



**PSY2301: INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY
SYLLABUS
FALL 2015**

Instructor: David Young
Class Location: BA109
Class Times: TR 10:00am-10:50am
Office Location: Binnion 208b (Applied Cognition Lab)
Office Hours: MWF 2:00pm-4:00pm and by appointment
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COURSE INFORMATION

Why are people superstitious? Why do people blush when they are embarrassed? What is intelligence (and are IQ tests a good way to measure it)? Why don't psychopaths feel guilty when they harm others? How reliable are childhood memories? Why do we laugh? Do violent video games make people act violently? Why do some people seem instantly trustworthy and others seem "creepy"? And, how does stress affect our body?

This engaging course will offer insight into the basic principles of psychology including: Psychologists and their discoveries, scientific methods, sensation and perception, nature vs. nurture, human development, learning, thinking, memory, motivation and emotion, personality, stress and coping, disorders, and social psychology.

All coursework must be typed. Students are expected to turn in quality work, which, in addition to meeting content requirements, is grammatically correct and free of spelling errors. Use of the Internet and email is required. Check your emails daily for class and university announcements.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grades will be calculated as follows:

- i. 8 Quizzes (*each worth 2%*)
- ii. 2 Non-Cumulative Exams, and 1 Cumulative Final Exam (*Exam 1=12% ; Exam 2=15% ; Final=20%*)
- iii. 1 Article Summary (*10%*)
- iv. 1 Common Myth Paper (*15%*)
- v. Research Requirement (*6 hours total; 12%*)
 - As an incentive—if you do not have a “No-Show,” you just need 4 hours total by the end of the semester (*see “Students’ Guide to Research Participation”*).
 - You must either participate in either research experiments conducted by the psychology research labs on campus or complete a research paper on a topic TBD.

GRADING:

A = 90 or higher **B** = 80-89 **C** = 70-79 **D** = 60-69 **F** = 59 or Less

LECTURES:

Lecture slides will be made available online for download on eCollege at the end of the week. Please be aware that the lecture slides will often make no sense if you do not attend the lecture itself. If you must miss class, I suggest that you make arrangements to get notes from someone who attended, if possible (I make the slides available as a courtesy to students, but I cannot grant requests to make the slides available in different formats, fonts, file sizes, languages, colors, etc...).

You are expected to read the chapter.

QUIZZES: (16%)

There are 8 total (online). Each quiz is worth 2%. Quizzes consist of 10 multiple-choice questions that will cover class materials (lectures, slides, book chapters, videos, etc.)

EXAMS: (47%)

Exams #1 and #2 will have 40 multiple-choice questions (each worth 2 points) and 2 short answer questions (each worth 10 points). The Final Exam (100 multiple-choice questions) is cumulative. Exams will be based on the content presented in lectures as well as on the assigned readings (with the goal of a roughly 50/50 split of questions taken from the textbook and from the lectures). Anything in the readings may make an appearance on the exam, whether or not it was discussed during the lecture. (Lectures are not intended to be reviews of the textbook chapters, so they will often contain a great deal of information not present in the textbook).

- **Make-up Exams:** Make-up exams will only be given for extenuating circumstances and will almost always require documentation.

JOURNAL ARTICLE SUMMARY: (10%)

A common writing assignment in a variety of college courses is the summary of a particular essay or journal article. Writing a summary teaches you how to condense information and how to read an article more effectively. You will find that most of the academic writing you do will respond to or be based on the ideas – the writing – of others. The goal is not to offer an evaluation or opinion of the original article, but, rather, to report the writer's main ideas and findings. Generally, the length of a summary should be about one quarter to one third of the total length of the article that is being summarized (for example, if the essay you are summarizing is 3 pages, the summary should be roughly 3/4 to one full page). Details will be discussed in class.

COMMON MYTH PAPER: (15%)

In this course, students will be required to prepare a 2-page paper that addresses some preconceived idea concerning human psychology that the student believes upon entering the class. In this paper, the student will discuss the evidence, which will consist primarily of empirical studies, that either *supports or refutes this idea*. As part of this discussion, students 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, the students will discuss the relevance of this knowledge to general society and how such knowledge might be used for bettering the social (or human) condition. *Students will be expected to follow proper principals of grammar and syntactic structure.* **Poor grammar and/or spelling will lower your grade for the assignment.**

RESEARCH REQUIREMENT: (12%)

A goal of this class is to help you familiarize yourself with research methods. One manner to obtain this goal is to have you participate in research studies. Participating in research studies contributes to students and faculty at TAMU-C, your understanding of how research is conducted, and human knowledge in general. All students in this class will be required to participate in the psychology

department's participant pool or complete alternative assignments (*see me for more information on alternative assignments*).

Students must complete 6 experiment credits. *However*, if you complete your first 4 experiment credits without any "no-shows" you will receive 2 free *punctual participant credits*. 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 management system (EMS), you will be asked to take a pre-screen. The prescreen takes approximately 20 minutes to complete. If you complete the pre-screen in the first two weeks of the semester, you will receive ½ of a free experiment credit.

If you fail to complete this portion of the class your grade will be lowered by one full letter grade. In effect, if you have an 'A' in the class but fail to complete your research participation (either through participating in research studies, alternative assignments, or a mixture of both), your final grade in the class will be a 'B.' More information about participating in research, such as how to log in to the EMS, is given at the end of this syllabus.

***** If you are absent on the day that a quiz or exam is given, you need to contact me by the time class starts the following Tuesday in order to make arrangements to take the missed assessment. If I do not hear from you by that time, you will not be able to make up the assessment, and will be given a grade of ZERO for that assessment. *****

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

What can **YOU** expect from **ME**?

I want you all to succeed. I will do my very best to have your assignments or assessments graded by the next class period. If you have any questions at any point during the class, please feel free to ask. In return, you must be willing to put in the required effort. Attending lectures tends to have a big impact on how well you learn the material and your performance on exams.

- Read and re-read the chapters. When you are finished, read it again.

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) *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.

- **NOTE:** Typical classroom disruptions — talking, tardiness, cell-phone use — amplifies tenfold in a lecture hall.

ETHICS:

Ethical behavior is required of every student. Students are also expected to identify ethical policies and practices relevant to course topics.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Respect your fellow students and instructor. It's simple. If you have any questions about whether something might constitute a breach of academic integrity, please do not hesitate to ask your instructor.

CHEATING & PLAGIARISM: Seriously, DON'T DO IT. Texas A&M University-Commerce does not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material. The Student's Guidebook addresses the issues of academic cheating and plagiarism.

CELL PHONE USE:

NO. It is unacceptable. It's not allowed. It's disrespectful and it's a distraction. Do not have it out.

Turn it off or put it on silent. No selfies, absolutely no duck lips, and NO taking pics of lecture slides.

This includes, but is NOT limited to: Earbuds, headphones, Bluetooth sets, and all other in-ear listening devices and gadgetry. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

CHANGES TO CLASS:

Minor changes may be made to this schedule; modifications will be announced via eCollege, email, and/or in class.

DIVERSITY:

Learning to work with and valuing diversity is essential in every degree program. Students are required to act respectfully toward one another and the instructor. Students are also expected to exhibit an appreciation for multinational and gender diversity in the classroom, and develop leadership skills and judgment appropriate to such diversity.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated.

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

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR (<i>tentative</i>)

8/31	Ch. 1	First Day of Class/ Introduction & Research Methods	
9/7	Ch. 2	Neuroscience & Biological Foundations	Quiz #1
9/14	Slides	Evolutionary Psychology	
9/21	Ch. 4	Sensation & Perception	Quiz #2
9/28		EXAM #1	
9/30	Ch. 5	States of Consciousness	
10/5	Ch. 6	Learning/Article Summary Due in Class Friday, 10/9	Quiz #3
10/12	Ch. 7	Memory	
10/19	Ch. 7	Memory/ Topic for Common Myth Paper is Due Wed. 10/21	Quiz #4
10/23		EXAM #2	
		3 Research Participation Credits Due by Friday, Oct. 23rd	
10/26	Ch. 8	Thinking, Language, & Intelligence	
11/2	Ch. 8	Thinking, Language, & Intelligence	Quiz #5
11/9	Ch. 11	Personality	
11/16	Ch. 12	Psychological Disorders	Quiz #6
		No Class on Friday Nov. 20th	
11/23		Common Myth Paper Due in Class on Monday	
11/26—11/29		*****THANKSGIVING BREAK*****	
11/30	Ch. 12	Psychological Disorders	Quiz #7
		3 Research Participation Credits Due by Friday, Dec. 4th <i>You should have 6 credit hours by this point (or 4 if you exceeded standards)</i>	
12/7	Ch. 14	Social Psychology	Quiz #8
12/11		Last Day of Class Friday	
12/14		***FINALS WEEK*** Final Exam TBD	

Students' Guide to Research Participation
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 requires you to fulfill **6** research credits 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 research 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 will 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, Betty Block (Betty.Block@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 credits. 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 at a minimum, you must complete **6** research credits (by participating in research, or alternative assignments, or a mixture of both). However, if you show up on time to all the studies you sign up for you will receive 2 free research credits. In other words, if you show up to all your studies on time you only need to complete **4** research credits.

- **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 two 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.

- **What if I sign up for a study but forget to go?**

If you fail to show up for a study (without canceling prior to the start of the study) you will receive an email alerting you that you were listed as a “no show” for that study. Additionally on the EMS website you will see a “failure to appear” message in your list of studies completed. If this occurs you are no longer

eligible to receive the 2 free credits that participants who are on time to all of their studies receive, and you will have to complete the full 6 credits.

- **What will happen if I fail to participate in studies or do the alternative assignments?**

If you fail to complete your research requirement for the class, there is likely a severe penalty, such as losing a full letter grade (e.g., having a final grade of C rather than B). Your instructor can inform you of what exactly this penalty is.

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

If you do not wish to participate in research studies, you may utilize the alternative assignment option. You must consult your instructor for information about this option.

- **What is the difference between an online study and a laboratory study?**

There are two types of studies that are conducted through the EMS system. You can sign up for both online studies and laboratory studies through the EMS system, however you are only allowed to complete 50% experiment credits through online studies (the system will not allow you sign up for more than 50% credits of online studies). A laboratory study requires that you attend the experiment at a specific time and place (e.g., Henderson 202 at 12:30pm on October 7th).

- **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.

- **If I decide to participate in research, what are my responsibilities?**

You are responsible for...

1. Registering with the Experiment Management System (at <http://tamu-commerce.sona-systems.com/>). You can keep your login information if you already have an account.
2. Scheduling appointments for research participation.
3. Writing down important information about the studies for which you sign up (e.g., name of study/time/location of your experiment, name and contact information of the experimenter).
4. Showing up on time, at the correct location for your scheduled research appointments (you must cancel online, or email/phone the experimenter before the start time of the study if you cannot attend).
5. Keep track of how many credits you need to complete (you can do this on the EMS website). Everyone is required to do 6 credits, however if you are on time for all of your appointments you only need to complete 4 credits.

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. Then you will see the prescreening prompt. Even if you did it in another semester, please do it again, as it likely has changed (and you will receive 1/2 credit if done w/in first 2 weeks of semester).

A. How to create a participant account on the EMS

1. Go to <http://tamu-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 researcher 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.” If you are counted as a “no show” for any studies you are not eligible for the 2 free punctual participant credits.**
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.
2. 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 several days and you still have not received credit, contact the researcher (his or her contact information will 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?

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 (and if any students have “no shows”). 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.