



**PSYCH 2301.011IN**  
**General Psychology**  
**Fall 2023**

**Instructor Information:** Jennifer Abshire, M.A.  
[jabshire3@com.edu](mailto:jabshire3@com.edu)

**Student hours and location:** M/W 12:30–1:30pm Gym office #123. Virtual hours by appointment.

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

**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 Reviews:** There will be 15 Reviews due weekly throughout the semester. Details can be found in D2L.

**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 you need to be able to support your position with knowledge and research on a particular topic with reliable sources. “Participation” means that for each topic, you should post an Initial Post as well as a Response Post to 1 other student for full credit. Please note that some points may be deducted if the posts are insufficient. **There is not a word count – quality over quantity!** Graded course Discussions employ a “post first” setting that requires students to post their Initial Post before gaining access to read other students’ posts. Attempts to subvert this setting by submitting a blank initial post, or by any other methods will result in a grade of “0” for the unit discussion. All graded discussion posts are due by 11:59pm on the due date listed on the course schedule. Pay close attention to due dates! Initial Posts and Response Posts have two DIFFERENT due dates.

### Ground Rules for Online Discussion:

1. We will respect each other's' confidentiality at all times. Though it is unlikely that sensitive personal information will be discussed in this course, please be aware that any personal information revealed on D2L must be held in strict confidence.
2. In the interest of promoting critical thinking, and serious discussion, students should be prepared to have their views challenged by the instructor and/or fellow students. Respect the right of others to have differing beliefs and attitudes. We do not all have to agree. However, we do need to be respectful in the way we disagree.
3. Disruptive behavior, which interferes with teaching and/or learning, will not be tolerated.

**Mini projects:** There will be a variety of mini projects using the concepts covered in class. These will be turned into D2L by the dates given.

### **Critical Thinking Research Oral Presentation Final Project:**

You will conduct your own research that stems from one of the 10 prompts given in D2L. You can take your research in any direction you choose, but you need to use one of the prompts as a base to start with. Your research should look objectively at both sides of the argument/topic, and you will present your findings in an unbiased manner.

This Oral Presentation assignment will include a required APA styled Reference page that will be submitted to D2L and account for a percentage of your Oral Presentation assignment grade.

As you prepare to complete this presentation assignment, you may want to utilize the Speaking, Reading, and Writing Center. You must make an appointment to use the Speaking Booths or to work with a tutor on oral communication. Contact the [Tutoring Center](https://www.com.edu/tutoring), (<https://www.com.edu/tutoring>), for more information on obtaining assistance. Videos must be saved and uploaded in one of the following formats: .avi, .m4v, .mp4, or .wmv. Videos saved in any other format may not be viewable by the instructor. If you need assistance, please contact the Education Technology Department for help by filling out a Support Ticket.

### **Social Responsibility Presentation:**

Choose only one option. For either choice, product and presentation will determine your grade, along with 25 points for attendance and feedback to each presenter.

**Choice 1:** Think of a problem in society that concerns you. Connect it with a chapter we have covered in class. Create a 3-slide power point. Slide one will be your 'billboard' that defines the problem and advertises your stance. What will make it stand out at people passing by? Why should others care about your concern? Slide 2 will be your researched suggestions to help solve the problem and how it connects to the chapter chosen. Slide 3 will be your three references.

**Choice 2:** Think of an organization you want to bring awareness to. Slide 1 will be the billboard that explains the organization and why they need support. Make sure the name and what they do is clear. What will make it stand out to those passing by? Slide 2 will be details about

organization – are they a non-profit/how much do they give back/statistics about them. Make a connection to one of the chapters in the textbook. Slide 3 will be your three references.

**This will be a PowerPoint Presentation with voice recording. Your device must have a microphone enabled in order to record audio:::**

**Select Record Audio. Type in a name for your audio file, select Record, and then speak. To review your recording, select Stop and then select Play. Select Record to re-record your clip, or select OK if you're satisfied. To move your clip, select and drag the audio icon to where you want it on the slide.**

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

Assignments	Possible Points	Earned Points	Letter Grade	Points Possible
Mini Projects	300		A	1080 -1200
15 Chapter Reviews (25pts each)	375		B	960 -1079
Critical Thinking Research	200		C	840 -959
9 discussions (25 pts each)	225		D	720 -839
Social responsibility Project	100		F	719 and below
<i>Extra Credit</i>	25			
Total Points	1200			

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

20% will be deducted from Chapter Reviews and projects if late. The Extra Credit Final will be available December 1 and due by the last day of class in D2L.

**Attendance Policy:**

If you want to pass, come to class. In an online environment, this means that you are **expected to log into the course a minimum of 3 times per week**. You should expect to spend several hours a week in the course reviewing lessons, and other course material, and completing assignments, and discussions. The discussion component of the course also requires you to engage your fellow students in “conversation,” which requires you to regularly read and respond to posts.

**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.

**Disclaimers/Additional Policies:**

**Course Communication:**

I generally respond to emails within 24 hours, weekends and holidays excluded. Please note that I will not respond to any emails sent via personal email accounts. If you contact me via email, it must be using your College of the Mainland email account.

**Technology Compliance Policy**

This class uses a Learning Management System called D2L Brightspace for lectures, assessments, and other course-related materials and links. Each student must maintain Internet

access throughout the duration of this course. Additionally, students are expected to maintain a state of technical compliance, including (but not limited to):

- up-to-date browsers,
- multiple (minimum of 2) browsers (recommended: Chrome & Firefox),
- appropriate and adequate computer hardware,
- a stable Internet connection,
- and other up-to-date software as required by the instructor.

Computer and internet access are necessary to complete most assignments. If you do not have your own computer and internet access, you may utilize the computers in the Computer Lab and the library.

You are expected to be familiar with the technology and software they must use for this course, including the D2L Brightspace Learning System and any word-processing technology. You are expected to be able to upload assignments in the proper file format according to assignment directions without instructor assistance. Problems with technology, including computer problems and power outages, will not justify extending the deadline unless the issue is with the college network.

In the event you experience a technology problem or error, it is your responsibility to communicate with your instructor as soon as possible using a working form of technology, via email at [jabshire3@com.edu](mailto:jabshire3@com.edu) if you experience any technology problems or errors with *college* software (D2L, etc.), notify the DE department at College of the Mainland (COM) by submitting a ticket as soon as possible. Make a screenshot of the error and email it to your instructor as well as the Distance Education Helpdesk. Contacting COM's Distance Education department can be accomplished by submitting a ticket at <http://de-support.com.edu/requests> .

## Success Tips for Students

1. **Read your syllabus**, re-read your syllabus, don't lose your syllabus 😊
2. **Don't procrastinate**. Determine the amount of time you are going to need to spend on each portion of the course. Make sure you give yourself enough time to complete the assignments.
3. **Stay organized** & dedicate a quiet workspace to complete course readings, assignments, quizzes, and exams.
4. Break readings & course work down into **manageable goals**. Set personal deadlines and stick to them.
5. **Create a calendar of due dates** for this and all your courses using a digital calendar (Google calendar, smartphone calendar, etc.) or an old-fashioned paper.
6. Follow the Course Schedule 😊

**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](mailto:_jabshire3@com.edu) or make an appointment for virtual office hours if you cannot make it to campus.

**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 Final 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.

**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](mailto:swakao@com.edu) or 409-933-8107.

Student Learner Outcomes	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	Chapter 2 Review
2. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology		Chapter 1 Review
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	Chapter 16 Review
6. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior	Critical Thinking	Chapter 11 Review
7. Develop, interpret and express ideas through written communication (CS1)	Communication Skills (Written)	Chapter Reviews
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	Social Responsibility Project

Week	What’s Due Mondays at Midnight
1	8/28 – Class opens. Look around in D2L!
2	9/4 Chapter Review 1 Introduction to Psychology Student Introductions & Discussion post 1
3	9/11 Chapter Review 2 Psychological Research Discussion post 2 Mini project 1

4	9/18 Chapter Review 3 Biopsychology Discussion post 3 Mini project 2
5	9/25 Chapter Review 14 Stress, Lifestyle, and Health Response posts 1, 2 and 3
6	10/2 Chapter Review 4 States of Consciousness Mini project 3
7	10/9 Chapter Review 10 Motivation and Emotion Discussion post 4
8	10/16 Chapter Review 9 Lifespan Development Discussion post 5
9	10/23 Chapter Review 5 Sensation and Perception Discussion post 6 Mini project 4
10	10/30 Chapter Review 7 Thinking and Intelligence
11	11/6 Chapter Review 6 Learning Response posts 4, 5 & 6
12	11/13 Chapter Review 8 Memory Discussion post 7 Mini Project 5
13	11/20 Chapter Review 11 Personality Social Responsibility Project
14	11/27 Chapter Review 12 Social Psychology Discussion post 8 Mini project 6
15	12/4 Chapter Review 15 Psychological Disorders Discussion post 9
16	12/11 Chapter Review 16 Therapy and Treatment Response post 7,8 &9
	Research Final Presentations due

## 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).