



**PSYC-2301-301 CL  
General Psychology  
(FALL 2023)  
F2F  
T/TH 7:10-8:30AM**

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

**Office (Student) Hours & Location:** LRC Suite A, Office 218  
*Tuesday & Thursday Online 2:30-3:30 PM, Tuesday & Thursday 11:00-2:00 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:**

**CHAPTER QUIZZES:**

There will be a total of 16 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 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 are occasionally given as the instructor's way of ensuring students are actively coming to class, engaging in class, and reading the textbook. You will not know when the instructor will give these in class assignments. **NO IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS** can be made up. Two lowest assignment grades will be dropped at the end of the semester.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Throughout the semester, students will have presentations as individuals and in groups. Each student will be required to complete 3 presentations throughout the semester. These Presentation will help students examine various topic 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 and have two parts. Part 1 of the exam will have a total of 40 questions (true/false, multiple choice, matching) and Part 2 of the exam will be short answers or an essay. Exams will be timed and you will 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	60%
CHAPTER QUIZZES, DISCUSSION BOARDS & IN CLASS ASSIGNMENTS	30%
PRESENTATIONS	10%
TOTAL	100%

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

### **Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit 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.**

**Extra Credit:** Course Evaluation: Receive 5 Extra Credit Points on your lowest exam grade. Please complete the online course evaluation sent to your COM e-mail at the end of the semester.

### **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.
9. 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:

1. **Critical Thinking Skills\*:** Students will demonstrate creative thinking, innovation, and the ability to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information.
2. **Communication Skills\*:** Develop, interpret, and express ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.
3. **Social Responsibility\*:** Students will demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
4. **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
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 In Class Activities
8. (CS2) Develop, interpret and express ideas through oral communication	Communication Skills (Oral)	Discussion Board, In Class Activities, 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	Discussion Board, Presentations, and Exams

**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.”*

### 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\\_2023-2024\\_v2.pdf](https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2023-2024_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 at 409-933-8919 or [klachney@com.edu](mailto:klachney@com.edu). The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the 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 11. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 28. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is December 7.

**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).

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	Quiz	Assignment
Week 1 AUG 28 <sup>TH</sup>	"Getting Started" Overview of Psychology	See weekly agenda posted on D2L under CONTENT tab for this week's readings and assignments	Introduction Post
Week 2 SEPT 4 <sup>TH</sup>	Chapter 1 Introduction to Psychology	See weekly agenda posted on D2L under CONTENT tab for this week's readings and assignments	Ch. 1 Discussion Post Quiz CH 1
Week 3 SEPT 11 <sup>TH</sup>	Chapter 1 Introduction to Psychology Chapter 2 Psychological Research	See weekly agenda posted on D2L under CONTENT tab for this week's readings and assignments	Ch. 2 Discussion Post Quiz CH 2
Week 4 SEPT 18 <sup>TH</sup>	Chapter 2 Psychological Research	See weekly agenda posted on D2L under CONTENT tab for this week's readings and assignments	Ch. 2 Discussion Post
Week 5 SEPT 25 <sup>TH</sup>	Chapter 3 Biopsychology	See weekly agenda posted on D2L under CONTENT tab for this week's readings and assignments	Ch. 3 Discussion Post Quiz CH 3 <b>ASSIGN PRESENTATION TOPICS</b>
Week 6 OCT 2	Chapter 4 States and Consciousness	See weekly agenda posted on D2L under CONTENT tab for this week's readings and assignments	Ch. 4 Discussion Post Quiz CH 4
Week 7 OCT 9	<b>PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS IN CLASS DISCUSSION</b> <i>Exam 1 (Chapters 1-4)</i>	See weekly agenda posted on D2L under CONTENT tab for this week's readings and assignments	Famous Psych Experiments
Week 8 OCT 16	Chapter 5 Sensation & Perception	See weekly agenda posted on D2L under CONTENT tab for this week's readings and assignments	Ch. 5 Discussion Post Quiz CH 5 <b>IN CLASS PRESENTATIONS</b>
Week 9 OCT 23	Chapter 6 Learning Chapter 8 Memory	See weekly agenda posted on D2L under CONTENT tab for this week's readings and assignments	Chs 6 & 7 Discussion Post Famous Psych Experiments Quiz CHS 6 & 8 <b>IN CLASS PRESENTATIONS</b>
Week 10 OCT 30	Chapter 8 Memory Chapter 7 Thinking, Language, and Intelligence	See weekly agenda posted on D2L under CONTENT tab for this week's readings and assignments	Ch. 8 Discussion Post Quiz CH 7 <b>IN CLASS PRESENTATIONS</b>
Week 11* TWO CHAPTERS NOV 6	Chapter 9 Lifespan Development <i>Exam 2 (Chapters 5-8)</i>	See weekly agenda posted on D2L under CONTENT tab for this week's readings and assignments	Ch. 9 Discussion Post Quiz CH 9
Week 12 NOV 13	Chapter 10 Motivation and Emotion Chapter 11 Personality	See weekly agenda posted on D2L under CONTENT tab for this	Ch. 10 & 11 Discussion Post Quiz CH 10 & 11 Famous Psych Experiments



DATE	CHAPTER & TOPIC	Quiz	Assignment
		week's readings and assignments	
<b>Week 13 NOV 20</b>	<b>PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS IN CLASS DISCUSSION</b> Chapter 12 Social Psychology	See weekly agenda posted on D2L under CONTENT tab for this week's readings and assignments	Quiz CH 12 <b>IN CLASS PRESENTATIONS</b>
<b>Week 14 NOV 27</b>	Chapter 13 Industrial-Organizational Psychology <i>Exam 3 (Chapters 9-12)</i>	See weekly agenda posted on D2L under CONTENT tab for this week's readings and assignments	Ch. 12 Discussion Post Quiz CHS 13 <b>IN CLASS PRESENTATIONS</b>
<b>Week 15 DEC 4</b>	Chapter 14 Stress, Lifestyle, & Health Chapters 15 & 16 Psychological Disorders AND Therapy and Treatment	See weekly agenda posted on D2L under CONTENT tab for this week's readings and assignments	<b>IN CLASS PRESENTATIONS</b> Ch. 13 & 14 Discussion Post Quiz CHS 14 & 15 Famous Psych Experiments
<b>Week 16 DEC 11</b>	<i>Exam 4 (Chapters 13-16)</i> <b>If you plan on graduating in December work must be submitted by Dec 12th</b>	See weekly agenda posted on D2L under CONTENT tab for this week's readings and assignments	Quiz CHS 16

**NOTE:** \*\*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

**\*GRADUTES\*:** All assignments must be turned in by **TUESDAY** of Week 16 for any student intending on graduating at the end of the semester.