



PSYC-2301-031I1/331I1
General Psychology
Fall 2025
Online

Instructor Information

Name: Douglas A. Alvarez, M.A.

E-mail: DAlvarez6@com.edu

Phone: (409) 933-8435

Student hours and location

Monday: 10:00am – 11:00am

Tuesday: 7:50am – 8:05am (FHS)
10:00am – 11:00am

Wednesday: 9:30am – 11:00am
1:50pm – 2:20pm

Thursday: 7:50am – 8:05am (FHS)
10:00am – 11:00am

Friday: 9:00am – 10:00am (ONLINE)

Weekends: By email

Office Location

Social and Behavioral Sciences Department, LRC Bldg., Suite A Room 228

Required Textbook:

Psychology 2e, by Rose M. Spielman, William J. Jenkins, Marilyn D. Lovett; published by OpenStax.

Course Description:

General Psychology is a survey of the major psychological topics, theories and approaches to the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. Prerequisites: TSIA2 945-990 ELAR/CRC test AND 5 or higher on Essay OR 910-944 on CRC with 5-6 on Diagnostic Test + 5 or higher on Essay, or IRW 0320 with a grade of "C" or better. This is an academic transfer course.

Determination of Course Grade

Communication:

Communication will take place primarily through COM email, so be sure to check your email regularly.

I prefer for students to contact me directly through my COM email address. Please put “Online PSYCHOLOGY Student” in the subject area.

It is my policy to respond to discussion posts, messages, and emails within 48 hours, weekends and holidays excepted. I do hold my students to this same policy, so be sure to check your COM email regularly.

Quiz and Exam grades will be posted immediately to your Grade Center, and grades for Journal Posts and Discussion Forums will generally be updated once a week on Wednesday.

Participation:

You are expected to log into the course a **minimum of 2 times per week** and you should expect to spend at least 2 ½ hours a week in the course reviewing lessons and other course material.

The discussion component of the course requires you to engage your fellow students in “conversation,” which requires you to regularly read and respond to posts. Due to the online nature of this course, it is up to the student to provide thoughtful and elaborate responses to discussion posts in order for the instructor to measure the students’ understanding of the material. In addition, any aggressive, rude, degrading, etc., posts may be deleted without notice to the student. All such responses will receive a grade of 0 for the deleted thread.

Please understand that minimal participation will result in minimal points.

More information about expectations in regards to your postings and replies is provided below in the Grading Rubrics.

Method of Instruction:

This course primarily consists of online lessons and discussions provided by the instructor. Additionally, videos and other supplementary articles may be used to emphasize key issues. The online lessons parallel and reinforce assigned readings; therefore it is essential that students keep up to date with their online work. The online lessons will be open for one week, giving you plenty of time to complete the required materials.

Coursework Policy:

All coursework will be assigned and opened online on a weekly basis. For this course, weeks begin at **12:00am** on the **MONDAY** of the assigned week and end at 11:59pm on the SUNDAY of the assigned week.

EXCEPTION: Due to it being the last week of classes, **Week 8** will be short week. Accommodations have been made and Week 8 assignments will open at 12:00am on Saturday of Week 7 and close at 5:00pm on **WEDNESDAY** of Week 8.

Late Work/Make-Up Policy:

There are **NO** make-up quizzes, assignments, discussions or exams! With **NO** exception! I leave them all open for a wide period of time to give you every opportunity to complete them within the required period. The dates and times that the graded materials are available will be clearly visible in our course. The due dates will also be posted on the course schedule.

Failure to complete an assignment: All assignments will be due by the date assigned by the professor. **NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Chapter Quizzes:

There will be a total of 13 Chapter Quizzes and 1 syllabus quiz, with each quiz having a **maximum of 20 points**. Quizzes will be assigned for each chapter and each quiz will have a total of 20 questions. Chapter Quizzes may include a combination of true/false, multiple choice, and/or matching questions. Each Chapter Quiz will be timed and you will have a total of 35 minutes to complete each quiz.

All students must complete the online quizzes by the scheduled date. There are **NO Make-up Quizzes**.

NOTE: Please be aware that although you have one full week to take the quizzes, once the quiz has started it must be completed in one timed session.

Discussion Forum Posts:

Each student will be required to complete 1 Introduction Forum and 12 Discussion Forum posts throughout the semester. These posts will allow you to discuss a topic related to the assigned chapter in greater depth.

In the Introduction Forum, each student will be required to complete an Introduction Post during the first week of classes. This post will allow you to introduce yourself to the class with a short biography. In this biography, you can include any details about yourself that will allow your fellow students to “put a person to the name”. The Introductions Forum Post will be worth a **maximum of 20 points**.

Each Discussion Forum Post has the following instructions:

1. Review the assigned article(s) or video(s)

2. Post a brief description of the topic and discuss what they have learned
3. Post a brief summary of their thoughts are on the topic
4. Reply to a minimum of one other student's posts and rate it

Each Discussion Forum Post will be worth a **maximum of 15 points**.

You will earn up to 5 points for your description of the topic and what you have learned, up to 5 points for your thoughts on the topic, and up to 5 points for your reply to another student.

NOTE: Responses can be deleted at the discretion of the instructor. Responses will only be deleted if the instructor determines them to be aggressive, rude, degrading, etc., and they may be deleted without notice to the student. All such responses will receive a grade of 0 for the deleted thread. Please refer to the syllabus for more information regarding student conduct and expectations.

Unapproved usage of AI

Any assignment containing any AI generated material will receive a **grade of zero**, be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action, and **ALL** assignments in that category (e.g. writing assignments, homework, personal essays, etc.) will be reassessed and regraded. This may result in multiple assignments' grades being affected (e.g. lowered).

Presentation Post:

Each student will be required to complete 4 Presentation Posts throughout the semester. This Presentation Post will help students examine some of the ethical issues within psychology and identify how these impact our society on the community, state and national level. Further, this presentation will allow students to examine the importance of being knowledgeable of their own personal biases and/or stereotypes, and how they can be more informed in their future interactions.

Each Presentation Post has the following instructions:

1. Review the assigned Discussion Forum topic(s) and Choose one you would like to expand on.
2. Develop and record a **5 minute** minimum presentation covering your personal research into the topic. Please use 1-2 sources outside of those provided by the instructor.
3. **RECORD YOUR PRESENTATION DIRECTLY INTO BRIGHTSPACE USING THE RECORD VIDEO OPTION**

Submit Assignment

Files to submit *

(0) file(s) to submit

After uploading, you must click **Submit** to complete the submission.

Add a File Record Audio **Record Video**

Each Presentation Post will be worth a **maximum of 35 points**. You will earn up to 15 points for Quality of Information and Organization, up to 15 points for Quality of Verbal Communication, and up to 10 points for Quality of Non-Verbal Communication.

ALL PRESENTATIONS LESS THAN 5 MINUTES WILL NOT BE GRADED!

Exams:

There will be a total of 4 Exams, with each exam having a maximum of 100 points. Exams will be broken down into sections containing between 2 and 4 chapters, and each exam will have a total of 100 questions. Exams may include a combination of true/false, multiple choice, matching, and/or short answer questions. Exams will be timed and you will have a total of 120 minutes to complete each exam.

All students must complete the online exams by the scheduled date. There are **NO Make-up Exams**.

NOTE: Please be aware that although you have one full week to take the exam, once the exam has been started it must be completed in one timed session.

Detailed Grading Formula

ASSIGNMENT	POINTS EACH	TOTAL POINTS
Quizzes (14)*	20	260*
Introduction Forum (1)	20	20
Discussion Forum (12)	15	180
Exams (4)	100	400
Presentation Posts (3)	35	140
GRAND TOTAL		1000

*Your Lowest Quiz Grade will be dropped

Grading Scale

EARNED POINTS	LETTER GRADE
900 – 1000	A
800 – 899	B
700 – 799	C
600 – 699	D
0 – 599	F

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

Late Work/Make-Up Policy:

It is advised that you submit **ALL** assignments **BEFORE THE DUE DATE**.

There are **NO** make-up quizzes, assignments, discussions or exams! **With NO exception!** I leave them all open for a wide period of time to give you every opportunity to complete them within the required period. The dates and times that the graded materials are available will be clearly visible in Brightspace. The due dates will also be posted on the course schedule.

NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to make changes and accommodations regarding late work, but will only do so if accommodations are discussed prior to the due date. **AFTER THE DUE DATE, NO ACCOMMODATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED OR LATE WORK ACCEPTED.**

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Attendance Policy:

If you want to pass, come to class. In an online environment, this means that you are expected to log into the course a minimum of two times per week and you should expect to spend at least 2 ½ hours a week in the course reviewing lessons and other course material. The online material goes beyond the material presented in the text, and you will be held accountable for this material on the exams and course assignments. The discussion component of the course also requires you to engage your fellow students in “conversation,” which requires you to regularly read and respond to posts. **For each week that you do not log in at least twice this semester, 15 points (per week) will be deducted from your overall points total.**

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. (Faculty may add additional statement requiring monitoring and communication expectations via Brightspace or other LMS)

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	Writing Assignments, Quizzes and Exams
2. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology	Critical Thinking	Writing Assignments, Quizzes and Exams
3. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology	Critical Thinking	Writing Assignments, Quizzes and Exams
4. Use terminology unique to the study of psychology	Communication Skills (Oral) Communication Skills (Written)	Writing Assignments, Quizzes, Presentation and Exams
5. Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation	Empirical and Quantitative	Writing Assignments, Quizzes, Exams, Presentation
6. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes	Critical Thinking	Writing Assignments, Quizzes, Presentation and Exams

involved in human behavior		
7. (CS1) Develop, interpret and express ideas through written communication	Communication Skills (Written)	Writing Assignments, Presentation and Exams (Short Answers)
8. (CS2) Develop, interpret and express ideas through oral communication	Communication Skills (Oral)	Writing Assignments, Classroom Discussions and Presentation
9. (SR) Demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.	Social Responsibility	Writing Assignments and Presentation

Academic Dishonesty:

Any incident of academic policy will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as cheating on exams 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.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is using someone else’s words or ideas and claiming them as your own. Plagiarism is a very serious offense. Plagiarism includes paraphrasing someone else’s words without giving proper citation, copying directly from a website and pasting it into your paper, using someone else’s words without quotation marks. Any assignment containing any plagiarized material will receive a **grade of zero** and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action.

Link(s) to resource(s) about avoiding plagiarism:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/02/>

<http://en.writecheck.com/ways-to-avoid-plagiarism/>

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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 Dr. Shinya Wakao at 409-933-8107 or swakao@com.edu.

Course Outline - Students are responsible for any and all schedule changes

DATE	CHAPTER & TOPIC	Quiz	Assignment
Week 1 8/18 – 1/24	Course Introduction Syllabus Chapter 1 Introduction to Psychology Chapter 2 Psychological Research	Syllabus Ch. 1 Ch. 2	Introduction Post Ch. 2 Discussion Post
Week 2 8/25 – 8/31	Chapter 3 Biopsychology Chapter 4 States of Consciousness EXAM 1 (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4)	Ch. 3 Ch. 4	Ch. 3 Discussion Post Ch. 4 Discussion Post Presentation Post 1
Week 3 9/1 – 9/7	Chapter 5 Sensation and Perception Chapter 6 Learning	Ch. 5 Ch. 6	Ch. 5 Discussion Post Ch. 6 Discussion Post
Week 4 9/8 – 9/14	Chapter 7 Thinking and Intelligence EXAM 2 (Chapters 5, 6, 7) Chapter 9 Lifespan Development	Ch. 7 Ch. 9	Ch. 7 Discussion Post Ch. 9 Discussion Post Presentation Post 2
Week 5 9/15 – 9/21	Chapter 10 Emotion and Motivation Chapter 11 Personality	Ch. 10 Ch. 11	Ch. 10 Discussion Post Ch. 11 Discussion Post
Week 6 9/22 – 9/28	Chapter 12 Social Psychology EXAM 3 (Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12) Chapter 14 Stress, Lifestyle, and Health	Ch. 12 Ch. 14	Ch. 12 Discussion Post Presentation Post 3 Ch. 14 Discussion Post
Week 7 9/29 – 10/5	Chapter 15 Psychological Disorders Chapter 16 Therapy and Treatment	Ch. 15 Ch. 16	Ch. 15 Discussion Post Ch. 16 Discussion Post
Week 8 10/6 – 10/9	Exam 4 (Chapters 14, 15, 16)		Presentation Post 4

NOTE: Be aware of the following

****Due to it being the last week of classes, Week 8 will be short week.*****

ALL assignments will close at 5:00PM on WEDNESDAY of Week 8.

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/student-handbook.html>

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, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: AccessibilityServices@com.edu

Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, 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 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 14. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is November 25.

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.

Nondiscrimination Statement:

The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.

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