



**PSYC-2301-302CL  
General Psychology  
Fall 2021  
Tuesday/Thursday 8:05a – 9:25a**

**Instructor Information**

**Name:** Douglas A. Alvarez, M.A.

**E-mail:** DAlvarez6@com.edu

**Phone:** (409) 933-8435

**Student hours and location**

Monday/Wednesday: 9:00am – 11:00am

Tuesday/Thursday: 7:45am – 8:05am (FHS)  
1:30pm – 3:00pm (Online)

Friday: Online by appointment or email

Weekends: By email

**Office Location**

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

**Required Textbook:**

Psychology in Everyday Life, 3rd edition; by David G. Myers; published by Worth Publishers, 2014.

**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.

**Course requirements**

**Class Discussions and Attendance (10%):**

Because class discussion and in-class exercises are critical to the learning process, they will count as a portion of your final grade. PLEASE BE ON TIME FOR CLASS. Attendance will be taken within the first 10 minutes of class, anyone showing up to class after attendance has been taken will be considered absent. This not only provides for an opportunity to participate in class discussion, but also provides a relatively easy way for students to earn points toward a higher grade.

**Chapter Quizzes (20%):**

There will be a total of **13 Chapter Quizzes** and **1 syllabus quiz**. Quizzes will be assigned for most chapters and will cover textbook, lecture, videos, class demonstrations, and handouts. All Chapter Quizzes will be given following the completion of a chapter. All students must complete the quizzes on the scheduled date. There are **NO Make-up Quizzes**.

I will **DROP YOUR LOWEST 2 Quiz Grades**. The grades of your **10 BEST** Chapter Quiz Scores will be used to calculate your final grade.

**Writing Assignments (40%):**

There will be a total of **13 Writing Assignments**, with each having a maximum of 100 points. Writing assignments will be completed on Blackboard and be assigned for each chapter.

**NOTE:** The writing assignments will be posted at the start of the chapter with a due date. Please be sure to make time to complete the assignment before the due date.

All students must complete the assignments by the scheduled date. There are **NO Make-up assignments**. I will drop your two lowest Writing Assignment grades.

More information and detailed instructions about the writing assignments will be provided through Blackboard.

**Research Project (30%):**

Each student will be required to complete a research project. The project will include a written and an oral component. This assignment 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.

Students **may choose their topic or one will be assigned**. Examples of research paper topics include, but are not limited to, Gender and Sexuality, Sexual Orientation: Nature vs. Nurture, Living with Psychological Disorders. Grading Rubric and more detailed information will be provided after according to the course schedule/calendar.

**Extra Credit (Optional):**

Extra Credit opportunities will be provided throughout the semester for students to earn points toward a higher grade. All extra credit must be approved by the instructor and turned in prior to Week 13.

**Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula**

| Grading Breakdown             |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Coursework                    | Percent |
| CLASS DISCUSSION & ATTENDANCE | 10      |
| CHAPTER QUIZZES               | 20      |
| WRITING ASSIGNMENTS           | 40      |
| RESEARCH PROJECT              | 30      |
| TOTAL POSSIBLE                | 100     |

| Attendance |                 |
|------------|-----------------|
| Absences   | Points Deducted |
| 0          | - 0             |
| 1          | - 5             |
| 2          | - 10            |
| 3          | - 15            |
| 4          | - 30            |
| 5          | - 40            |
| 6 OR MORE  | - 100           |

| Grading Computation |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| Letter Grade        | Percent    |
| A                   | 90 OR MORE |
| B                   | 80 - 89    |
| C                   | 70 – 79    |
| D                   | 60 – 69    |
| F                   | 59 OR LESS |

**Make-Up Policy**

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

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

**Attendance Policy:**

Because class discussion, in-class exercises, and out of class work are critical to the learning process, attendance will count towards your final grade and consist of attendance to classes and classroom participation.

**PLEASE BE ON TIME FOR CLASS.** Attendance will be taken within the **FIRST 10 MINUTES** of class, anyone showing up to class after attendance has been taken WILL be considered absent. On time attendance not only provides for an opportunity to participate in

class discussion, but also provides a relatively easy way for students to earn points toward a higher grade. **No distinction will be made between excused vs. unexcused absences.**

**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 Blackboard or other LMS)

| <b>Student Learner Outcome</b>  | <b>Maps to Core Objective</b>                                 | <b>Assessed via this Assignment</b>                 |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Identify various research methods and their characteristics used in the scientific study of psychology | Empirical and Quantitative                                    | Discussion Topics, Writing Assignments, and Quizzes |
| 2. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology    | Critical Thinking   | Discussion Topics, Writing Assignments, and Quizzes |
| 3. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology             | Critical Thinking   | Discussion Topics, Writing Assignments, and Quizzes |
| 4. Use terminology unique to the study of psychology  | Communication Skills (Oral)<br>Communication Skills (Written) | Discussion Topics, Writing Assignments, and Quizzes |
| 5. Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation                  | Empirical and Quantitative                                    | Discussion Topics, Writing Assignments, and Quizzes |
| 6. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior               | Critical Thinking   | Discussion Topics, Writing Assignments, and Quizzes |

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

**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://www.com.edu/on-site-services/speaking-reading-writing-center.php>

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

**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 (409) 933-8212.

| <b>Tentative Course Outline</b> |             |   |              |   |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---|--------------|---|
|                                 | <b>Tues</b> | <b>Class Discussions</b>  | <b>Thurs</b> | <b>Class Discussions</b>  |
| Week 1                          | 8/24        | Course Introduction<br>Syllabus<br>Chapter 1 Psychology's Roots, Big Ideas, and Critical Thinking Tools | 8/26         | Chapter 1 Psychology's Roots, Big Ideas, and Critical Thinking Tools<br><b>Syllabus Quiz (Open 8/24, Due 9/5)</b><br><b>Chapter 1 Quiz (Open 8/24, Due 9/5)</b><br><b>Writing Assignment (Open 8/24, Due 9/5)</b> |
| Week 2                          | 8/31        | Chapter 2 The Biology of Mind and Consciousness   | 9/2          | Chapter 2 The Biology of Mind and Consciousness<br><b>Chapter 2 Quiz (Open 8/31, Due 9/5)</b><br><b>Writing Assignment (Open 8/31, Due 9/5)</b>   |
| Week 3                          | 9/7         | Chapter 3 Developing Through the Life Span  | 9/9          | Chapter 3 Developing Through the Life Span<br><b>Chapter 3 Quiz (Open 9/7, Due 9/12)</b><br><b>Writing Assignment (Open 9/7, Due 9/12)</b>  |
| Week 4                          | 9/14        | Chapter 4 Gender and Sexuality  | 9/16         | Chapter 4 Gender and Sexuality<br><b>Chapter 4 Quiz (Open 9/14, Due 9/19)</b><br><b>Writing Assignment (Open 9/14, Due 9/19)</b>  |
| Week 5                          | 9/21        | Chapter 5 Sensation and Perception  | 9/23         | Chapter 5 Sensation and Perception<br><b>Chapter 5 Quiz (Open 9/21, Due 9/26)</b><br><b>Writing Assignment (Open 9/21, Due 9/26)</b>  |
| Week 6                          | 9/28        | Chapter 6 Learning  | 9/30         | Chapter 6 Learning<br><b>Chapter 6 Quiz (Open 9/28, Due 10/3)</b><br><b>Writing Assignment (Open 9/28, Due 10/3)</b>  |
| Week 7                          | 10/5        | Chapter 8 Thinking, Language, and Intelligence  | 10/7         | Chapter 8 Thinking, Language, and Intelligence<br><b>Chapter 8 Quiz (Open 10/5, Due 10/10)</b><br><b>Writing Assignment (Open 10/5, Due 10/10)</b>  |
| Week 8                          | 10/12       | Chapter 9 Motivation and Emotion  | 10/14        | Chapter 9 Motivation and Emotion<br><b>Chapter 9 Quiz (Open 10/12, Due 10/17)</b><br><b>Writing Assignment (Open 10/12, Due 10/17)</b>  |

|         |       |  |       |   |
|---------|-------|--|-------|---|
| Week 9  | 10/19 | Chapter 10 Stress, Health, and Human Flourishing | 10/21 | Chapter 10 Stress, Health, and Human Flourishing<br><b>Chapter 10 Quiz (Open 10/19, Due 10/24)</b><br><b>Writing Assignment (Open 10/19, Due 10/24)</b> |
| Week 10 | 10/26 | Chapter 11 Personality                           | 10/28 | Chapter 11 Personality<br><b>Chapter 11 Quiz (Open 10/26, Due 10/31)</b><br><b>Writing Assignment (Open 10/26, Due 10/31)</b>                           |
| Week 11 | 11/2  | Chapter 12 Social Psychology                     | 11/4  | Chapter 12 Social Psychology<br><b>Chapter 12 Quiz (Open 11/2, Due 11/7)</b><br><b>Writing Assignment (Open 11/2, Due 11/7)</b>                         |
| Week 12 | 11/9  | Chapter 13 Psychological Disorders               | 11/11 | Chapter 13 Psychological Disorders<br><b>Chapter 13 Quiz (Open 11/9, Due 11/14)</b><br><b>Writing Assignment (Open 11/9, Due 11/14)</b>                 |
| Week 13 | 11/16 | Chapter 14 Therapy                               | 11/18 | Chapter 14 Therapy<br><b>Chapter 14 Quiz (Open 11/16, Due 11/21)</b><br><b>Writing Assignment (Open 11/16, Due 11/21)</b>                               |
| Week 14 | 11/23 | <b>NO CLASS<br/>Thanksgiving Break</b>           | 11/25 | <b>NO CLASS<br/>Thanksgiving Break</b>  |
| Week 15 | 11/30 | <b>Project Presentations</b>                     | 12/2  | <b>Project Presentations</b>  |
| Week 16 | 12/7  | <b>Project Presentations</b>                     | 12/9  | <b>Project Presentations</b>  |

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**Technology Outage Policy:** Please be aware that outages do occur. If a student becomes aware of a Blackboard outage or is having difficulties accessing their Blackboard account, please contact Blackboard Student Support - DE Hotline at 409-933-8453. Phone hours are Monday through Friday between 8:00am and 5:00pm. After 5:00pm or on weekends, please leave a message with the following information: Student name, COM ID, phone number and issue. Please plan on completing assignments during the work week (Mon-Fri) in case a Blackboard outage or problem occurs. If you wait until the last minute and Blackboard has an outage, your grade can be affected.

## 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://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student\\_Handbook\\_2019-2020v5.pdf](https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.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.* [https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student\\_Handbook\\_2019-2020v5.pdf](https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf)

**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 Holly Bankston at 409-933-8520 or [hbankston@com.edu](mailto:hbankston@com.edu). The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

**Counseling Statement:** Any student needing counseling services is requested to please contact Holly Bankston in the student success center at 409-933-8520 or [hbankston@com.edu](mailto:hbankston@com.edu). Counseling services are available on campus in the student center for free and students can also email [counseling@com.edu](mailto:counseling@com.edu) to set up their appointment. Appointments are strongly encouraged; however, some concerns may be addressed on a walk-in basis.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week session is October 6. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 19. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is December 2.

**F<sub>N</sub> Grading:** The F<sub>N</sub> grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The F<sub>N</sub> 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 F<sub>N</sub> grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an F<sub>N</sub> 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.

**COVID-19 Statement:** All students, faculty, and staff are expected to familiarize themselves with materials and information contained on the College of the Mainland's Coronavirus Information site at [www.com.edu/coronavirus](http://www.com.edu/coronavirus). In compliance with Governor Abbott's May 18 Executive Order, face coverings/masks will no longer be required on COM campus. Protocols and college signage are being updated. We will no longer enforce any COM protocol that requires face coverings. We continue to encourage all members of the COM community to distance when possible, use hygiene measures, and get vaccinated to protect against COVID-19. Please visit [com.edu/coronavirus](http://com.edu/coronavirus) for future updates.