



PSYC-2301-114H1
General Psychology
Fall 2025
Monday/Wednesday 12:30p – 1:50p

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

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%):

Quizzes will be assigned for most chapters and will cover textbook, lecture, videos, class demonstrations, and handouts. Assigned quizzes will be given at the completion of a chapter and will be due by the assigned day. There are **NO Make-up Quizzes**.

I will **DROP YOUR LOWEST 2 Quiz Grades** to account for any technical problems and/or missed attempts. The remainder of your quiz grades will be used to calculate the quiz percentage that will be applied to calculate your final grade.

Writing Assignments (20%):

Daily Writing assignments will be assigned for most chapters. Writing Assignments will be completed at the beginning of class.

All students must complete the Writing Assignments on the scheduled date. There are **NO Make-up Writing Assignments**.

More information and detailed instructions about the writing assignments will be provided on the days they are assigned.

Discussion Forum Posts (20%):

Each student will be required to complete 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.

Each Discussion Forum Post has the following instructions:

1. Review the assigned article(s) or video(s)
2. Post a brief summary of their thoughts are on the topic
3. You must use your textbook as a foundation for your summary and include specific quotes with page numbers to support your thoughts.
4. Reply to a minimum of one other student's posts.

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.

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 5`.

Detailed Grading Formula

Grading Breakdown	
Coursework	Percent
CLASS DISCUSSION	5
ATTENDANCE	5
CHAPTER QUIZZES	20
WRITING ASSIGNMENTS	20
DISCUSSION BOARDS	20
PRESENTATIONS	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.

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 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 involved in human behavior	Critical Thinking	Writing Assignments, Quizzes, Presentation and Exams
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	Social Responsibility	

responsibility and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.		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.

AI POLICY: Any assignment containing any AI generated material will receive a **grade of zero** and every assignment in that specific section of grading will receive a grade of zero. In addition, the student can 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/>

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.

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

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.

Monday In Class 8/18	Tuesday Online 8/19	Wed. In Class 8/20	Thursday Online 8/21	<i>Due Sunday</i>
Syllabus Chapter 1 Introduction to Psychology Introduction Writing Assignment	Read Chapter 1 Chapter 1 Quiz Syllabus Quiz Read Chapter 2	Chapter 2 Psychological Research Ch 1 & 2 Writing Assignment	Ch. 2 Quiz Read Chapter 3	Ch. 1 Discussion Post Ch. 2 Discussion Post
Monday In Class 8/25	Tuesday Online 8/26	Wed. In Class 8/27	Thurs. Online 8/28	<i>Due Sunday</i>
Chapter 3 Biopsychology Chapter 3 Writing Assignment	Ch. 3 Quiz Read Chapter 4	Chapter 4 States of Consciousness Chapter 4 Writing Assignment	Ch. 4 Quiz Read Chapter 5	Ch. 3 Discussion Post Ch. 4 Discussion Post
Monday In Class 9/1	Tuesday Online 9/2	Wed. In Class 9/3	Thurs. Online 9/4	<i>Due Sunday</i>
NO CLASS, Labor Day	Ch. 5 Quiz Read Chapter 6	Chapter 6 Learning Chapter 6 Writing Assignment	Ch. 6 Quiz Read Chapter 7	Ch. 5 Discussion Post Ch. 6 Discussion Post
Monday In Class 9/8	Tuesday Online 9/9	Wed. In Class 9/10	Thurs. Online 9/11	<i>Due Sunday</i>
Chapter 7 Thinking and Intelligence Chapter 7 Writing Assignment	Ch. 7 Quiz Read Chapter 9	Chapter 9 Lifespan Development Chapter 9 Writing Assignment	Ch. 9 Quiz Read Chapter 10	Ch. 7 Discussion Post Ch. 9 Discussion Post
Monday In Class 9/15	Tuesday Online 9/16	Wed. In Class 9/17	Thurs. Online 9/18	<i>Due Sunday</i>
Chapter 10 Emotion and Motivation Chapter 10 Writing Assignment	Ch. 10 Quiz Read Chapter 11	Chapter 11 Personality Chapter 11 Writing Assignment	Ch. 11 Quiz Read Chapter 12	Ch. 10 Discussion Post Ch. 11 Discussion Post

Monday In Class 9/22	Tuesday Online 9/23	Wed. In Class 9/24	Thurs. Online 9/25	<i>Due Sunday</i>
Chapter 12 Social Psychology Chapter 12 Writing Assignment	Ch. 12 Quiz Read Chapter 14	Chapter 14 Stress, Lifestyle, and Health Chapter 14 Writing Assignment	Ch. 14 Quiz Read Chapter 15	Ch. 12 Discussion Post Ch. 14 Discussion Post
Monday In Class 9/29	Tuesday Online 9/30	Wed. In Class 10/1	Thurs. Online 10/2	<i>Due Sunday</i>
Chapter 15 Psychological Disorders Chapter 15 Writing Assignment	Ch. 15 Quiz Read Chapter 16	Chapter 16 Therapy and Treatment Chapter 16 Writing Assignment	Ch. 16 Quiz	Ch. 15 Discussion Post Ch. 16 Discussion Post
Monday In Class 10/6	Tuesday Online 10/7	Wed. In Class 10/8	Thurs. Online 10/9	
Presentations		Presentations		

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.

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.