



PSYCH 2301.011I4
General Psychology
Summer I 2025

Instructor Information: Jennifer Abshire, MA jabshire3@com.edu

Student hours and location: virtual T/TH 9 -10am or by appointment

Required Textbook/Materials: *Psychology 2e* (OER imbedded in D2L)

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: D2L discussions, mini-projects, and final presentation.

Discussions:

Discussions represent the interactive component of this course. The graded topics are related to the readings, presentations, and/or current events taking place in psychology today. These forums are a way of exchanging information with your fellow students. You will receive a grade for your thoughtful participation in the discussions associated with each of the topics. Remember that you need to be able to support your position with knowledge and research on a particular topic with reliable sources if necessary.

Mini Projects: There will be a variety of mini projects expanding on the concepts covered in class. These 8 projects will be turned into D2L by the dates given.

Critical Thinking Research Oral Presentation Final Project:

The research should look objectively at an issue in society. You will present your findings in an unbiased manner at the end of the semester with a presentation. (More information can be found within D2L assignment link.)

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:

Assignments	Possible Points	Letter Grade	Points Possible
8 Mini Projects (50pts each)	400	A	900-1000
15 discussions (30pts each)	450	B	800-899
Critical Thinking Research	150	C	600-799
Total Points	1000	F	599 and below

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy: 20% will be deducted from any assignment or project if late. All late work must be in by June 30.

Attendance Policy:

You should attend class regularly. COM policy states that “students are not permitted a determined number of absences”. Regular class attendance will be logging into the online class at least 2 - 3 times each week. You should expect to spend about 9 hours each week reviewing announcements and instructions, participating in discussions, and completing assignments.

Census Day Participation Policy: *Students in online classes must participate (as defined in the syllabus) during the first week of classes, or they will be dropped from the class for non-attendance. Students who have not attended their in-person or hybrid class by Census Day will automatically be dropped from their class for non-attendance. (COM Student Handbook, pg. 27)*

NOTE: If for any reason the college closes, continue to work on the assignments spelled out in your syllabus and refer to D2L for further instructions.

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

Student Learner Outcomes	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
Identify various research methods and their characteristics used in the scientific study of psychology	Empirical and Quantitative	Discussion Board
Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology		Mini project
3. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology	Critical Thinking	Final Project
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	Discussion board
6. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior	Critical Thinking	Final Project
7. Develop, interpret and express ideas through written communication (CS1)	Communication Skills (Written)	Discussion Board
8. Develop, interpret and express ideas through oral communication (CS2)	Communication Skills (Oral)	Oral Presentation
9. Demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities. Social	Social Responsibility	Final Project

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 projects is an extremely serious offense and will

result in a grade of zero on that assignment 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.

Course outline:

	Discussion Board Due Fridays	Topics <i>This schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.</i>	To Do	Assignments due Thursdays and Sundays
Week 1	Due by June 6: Discussions 1,2, and 3	Ch.1 Intro to Psychology Ch. 2 Psychological Research Ch. 3 Biopsychology	Explore! Read Ch.1,2, and 3 Survey*	Mini Project 1 applying research Mini Project 2: Your Brain on TV
Week 2	Due by June 13: Discussion 4,5, and 6	Ch. 14 Stress, Lifestyle, and Health Ch. 4 States of Consciousness Ch. 10 Motivation and Emotion	Read Ch. 14,4, and 10	Mini Project 3- Values Mini Project 4 – Meaningful Photos
Week 3	Due by June 20: Discussions 7, 8, and 9	Ch. 9 Lifespan Development Ch.5 Sensation and Perception Ch. 7 Thinking and Intelligence	Read Ch. 9, 5, and 7	Mini Project 5:The Blue Zones
Week 4	Due by June 27: Discussions 10, 11, and 12	Ch. 6 Learning Ch. 8 Memory Ch. 11 Personality	Read Ch. 6, 8, and 11	Mini Project 6: Learning Mini Project 7: Personality Tests
Week 5	Due by July 2: Discussions 13,14, and 15	Ch. 12 Social Psychology Ch. 15 Psychological Disorders Ch. 16 Therapy and Treatment	Read Ch. 12, 15, and 16	Mini Project 8: Favorite Chapter Oral 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_2024-2025_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, 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 5-week session is June 30. The last date to withdraw from the 10-week session is July 29. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 5-week session is August 1.

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.