



PSYCH 2301.104CL
General Psychology
Fall 2023
M/W 11:00 -12:20

Instructor Information: Jennifer Abshire, M.A.
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Student hours and location: M/W 12:30–1:30pm Gym office #123. Virtual hours by appointment.

Required Textbook/Materials: *Psychology 2e* (OER), notecards

Course Description: This is an introduction to the field of psychology, dealing with such topics as the scientific method and theories, neuroscience and behavior, perception, consciousness, learning, memory, intelligence, motivation, emotion and stress, personality, psychological disorders, and therapy.

Course requirements:

Chapter Reviews: There will be 15 Reviews due weekly throughout the semester. Details can be found in D2L.

Mini projects: There will be a variety of mini projects using the concepts covered in class. These will be turned into D2L by the dates given.

Perspectives Dialogue: Throughout the semester, questions, videos, and articles will be shown or explained. You will be given a short time to write your opinion, discuss it with a partner or group, then share your ideas with the rest of the class. Variations of this will be done during in class assignments.

Social Responsibility Presentation: (in class presentation) Submitted on D2L

Choose only one option. For either choice, product and presentation will determine your grade, along with 25 points for attendance and feedback to each presenter.

Choice 1: Think of a problem in society that concerns you. Connect it with a chapter we have covered in class. Create a 3-slide power point. Slide one will be your ‘billboard’ that defines the problem and advertises your stance. What will make it stand out at people passing by? Why

should others care about your concern? Slide 2 will be your researched suggestions to help solve the problem and how it connects to the chapter chosen. Slide 3 will be your three references.

Choice 2: Think of an organization you want to bring awareness to. Slide 1 will be the billboard that explains the organization and why they need support. Make sure the name and what they do is clear. What will make it stand out to those passing by? Slide 2 will be details about organization – are they a non-profit/how much do they give back/statistics about them. Make a connection to one of the chapters in the textbook. Slide 3 will be your three references.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:

Assignments	Possible Points	Earned Points	Letter Grade	Points Possible
Mini Projects	300		A	1080 -1200
15 Chapter Reviews (25pts each)	375		B	960 -1079
Critical Thinking Research	200		C	840 -959
In Class Assignments	225		D	720 -839
Social responsibility Project	100		F	719 and below
Extra Credit	25			
Total Points	1200			

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy:

20% will be deducted from Chapter Reviews and projects if late. There will be no makeup for the Social Responsibility Project. The Extra Credit Final will be available December 1 and due by the last day of class in D2L.

Attendance Policy: Being in class is extremely important to the learning process. We explain and discuss concepts that go beyond the textbook to increase understanding of the material covered. Students will fill out a “**Classroom Daily Thought Card**” each day. **Your name, date, and a thought for the day need to be on the card.** I will use the cards to take attendance. I will not ask for the cards; you are expected to turn them in before class starts each day. Communication with your instructor is extremely important. If you are unable to attend class, if possible, e-mail me prior to class. Students are expected to attend each class!

Communicating with your instructor: ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means. The best way to reach me is by email -jabshire3@com.edu or during student hours listed on the syllabus.

Academic Dishonesty: Any incident of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as using AI to write any assignments, copying someone else’s Reviews or Final is an extremely serious offense and will result in a **grade of zero** on that exam and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action.

Student Concerns: If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact Department Chair Shinya Wakao at swakao@com.edu or 409-933-8107.

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Identify various research methods and their characteristics used in the scientific study of psychology	Empirical and Quantitative	Chapter 2 Review
2. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology		Chapter 1 Review
3. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology	Critical Thinking	In class assignments
4. Use terminology unique to the study of psychology		Mini Projects
5. Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation	Empirical and Quantitative	Chapter 16 Review
6. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior	Critical Thinking	Chapter 11 Review
7. Develop, interpret and express ideas through written communication (CS1)	Communication Skills (Written)	Chapter Reviews
8. Develop, interpret and express ideas through oral communication (CS2)	Communication Skills (Oral)	Think, Pair, Shares
9. Demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities. Social	Social Responsibility	Social Responsibility Project

Week		Plan of Action <i>This schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.</i>	What's Due Monday	What's Due Wednesday
1		Ch.1 Introduction to Psychology	8/28	8/30 Notecards
2		Ch.2 Psychological Research	9/4 Labor Day (Holiday)	9/6 CR 2
3		Ch.3 Biopsychology	9/11 Mini project 1	9/13 CR 3
4		Ch. 14 Stress, Lifestyle, and Health	9/18 Mini project 2	9/20 CR14
5		Ch.4 States of Consciousness	9/25	9/27 CR4
6		Chapter 10 Motivation and Emotion	10/2 Mini project 3	10/4 CR10
7		Chapter 9 Lifespan Development	10/9	10/11 CR9
8		Ch.5 Sensation and Perception	10/16	10/18 CR5
9		Ch.7 Thinking and Intelligence	10/23 Mini project 4	10/25 CR7

10		Chapter 6 Learning	10/30	11/1 CR6
11		Chapter 8 Memory	11/6	11/8 CR8
12	Nov. 28 is W day	Chapter 11 Personality	11/13 Mini Project 5	11/15 CR11
13		Chapter 12 Social Psychology	11/21	11/22 CR12
14		Chapter 15 Psychological Disorders	11/27 Mini project 6	11/29 CR15
15		Chapter 16 Therapy and Treatment	12/4	12/6 CR16
16			12/11 Presentations	12/13 Presentation

Institutional Policies and Guidelines

Grade Appeal Process: Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2023-2024_v2.pdf. *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*

Academic Success & Support Services: College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

ADA Statement: Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact Kimberly Lachney at 409-933-8919 or klachney@com.edu. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

Textbook Purchasing Statement: A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Withdrawal Policy: Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a "W" grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1st 8-week session is October 11. The last date to

withdraw from the 16-week session is November 28. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is December 7.

FN Grading: The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

Early Alert Program: The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

Resources to Help with Stress:

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at deanofstudents@com.edu or communityresources@com.edu.