PSYC 2301.011 & .013IN Course Syllabus
General Psychology
Fall 2021
Online

Course Information

Instructor Information:
Ms. Candi Hollier, M.A., chollier@com.edu

Office Hours and Location:
I will post online office hours in an Announcement during the first week of the semester. Office hours will be conducted using the Course Questions Discussion board and COM Email. No face-to-face option exists.

Required Textbook:
Psychology in Everyday Life, 4th Edition; By David G. Myers & C. Nathan DeWall; Published by Worth Publishers, 2017

Course Description:
This course will provide an introduction to the major topic areas of psychology including neuroscience, the nature vs nurture debate, learning, cognitive psychology, motivation, personality theory, psychological disorders, and therapeutic approaches.

Course Requirements:
This course primarily consists of online lessons and discussions provided by the instructor. Additionally, videos and other supplementary articles may be used to emphasize key issues. The online lessons are considered the "lecture" portion of the course and reinforce assigned textbook readings; therefore, it is essential that students keep up to date with their online work. A variety of means will be employed to evaluate student performance. The following sections explain the graded components of the course, the points available for each component, as well as the grading criteria to be used at the end of the semester.

Determination of Course Grade

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: **unsupported opinions have no place in an academic environment**. You must be able to demonstrate your knowledge and research on a particular topic from reliable resources. "Participation" means that for each topic, you should post an Initial Post (a minimum of 250 words) as well as a Response Post to 1 other student (a minimum of 250 words) for full credit. Please note that some points may be deducted if the posts are insufficient – "I agree" "You're right" etc. 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, posting gibberish, or by any other methods will result in a grade of "0" for the unit discussion - **No exceptions**.

Initial Posts and Response Posts have two DIFFERENT due dates!

All graded discussion posts are due by 11:59pm on the due date listed on the course schedule. Pay close attention to due dates!

<u>Ground Rules for Online Discussion:</u>
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 Blackboard 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, flaming, or any behavior which interferes with teaching and/or learning, will not be tolerated.

More guidelines for online discussion are provided in the Course Orientation document.

Oral Presentation Assignment:
This course includes an oral presentation that will be recorded and submitted as an assignment for course credit. There is an "Oral Presentation" section of this course containing all the pertinent information <u>necessary</u> and <u>required</u> for completing this assignment. **DO NOT skip any of the documents or links provided in that folder.** <u>It is your responsibility to review all these documents and links thoroughly and submit the assignment by the due date listed on the course schedule</u>. **NO LATE SUBMISSIONS will be accepted**. A score of zero will be applied to any presentation not submitted by the deadline. A presentation submitted in the incorrect format, emailed to the instructor, or uploaded directly to Blackboard will be given a grade deduction of 20%.

This Oral Presentation assignment will also include a required APA styled "References" page that will be submitted to Blackboard 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 in TV 1306. 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 and may result in a 20% grade deduction. If you need assistance, please contact the Education Technology Department for help at extension 8445.

When you submit an assignment to Blackboard, you will receive a "submission confirmation number" that will display near the top of the screen in a green bar, and in the My Grades section of the course. You will also receive that same "submission confirmation number" via your COM email. It is your responsibility to verify that your submission was received and that the submitted link to your presentation video is accurate and functional. It is also your responsibility to verify that the submitted video itself is accurate, complete, and appropriate. More information on submitting your Presentation can be found in the "Oral Presentation" section of the course.

An ungraded Discussion Forum will be located on the course Discussion Board where you may ask the instructor and your fellow classmates' questions about any and all aspects of the assignment. You will have the option to post anonymously, should you feel nervous about asking a silly question. NOTE: There are no silly questions.

Unit Exams:
There will be 3 Unit Exams – one at the end of each Unit. Exams will consist of 50 multiple-choice, matching, labeling, &/or True/False questions from the Unit. The Exams will be worth 50 points (1 point per question), be timed in Blackboard, and will submit automatically once time is up. See the **Testing Using Blackboard** document

for more detailed information. The Unit Exams will be due by 11:59pm on the due date listed on the course schedule.

Final Exam:
There will be a required cumulative Final Exam at the end of the course. The Final Exam will consist of 7 essay questions. Your answers to these essay questions should be between 130-150 words, reflect a thorough understanding of the concepts as discussed in **this** course, and be well-written with few spelling or other grammatical errors. Citations are not required or recommended and will not count toward minimum word count. "Google" and related search engines are not an acceptable source for your answers. I don't want to know what you can Google; I want to know what you have learned from this course. Copy/Paste plagiarism from outside sources will be grounds for a zero for the final exam, and a possible zero for the entire semester. The Final Exam will be worth 175 points (25 points per question). You will have 120 minutes to complete all 7 essay questions. The exam will be timed in Blackboard, and Blackboard will notify you as your time limit approaches expiration. **Once the time limit has been reached, the exam will automatically submit.** The Final Exam will be due by 11:59pm on the due date listed on the course schedule.

Detailed Grading Formula:

Graded Course Work/Activity	Points
3 Unit Exams @ 50 points each	150
1 Oral Presentation @ 150 points & 1 Reference Page @ 50 points	200
2 Getting Started Activities • "Student Introductions" Discussion @ 5 points • "Getting Started Quiz" @ 10 points	15
3 Discussions @ 50 points each	150
1 Final Exam @ 175 points	175
Total Points Possible	**690**

Grading Scale:

Point Range	Percentage Range	Letter Grade
618 - 690	89.5% - 100%	A
549 – 617	79.5% - 89.4%	B
480 - 548	69.5% - 79.4%	C
411 - 479	59.5% - 69.4%	D
Below 410	Below 59.4%	F

Make-Up Policy
There are absolutely **NO** make-up exams, oral presentations, reference pages, or graded discussions! The dates and times that the graded materials are available will be clearly visible in this document and on the attached course schedule. Graded coursework is open and available for a wide period of time and you have a complete and detailed schedule from the first day of the semester. There is no excuse for not submitting assessments by the due date. It is not my responsibility to accommodate you for waiting until the last minute to complete and submit graded course work. Due dates are never suggestions of when to *start* an assessment.

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** and you should expect to spend at least 4-6 hours a week in the course reviewing lessons, and other course material, and completing assignments, exams, and discussions. The online material goes beyond the material presented in the text, and you will be held accountable for this material on

the exams and course assignments. 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 Blackboard for further instructions.

Course Communication:
I generally respond to Emails and Discussion Posts within 36 hours, weekends and holidays excluded. 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. Also note that grades and other course-related information will not be discussed via telephone, as it is impossible to verify the identity of the individual on the other end of the line.

Student Learner Outcomes & Associated Objectives:

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
Identify various research methods and their characteristics used in the scientific study of psychology.	Empirical & Quantitative	Question #1 - Final Exam
Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology.		Question #2 – Final Exam
Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology.	Critical Thinking	Question #3 – Final Exam
Use terminology unique to the study of psychology.		Question #4 – Final Exam
Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation.	Empirical & Quantitative	Question #5 – Final Exam
Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior.	Critical Thinking	Questions #6 – Final Exam
(CS1) Develop, interpret, and express ideas through written communication.	Communication Skills (Written)	Discussion Assignment(s)
(CS2) Develop, interpret, and express ideas through oral communication.	Communication Skills (Oral)	Oral Presentation Assignment
(SR) Demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.	Social Responsibility	Question #7 – Final Exam

Academic Dishonesty:
Any incident of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty is an extremely serious offense and may result in a penalty up to, and including, a **grade of zero** on that exam/assignment/etc. and possible referral to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate disciplinary action, including possible dismissal from the course. The instructor reserves the right to define "Academic Dishonesty." Below are some examples of Academic Honesty (not an exhaustive list; academic dishonesty is not limited to only these types of incidences):

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/final/discussion/etc., using someone

else's words without quotation marks. Any assessment 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.

Links to Resources about Avoiding Plagiarism:

1. Purdue OWL: Avoiding Plagiarism https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/
2. Plagiarism.org http://www.plagiarism.org/
3. eLearners How to Avoid Plagiarism http://www.elearners.com/online-education-resources/online-learning/how-to-avoid-plagiarism/

Cheating

Cheating includes looking at or copying from another student's exam, having another person take an exam or complete a project or assignment for you, bringing/accessing unauthorized notes, texts, audio/video recordings, electronic devices, or other materials to complete an online exam, and/or obtaining or distributing unauthorized copies of exams or any part of an exam.

Collusion

Collusion is inappropriately collaborating on assignments designed to be completed independently. This course is designed to be completed independently.

Please -- if you are having trouble of any kind, discuss it with me. The tiny advantage you would get from cheating is vastly outweighed by the risk you would be taking. I am willing to help you in any way I can, but I will NOT excuse academic dishonesty no matter how much I like you or feel sorry for you.

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. Wakao at swakao@com.edu or 409-933-8107.

Course Schedule:

Getting Started – Opens: 8/23/2021	Due Date
Getting Started Quiz & Student Introductions	8/30/2021

Unit 1 – Opens: 8/30/2021	Due Date
"Biology of Mind" Discussion – **Initial Post**	9/20/2021
"Biology of Mind" Discussion – **Response Post**	9/27/2021
Unit Exam 1 opens 9/24/2021	**9/27/2021**

Unit 2 – Opens: 9/27/2021	Due Date
"Learning" Discussion – **Initial Post**	10/18/2021
"Learning" Discussion – **Response Post**	10/25/2021
Unit Exam 2 opens 10/22/2021	**10/25/2021**

Unit 3 – Opens: 10/25/2021	Due Date
Oral Presentation & Reference Page	**11/15/2021**

Unit 3 – Opens: 10/25/2021	Due Date
"Personality" Discussion – **Initial Post**	**11/22/2021**
"Personality" Discussion – **Response Post**	**11/29/2021**
Unit Exam 3 opens 11/24/2021	**11/29/2021**

Final Exam	Due Date
"Final Exam *Review*" opens **11/29/2021**	n/a
Final Exam opens 12/3/2021	**12/6/2021**

**All items are due by 11:59pm on the date listed on this schedule.
You will be held accountable for timely submissions.**

**Beware: Non-attendance without dropping may result in an F at the end of the semester.
Last Day to Withdraw for a grade of "W" – 11/19/2021**

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://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.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 career. 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 Holly Bankston at 409-933-8520 or hbankston@com.edu. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is in the Student Success Center.

Counseling Statement:
Any student that is needing counseling services is requested to please contact Holly Bankston in the student success center at 409-933-8520 or hbankston@com.edu. Counseling services are available on campus in the student center for free and students can also email counseling@com.edu to setup their appointment. Appointments are strongly encouraged; however, some concerns may be addressed on a walk-in basis.

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 16-week session is November 19.

F$_N$ Grading:

The F$_N$ grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The F$_N$ 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 F$_N$ grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an F$_N$ 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.

COVID-19 Statement:

All students, faculty, and staff are expected to familiarize themselves with materials and information contained on the [College of the Mainland's Coronavirus Information site](#) at www.com.edu/coronavirus. In compliance with [Governor Abbott's May 18 Executive Order](#), face coverings/masks will no longer be required on COM campus. Protocols and college signage are being updated. We will no longer enforce any COM protocol that requires face coverings. We continue to encourage all members of the COM community to distance when possible, use hygiene measures, and get vaccinated to protect against COVID-19. Please visit the [College of the Mainland's Coronavirus Information site](#) at www.com.edu/coronavirus for future updates.

Disclaimers/Additional Policies:

Technology Compliance Policy

This class uses a Learning Management System called Blackboard 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,
- any other up-to-date software as required by the instructor (Adobe Reader)

The instructor is not required to give consideration for lost/missing/unacceptable work stemming from technical non-compliance and/or end-user technical issues. Failure to maintain Internet or computer access shall not constitute a valid excuse for missed work. Any student who cannot keep up with the coursework owing to a lack of computer or Internet access or functionality should refer to the [Library Computer Lab hours of operation](#) (https://www.com.edu/computer-labs/library-computer-lab) and plan to complete any and all coursework during posted hours (including testing, as needed).

In short, if you fail to complete an assignment or exam because your computer crashes or loses internet access, you forget to attach a file, attach a wrong/blank/empty file to an assignment, did not verify submission

of the correct file/information/link/etc., or did not use the appropriate browser or operating system to access and complete course work, etc. then you are not entitled to make up the course work. If the assignment, discussion, presentation, or exam was not completed or submitted in a timely manner due to your error or due to end-user technological issues of any kind, it cannot be made up.

In the event you experience a technology problem or error, it is your responsibility to communicate *immediately* (not the next day, not 3 hours later) with your instructor using a working form of technology, via Email at chollier@com.edu. If you experience any technology problems or errors with *college* software (Blackboard, etc.), **immediately** notify the DE department at College of the Mainland (COM) by submitting a ticket through Parature (http://com.parature.com). If 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 through Parature (http://com.parature.com) or via live chat Monday to Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM whenever the college is open.

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 calendar (Microsoft Word has Calendar templates! Can't find them? Google it!).
6. **Follow the Course Schedule**!!!

Classroom Conduct Policy
College of the Mainland requires that students enrolled at COM be familiar with the Standards of Student Conduct, which can be found in the on-line Student Handbook. (http://www.com.edu/student-services/student-handbook.php). Students are expected to be familiar with and abide by the Student Code of Conduct. Any violations of the Code of Conduct will result in a referral to the Dean of Students and may result in dismissal from this class.