



**PSYC-2301-135H2**  
**General Psychology**  
**(FALL 2024)**  
**HYBRID**

**Instructor Information:** Dr. Esther Odamah, [eodamah@com.edu](mailto:eodamah@com.edu), 409-933-8306

**Office (Student) Hours & Location:** LRC Suite A, Office 218  
Monday & Wednesday 11:00AM-12:30PM; *Monday & Wednesday Online 8:00-9:00 AM*,  
Tuesday & Thursday 11:00AM-12:30 PM & by appointment

**Required Textbook/Materials:** This course will be using the OpenStax Psychology textbook. The OpenStax Psychology textbook is ***FREE*** to students and can be found online in our D2L course room. To access the textbook, login to our D2L course room and click *Content* tab then click the *Class Textbook* tab.

**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:**

**RESEARCH PARTICIPATION:**

**A. Option 1: Experimental Participation**

This method requires you to participate in **three** online experiments for a total of 100 points. The online experiments are through Psychological Research on the Net and may be accessed here <https://psych.hanover.edu/research/exponnet.html#Educational> . You may choose any experiment to participate and complete online. The last day for participation is week 14. More information may be found in our D2L course room. Login and click *Content* tab then click the *Research Participation* tab.

**B. Option 2: Two summaries of two published research articles**

Any student that is unable to complete the online experiment may fulfill this requirement by submitting summaries of **two** published research articles. More information may be found in our D2L course room. Login and click *Content* tab then click the *Research Participation* tab.

**CHAPTER QUIZZES:**

There will be a total of 15 Chapter quizzes that will be done online in our D2L classroom. (See the section of “Required Textbook/Materials”) with each quiz assignment having a **maximum of 100 points**. Quizzes will be assigned for each chapter.

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

**NOTE:** Please be aware that although you have one full week to complete the chapter quizzes it is discouraged to start close to the due date.

### **DISCUSSION BOARDS:**

Each student will be required to complete 1 Introduction Forum and 14 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 **100 points**.

Each Discussion Forum Post has the following instructions:

1. Review the assigned topic questions, article(s) or video(s)
2. Post a brief description of the topic and/or answer required questions
3. Post a brief summary of their thoughts are on the topic
4. Reply to a minimum of two other student’s posts

Each Discussion Forum Post will be worth a **maximum of 100 points**.

You will earn up to 35 points for your description of the topic and what you have learned, up to 35 points for your thoughts on the topic, and up to 30 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.

**IN CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:** In class assignments will be given at the start of every class. This is to ensure students are actively coming to class, engaging in class, and reading the textbook. Students will have 10-15 minutes to complete the in class assignment given at the start of class. **NO IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS** can be made up but will be made available for students to use in study for exams. Two lowest assignment grades will be dropped at the end of the semester.

### **PRESENTATIONS:**

Students will have one presentation as individuals and in groups. Each student will be required to complete 2 presentations throughout the semester. These Presentation will help students examine various topics in the field of 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. Research the assigned topic
2. Develop a 7-10 minute presentation on the topic. Specific instructions will be provided.
3. Share your presentation with the class. Specific instructions will be provided

Each Presentation will be worth a **maximum of 100 points**. You will earn up to 30 points for Quality of Information and Organization, up to 30 points for Quality of Verbal Communication, up to 30 points for Quality of Non-Verbal Communication and up to 10 points for the Written Summary.

**ALL PRESENTATIONS LESS THAN 7 MINUTES WILL NOT BE GRADED!**

**EXAM:**

There will be a total of 4 Exams, with each exam having a maximum of 100 points. Each exam will cover 4 chapters. The exam will have a total of 40 questions (true/false, multiple choice, and matching). Exams will be timed and you will **not** have the total class time to complete each exam.

All students must complete the exams in class. There are **NO Make-up Exams**. Students arriving to the exam more than 20 minutes late will not be allowed to take the exam.

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

Grading Formula

Category	% of Grade
EXAMS	50%
CHAPTER QUIZZES, DISCUSSION BOARDS	20%
IN CLASS ASSIGNMENTS	10%
PRESENTATIONS	10%
RESEARCH PARTICIPATION	10 %
TOTAL	100%

<u>Grading Scale</u>	
	90 – 100 A
	80 – 89 B
	70 – 79 C
	60 – 69 D
	Below 60 F

**Late Work and Make-Up Policy**

**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 16** will be short week. Accommodations have been made and Week 16 assignments will open at 12:00am on SATURDAY of Week 15 and close at 5:00pm on THURSDAY of Week 16.

**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 D2L. 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.**

### **Attendance**

Students are to attend each class, be on time and stay in the classroom during the entire class session. Students are to communicate with the instructor if the need arises to miss a class. Regular attendance is a critical component to being successful in this course and college.

**In class assignments are randomly given to ensure consistent attendance and cannot be made up. These assignments are a participation grade and constitute the 30% of the course grade (chapter quizzes, discussion board, and in class assignments).**

**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 D2L or other LMS)

### **Student Learner Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Identify various research methods and their characteristics used in the scientific study of psychology.
2. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology.
3. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology.
4. Use terminology unique to the study of psychology.
5. Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation.
6. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior.
7. Develop, interpret, and express ideas through written communication.
8. Develop, interpret, and express ideas through oral communication.

- Demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

### Core Objectives

Students successfully completing this course will demonstrate competency in the following Core Objectives:

- Critical Thinking Skills\*:** Students will demonstrate creative thinking, innovation, and the ability to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information.
- Communication Skills\*:** Develop, interpret, and express ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.
- Social Responsibility\*:** Students will demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
- Empirical and Quantitative Skills\*:** To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.

**Table Mapping SLOs, Core Objectives and Assignments:**

Student Learner Outcome (SLO)	Maps to Core Objective (CO)	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Identify various research methods and their characteristics used in the scientific study of psychology	Empirical and Quantitative	Discussion Board, Exams, Chapter Quiz, and In Class Activities, Research Participation
2. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology		Discussion Board, Exams, and Chapter Quiz
3. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology	Critical Thinking	Discussion Board, Exams, and Chapter Quiz
4. Use terminology unique to the study of psychology		Discussion Board, Presentation, In Class Activities, and Exams
5. Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation	Empirical and Quantitative	Discussion Board, Exams, and Chapter Quiz
6. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior	Critical Thinking	Discussion Board, Presentations, Exams, and Chapter Quiz
7. (CS1) Develop, interpret and express ideas through written communication	Communication Skills (Written)	Discussion Board, Presentations, Exams, and Essays

8. (CS2) Develop, interpret and express ideas through oral communication	Communication Skills (Oral)	Discussion Board, In Class Activities, and Presentations
9. (SR) Demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.	Social Responsibility	Discussion Board, Presentations, and Exams, Research Participation

**Academic Dishonesty:** Any incidents of academic dishonesty are reported in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as cheating on exams or papers will result in a grade of zero on that exam or paper.

*“Intellectual honesty is vital to an academic community and for my fair evaluation of your work. All work submitted in this course must be your own, completed in accordance with the college’s academic regulations. You may not engage in unauthorized collaboration or make use of ChatGPT or other AI composition software.”*

**Turnitin:** All papers will be submitted to Turnitin. Please check your similarity report, this flags plagiarism. Also, Turnitin now checks to see if your paper was written by Artificial Intelligence, you will not see this percentage, but your instructor will. Any percentage of Artificial Intelligence usage will result in a zero for your paper. Do not use Grammarly or any other online helpers to help you write your paper, it will show up as Artificial Intelligence. If you need help with papers use the COM Tutoring Center.

### Cell Phone Use

You may use laptops or tablets in this class to consult online readings or to take notes. However, any other use of these devices and the ***use of cell phones is strictly prohibited***. Place your phone on mute before you come to class and please make sure it is not visible. Violating this policy will negatively impact your participation grade and/or you may be asked to leave the class for the remainder of class.

This means that all students are expected to actively listen to one another in order to participate in classroom activities. If you are unable to contribute to the discussion or are otherwise distracted by your computer or table, I will ask that you refrain from using it in class.

### Behavioral Expectations

All students are expected to help create an environment conducive to effective teaching and learning for all participants. Behavior that disrupts teaching and learning is unacceptable; accordingly, all face-to-face or online interaction should be civilized, respectful, and relevant to the topic. Diverse opinions and engaging argumentation are critical to the higher learning endeavor, but inappropriate behavior that disrespects others or inhibits others from learning may result in sanctions, including but not limited to the removal from the classroom and/or the

course. Serious or habitual offenses may result in a referral to the Department Chair and/ or the Dean of Students.

**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 [swakao@com.edu](mailto:swakao@com.edu).

### **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](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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week session is October 2. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 15. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is November 26.

**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](mailto:deanofstudents@com.edu) or [communityresources@com.edu](mailto: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.



**Course outline** (include calendar with lecture topics, due dates):

*The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this course schedule. Any changes will be announced through D2L and COM student email.*

DATE	CHAPTER & TOPIC	In Class	Assignments/Quizzes/Discussions
<b>Week 1</b> <b>OCTOBER 14<sup>TH</sup></b>	"Getting Started" Overview of Psychology Chapter 1 Introduction to Psychology Chapter 2 Psychological Research	In class writing assignment or quiz	<b>Located on D2L in</b> <b>WEEK 1 MODULE 1</b>
<b>Week 2</b> <b>OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup></b>	Chapter 3 Biopsychology Chapter 4 States and Consciousness	In class writing assignment or quiz	<b>Located on D2L in</b> <b>WEEK 2 MODULE 2</b>
<b>Week 3</b> <b>OCTOBER 28<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>EXAM 1</b> Chapter 5 Sensation & Perception Chapter 6 Learning	In class writing assignment or quiz  <a href="#">Student Led Research Article Club</a>	<b>Located on D2L in</b> <b>WEEK 3 MODULE 3</b>
<b>Week 4</b> <b>NOVEMBER</b> <b>4<sup>TH</sup></b>	Chapter 8 Memory Chapter 7 Thinking, Language, and Intelligence	In class writing assignment or quiz	<b>Located on D2L in</b> <b>WEEK 4 MODULE 4</b>
<b>Week 5</b> <b>NOVEMBER</b> <b>11<sup>TH</sup></b>	Chapter 9 Lifespan Development Chapter 10 Motivation and Emotion <b>EXAM 2</b>	In class writing assignment or quiz	<b>Located on D2L in</b> <b>WEEK 5 MODULE 5</b>
<b>Week 6</b> <b>NOVEMBER</b> <b>18<sup>TH</sup></b>	Chapter 11 Personality Chapter 12 Social Psychology	In class writing assignment or quiz  <a href="#">Student Led Research Article Club</a>	<b>Located on D2L in</b> <b>WEEK 6 MODULE 6</b>
<b>Week 7</b> <b>NOVEMBER</b> <b>25<sup>TH</sup></b>	Chapter 13 Industrial-Organizational Psychology Chapter 14 Stress, Lifestyle, & Health <b>EXAM 3</b>	In class writing assignment or quiz	<b>Located on D2L in</b> <b>WEEK 7 MODULE 7</b>
<b>Week 8</b> <b>DECEMBER</b> <b>2<sup>ND</sup></b>	Chapter 15 Psychological Disorders Chapter 16 Therapy and Treatment <b>EXAM 4</b>	Presentations	<b>Located on D2L in</b> <b>WEEK 8 MODULE 8</b>

