on ecollege) and submit reading assignment by 11:59pm on Sunday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>

Week 4, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> & Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>: Evolutionary Psych lecture; RG for chapter 4 due by 11:59 pm on Sunday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>

Week 5, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> & Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>: Chapter 4 (Sensation and Perception) quiz and lecture; RG for chapter 5 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>

Week 6, Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> & Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>: Chapter 5 (States of Consciousness) quiz and lecture; Review for Exam 1; *Neurons to Nirvana* assignment due by 11:59pm on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>

Week 7, October 13<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>: Exam 1 (over chapters 1, 2, 4, and 5, as well as the Evolutionary Psych chapter) on Tuesday; Go over exam and discuss first writing assignment (article summary) on Thursday; RG for chapter 6 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>

Week 8, Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> & Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>: Chapter 6 (Learning) quiz and lecture; RG for chapter 7 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>

Week 9, Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> & Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>: Chapter 7 (Memory) quiz and lecture; RG for chapter 8 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>

Week 10, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> & Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>: Chapter 8 (Thinking, Language, and Intelligence) quiz and lecture; Exam 2 review

Week 11, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> & Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>: Exam 2 (over chapters 6, 7, and 8) on Tuesday; Go over exam and discuss 2<sup>nd</sup> writing assignment (common myth paper) on Thursday (**DO NOT MISS THIS DAY!!!**); RG for chapter 10 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>

Week 12, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> & Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>: Chapter 10 (Motivation and Emotion) quiz and lecture; No class Thursday; No RG due this weekend

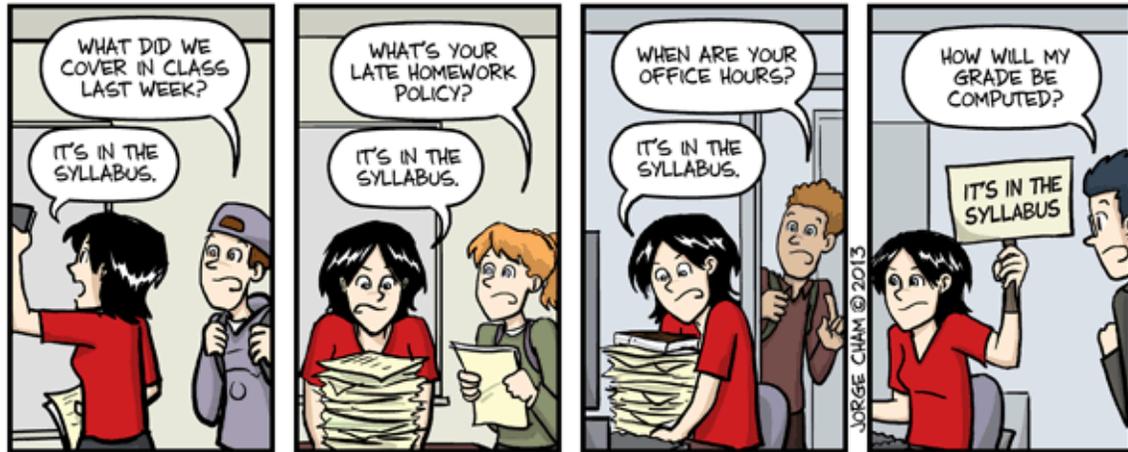
Week 13, Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> & Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>: Finish chapter 10 lecture; No class Thursday (Happy Thanksgiving!); RG for chapter 11 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>

Week 14, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> & Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>: Chapter 11 (Personality) quiz and lecture; RG for chapter 12 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>

Week 15, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> & Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>: Chapter 12 (Psychological Disorders) quiz and lecture; Final Exam Review; Common myth paper due by 11:59pm Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

Your final exam will be 100 questions. The first 50 will be over chapters 10, 11, and 12; the last 50 will be from everything we covered earlier in the course.

**FINAL EXAM: TR 9:30-10:45 class: Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 8am-10am**  
**TR 11-12:15 class: Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 10:30-12:30**



# IT'S IN THE SYLLABUS

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