



Psychology 2301.050INT – Spring 2024 (Mini Session: 5/13-5/31)
GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY (Online)

Instructor Information: Kristin O’Brien, M.A. | kobrien4@com.edu | 409-933-8955

Office Hours and Location: Wed 9am-12pm (& by appointment) in LRC Suite A-Office 217

Need Help? There is a “Get Help?” button that you can click on in D2L to receive help about questions directly related to D2L. Please also refer to the *Troubleshooting Guide* on D2L.

Required Textbook/Materials: [*Psychology 2e*](#) published for free online by OpenStax. Students may choose to order a print copy at the above link, but it is not required.

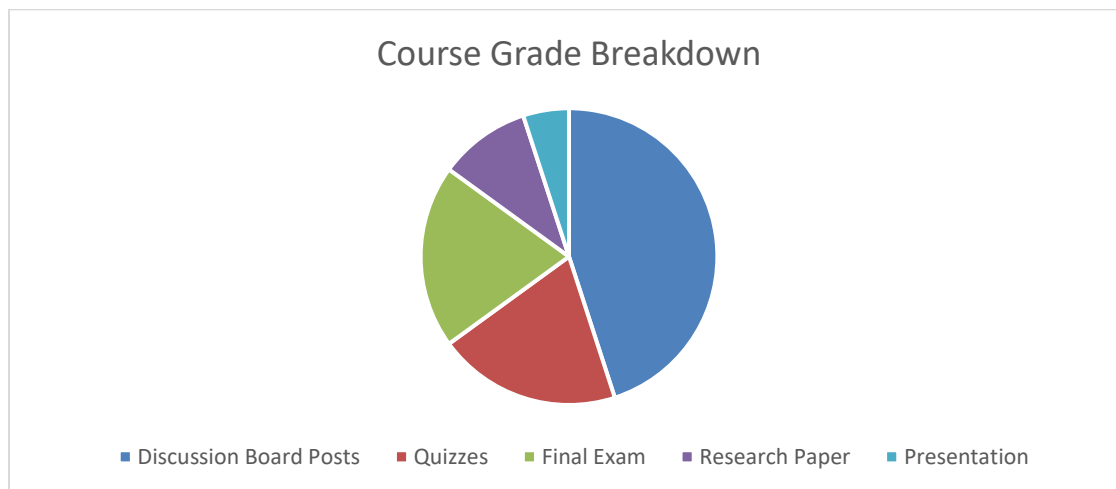
You need a reliable computer and internet access (see the *Troubleshooting Guide* for more detail).

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: Grades are based on points accumulated throughout the semester. There is the possibility of earning 1,000 total points from assignments and assessments. You are held accountable for completing all assignments. Instructions for assignments must be closely followed. Specific details and directions for each assignment will be on the actual assignment in D2L. If you do the minimum work for assignments, expect to receive the minimum grade.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:

Category	Percentage of Final Grade	Point Value	Letter Grade	Percentage	Points
Discussion Board Posts (15)	45%	15 x 30 pts = 450	A	90%+	900+
Quizzes (10)	20%	10 x 20 pts = 200	B	80-89%	800-899
Final Exam	20%	200	C	70-79%	700-799
Research Paper	10%	100	D	60-69%	600-699
Presentation	5%	50	F	59% or less	599 or less
Total	100%	1,000 points	<i>NOTE: Grades of D (60-69) and higher are passing for a COM degree but will likely not be accepted in transfers to 4-year institutions.</i>		



HOW TO CALCULATE YOUR GRADE: (Points Earned / Points Possible) X 10

Example: You have earned 180 out of 200 possible points so far in the class. You would calculate your current numeric grade by dividing 180 by 200 and then multiplying the result by 100: $180/200 = 0.9 \times 100 = 90 \rightarrow$ Your current numeric grade would be 90%

- **Discussion Board Posts (15):** Each discussion board post assignment will require students to: (1) submit an original post addressing the given prompts and questions (25 points) and (2) submit a reply to another student’s post (5 points).
- **Quizzes (10):** Each quiz will consist of 20 multiple-choice questions (worth 1 point each). Students may have two attempts to complete each quiz. There is no time limit. Students are encouraged to use the textbook and all provided learning materials to complete the quizzes.
- **Final Exam:** Mastery for the course material will be assessed via one exam at the end of the course worth 200 points. The Final Exam will be completed in two parts:
 - Final Exam: Part 1 will consist of 70 multiple-choice questions, each worth 2 points (140 points total). It must be completed in one sitting and will be timed at 70 minutes.
 - Final Exam: Part 2 will consist of 6 short answer questions, each worth 10 points (60 points total). It must be completed in one sitting and will be timed at 30 minutes.
- **Research Paper:** Students will complete a 2-3-page research paper formatted according to APA style about a relevant topic of their choice (full instructions are on D2L Brightspace).
- **Presentation:** Students will prepare and present a brief 5–8-minute video presentation about their research topic (full instructions are on D2L Brightspace).

Assignment Submission & Extra Credit Policies: **Assignments must be submitted as .PDF, .DOC, or .JPEG formats to be accepted.** It is good practice to double-check after submitting an assignment (resubmit the correct document if needed). It is ultimately your responsibility to submit work in the proper format on time. Extra credit opportunities are available on D2L.

Late Work & Make-Up Policies: Assignments submitted after the deadline will incur a 10% deduction per day late (e.g., 3 points will be deducted each day for a late discussion board post). **Assignments will become an automatic zero at 10 days late with no exceptions.** If for any reason the college closes, continue to work on the assignments as instructed in your syllabus and on D2L. Missed exams will result in a zero and cannot be made up. In the event of illness or emergency, late work may be accepted without penalty at the discretion of the instructor, *if students contact the instructor as soon as possible (preferably before the deadline or exam date.* Technological issues are not an acceptable excuse for a late assignment. **Late work will NOT be accepted after May 29th.**

Attendance & “Classroom” Conduct Policies: Regular “attendance” is a critical component to being successful in college courses. This course is entirely online and fast-paced, which means that you must be especially diligent (see the Course Schedule for recommendations).

It is expected that everyone treats each other with mutual respect. In an online class, we demonstrate respect to one another by being mindful of the words and tone used in online correspondence (i.e., emails, discussion board). Online discussions in this course may include sensitive topics. It is ok to disagree with others, but it is not ok to verbally attack someone because of their ideas or beliefs.

Communicating with Your Instructor: **ALL electronic communication with the instructor MUST be through your COM email.** Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share information about performance in the class through other electronic means. Students are expected to check their COM email and D2L course page regularly; this is especially crucial for online courses. Communicate with your instructor in a timely manner so that your instructor can best help you. Your instructor should respond within 24 business hours.

Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, deliberately copying word-for-word another person’s work without proper quotation and attribution (direct plagiarism), submitting your own work from another assignment or class (self-plagiarism), and failing to correctly cite sources or unintentionally using the same groups of words as another source without proper quotation and attribution (accidental plagiarism). Academic dishonesty also includes the unauthorized use or attempted use of material, information, devices/technology (e.g., Artificial Intelligence), or communication during an academic exercise (i.e., an assignment, paper, or exam). **Any form of academic dishonesty may result in a reduction of points (up to 0 with no make-up) at the discretion of the instructor.** Additionally, an academic dishonesty report may be filed.

Technology Outage Policy: In the event you experience a technology problem, refer to the *Troubleshooting Guide* available on D2L. It is your responsibility to actively try to resolve the problem and communicate in a timely manner with your instructor and the College of the Mainland (COM) Distance Education (DE) department. You can submit a help ticket to COM’s DE department anytime at <http://de-support.com.edu/requests>. If you have trouble submitting assignments via D2L, you may email your assignment directly to the instructor at kobrien4@com.edu.

Student Concerns: If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact the instructor using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with the instructor, you continue to have questions or concerns, please contact Department Chair, Shinya Wakao at 409-933-8107 or swakao@com.edu.

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.

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	Quizzes, Discussion Board Posts Exam, Research Paper, Presentation
2. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology		Quizzes, Discussion Board Posts Exam, Research Paper, Presentation
3. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology	Critical Thinking	Quizzes, Discussion Board Posts Exam, Research Paper, Presentation
4. Use terminology unique to the study of psychology		Quizzes, Discussion Board Posts Exam, Research Paper, Presentation
5. Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation	Empirical and Quantitative	Quizzes, Discussion Board Posts Exam, Research Paper, Presentation
6. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior	Critical Thinking	Quizzes, Discussion Board Posts Exam, Research Paper, Presentation
7. (CS1) Develop, interpret and express ideas through written communication	Communication Skills (Written)	Discussion Board Posts, Exam, Research Paper
8. (CS2) Develop, interpret and express ideas through oral communication	Communication Skills (Oral)	Presentations
9. (SR) Demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.	Social Responsibility	Quizzes, Discussion Board Posts Exam, Research Paper, 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_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. 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 Spring Mini Session is Wednesday, May 29th.**

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.

COURSE SCHEDULE

	MON	TUES	WED	THURS
1	5/13 Course Orientation, Introduction to Psychology <hr/> Quiz 1 DB Post 1	5/14 Psychological Research <hr/> Quiz 2 DB Post 2 Research Worksheet* <hr/> DUE Quiz 1 DB Post 1**	5/15 Biopsychology <hr/> Quiz 3 DB Post 3	5/16 Lifespan Growth & Development <hr/> Quiz 4 DB Post 4
2	5/20 States of Consciousness, Sensation & Perception <hr/> Quiz 5 DB Post 5 DB Post 6	5/21 Learning Principles, Emotion & Motivation <hr/> Quiz 6 DB Post 7 DB Post 8 <hr/> DUE Quizzes 2-6 DB Posts 2-8	5/22 Thinking & Language, Intelligence & Neurodiversity <hr/> Quiz 7 DB Post 9	5/23 Memory, Social Psychology <hr/> Quiz 8 DB Post 10 DB Post 11
3	5/27 COLLEGE CLOSED – MEMORIAL DAY	5/28 Personality, Stress, Lifestyle, & Health <hr/> Quiz 9 DB Post 12 DB Post 13 <hr/> DUE Quizzes 7-9 DB Posts 9-13 Research Paper Presentation	5/29 Psychological Disorders, Therapy & Treatment <hr/> Quiz 10 DB Post 14 DB Post 15	5/30 Review Final Exam: Part 1 Final Exam: Part 2 <hr/> DUE Quiz 10 DB Posts 14-15 Final Exam (Part 1 & Part 2)

- All materials and assignments will be open for the full duration of the course except for the Final Exam (which will open 5/29 and is due at 11:59 PM on 5/30 and is a timed exam). If you cannot access something, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.
- In the Course Schedule above, I have indicated my recommendation when you should review learning materials and complete assignments in blue. **Bolded in red** are the hard deadlines for grading purposes (please see the late work policy above for a reminder). Assignments are due to D2L Brightspace by 11:59 PM on the indicated due date (**bolded in red**).
- Please post to the Discussion Board early so that everyone has time to respond to each other.
- The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this course schedule. Any changes will be announced via D2L Brightspace and COM student email.

*The Research Worksheet is an ungraded assignment meant to help you start your Research Paper.

**Students will be dropped from the course if they do not complete these assignments by this deadline.