



**Psychology 2301.101CL**  
**General Psychology**  
**Fall 2023**  
**Monday/Wednesday 8:00-9:20 AM**

**Instructor Information:** Kristin O'Brien, M.A., [kobrien4@com.edu](mailto:kobrien4@com.edu), 409-933-8955

**Student Hours and Location:** LRC Suite A-Office 217  
M 11:00 AM-12:30 PM | T/Tr 1:30-3:00 PM | W 11:00 AM-12:30 PM, 1:30-3:00 PM  
(& by appointment)

**Required Textbook/Materials:** *Psychology 2e* published by OpenStax. Students can access the text online for free at this link: <https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology-2e?Book%20details>. Students may choose to order a print copy at the above link, but it is not required.

**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:**

**Research Project**

- **Annotated Bibliography:** Students will submit an annotated bibliography for the peer-reviewed source they will use for the Research Paper. Students will spend one day in class learning how to use the database and looking for research articles (see Research Day in the Course Schedule). This will be for a completion grade; following all instructions and demonstrating appropriate effort will earn students full points.
- **Peer Review Activity:** Students will submit a rough draft of their Research Paper and exchange their drafts with 1-2 peers in class (see Peer Review Day in the Course Schedule) to be read and critiqued. Students will be provided with a rubric and worksheet to guide the peer review process. This will be for a completion grade; following all instructions and demonstrating effort will earn students full points.
- **Research Paper:** Students will complete a 2-3-page research paper using APA style about a relevant topic of their choice (full instructions are available on D2L Brightspace and will be discussed in class).

- **Presentation:** Students will prepare and present a brief (5-8 minute) oral/visual presentation about the contents of their Research Paper (full instructions are available on D2L Brightspace and will be discussed in class). Students will be randomly assigned a day and time to present. Students will be expected to submit their presentation to D2L Brightspace on the deadline indicated in the Course Schedule and come to class prepared to present. Students will be graded based on content, visual appeal, clarity, and presentation skills (see full rubric on D2L Brightspace).

**Discussion Board Posts:** Ten (10) discussion board posts will be completed on D2L Brightspace throughout the course. Each discussion board post assignment will require students to: (1) post an original response to the prompt given (worth 20 points) and (2) post a reply to another student's original response (worth 5 points). (See individual prompts for full instructions).

**Quizzes:** Ten (10) chapter quizzes will be completed on D2L Brightspace throughout the course. Each quiz will consist of 15 multiple-choice, true/false, and/or matching questions. Students are encouraged to use the textbook, any provided learning materials, and class notes.

**Exams:** Two (2) exams will be administered in class throughout the course. The Midterm Exam will assess mastery over content covered in Chapters 1-8, while the Final Exam will assess mastery over content covered in Chapters 9-16. (Therefore, the Final Exam is NOT cumulative). Each exam will consist of 8 short answer questions. The exams are NOT open book/open note. Students will have one full class period (~80 minutes) to complete each exam.

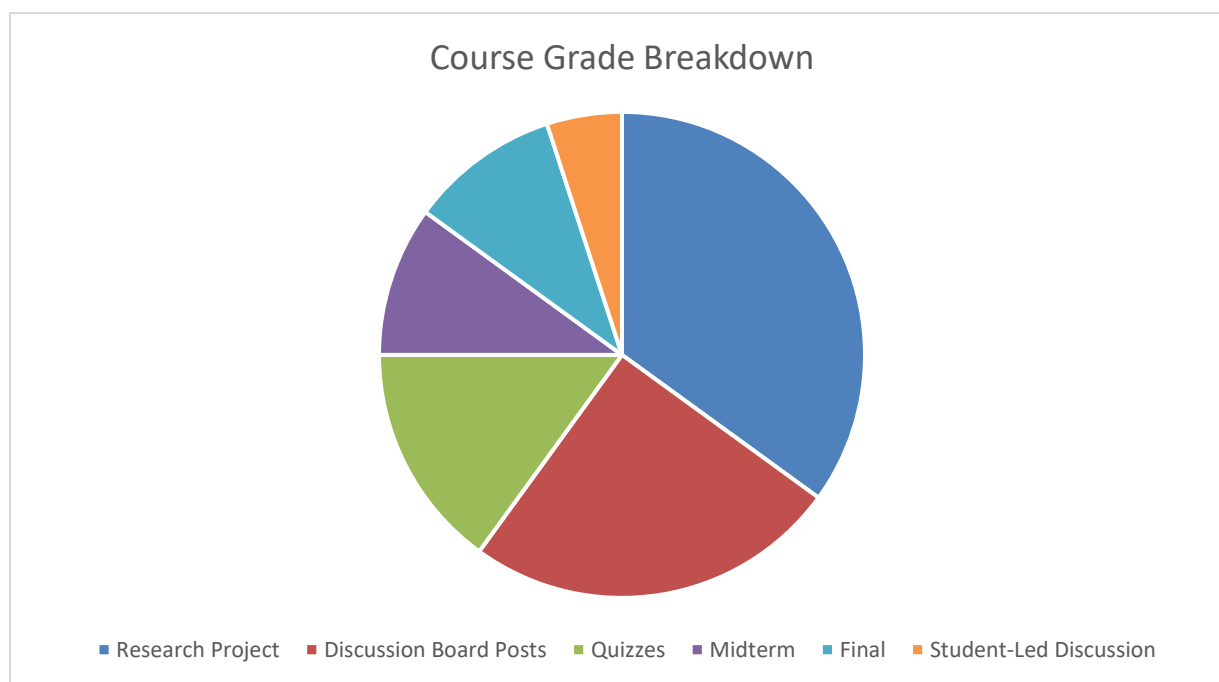
**Student-Led Discussion:** Students will work in pairs (with one group of three) to prepare and facilitate a discussion in class that is relevant to the topic covered that day (~15 minutes). Students will have their choice of the day on which they lead their discussion on a first-come, first-serve basis (the instructor will present a sign-up sheet). Students must introduce the topic with excerpts or a summary from a source about the topic (e.g., a peer-reviewed or popular article, a news story, a Tweet or other post from social media, a TV show or movie). Students will then pose 1-2 open-ended questions (with follow-up questions as appropriate) to facilitate a large-group discussion that encourages critical thinking and creativity (full instructions are available on D2L Brightspace and will be discussed in class).

**Exam dates and assignment deadlines can be found in the Course Schedule toward the end of the syllabus and will also be posted to D2L Brightspace. Assignments will always be due at 11:59 PM on the date given unless otherwise specified.**

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

Below is the breakdown of how your final grade will be calculated:

Category	Percentage of Final Grade	Point Value
Research Project	35	25 + 25 + 150 + 150 = 350
Annotated Bibliography	(2.5)	(25)
Peer-Review Activity	(2.5)	(25)
Research Paper	(15)	(150)
Presentation	(15)	(150)
Discussion Board Posts (10)	25	10 x 25 pts each = 250
Quizzes (10)	15	10 x 15 pts each = 150
Midterm Exam	10	100
Final Exam	10	100
Student-Led Discussion	5	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,000 points</b>



**HOW TO CALCULATE YOUR GRADE:** (Points Earned / Points Possible) X 100

**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%

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

Exam dates and assignment deadlines can be found in the Course Schedule at the end of the syllabus and will also be posted to D2L Brightspace. **Assignments will always be due on D2L Brightspace by 11:59 PM on the date given unless otherwise specified.**

Assignments submitted after the deadline will incur a 10% deduction per day late (e.g., 1.5 points will be deducted each day for a late quiz, 2.5 points will be deducted each day for a late discussion board post). Please note that technological issues are not an acceptable excuse for a late assignment. Be aware that assignments will become an automatic zero at the point of 10 or more days late with no exceptions. **Additionally, late assignments will NOT be accepted after Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.** Missed exams will result in a zero and cannot be made up.

In the event of illness or emergency, exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the instructor (a doctor's note may be requested in the case of an illness). **If you anticipate missing any assignment deadlines or exams for an excusable reason, contact me at [kobrien4@com.edu](mailto:kobrien4@com.edu) as soon as possible.**

**NOTE:** If for any reason the college closes, continue to work on the assignments spelled out in your syllabus and D2L Brightspace. Check COM email and D2L for announcements.

### **Extra Credit**

- **Professionalism:** At the end of the semester, students may earn up to 15 points of extra credit for exhibiting professional behavior, which includes arriving on time, not leaving class early, having no more than one unexcused absence, completing coursework on time, refraining from use of cell phones or other devices during class time, participating in class discussion and activities, and engaging in civility in the classroom.
- **Course Evaluation:** Students may earn 5 points of extra credit for completing the course evaluation at the end of the semester (students must submit proof of completion).
- **Additional extra credit opportunities are available on D2L Brightspace.**

**Attendance Policy:** 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. Students can earn up to 15 points of extra credit at the end of the semester for attending and regularly participating in class (see above for more details).

**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.

**Course Expectations:** In this course, we will engage with the content through class discussion and activities. Active student participation will be emphasized in the learning process and will be important for success in this course. Additionally, a lot of the graded coursework will be conducted/submitted online, which means that students also need to be diligent about meeting deadlines and manage their time outside of class wisely.

In this course, I expect you, the student, to...

- Be aware of the course objectives, policies, and schedule.
- Attend class on time and be prepared to actively participate in discussion and activities.
- Show respect to me and your peers, which includes refraining from disruptive behavior such as cell phone use and talking while others are talking.
- Devote regular time and effort to completing assignments and preparing for exams outside of class.
- Maintain open communication by checking your COM e-mail and D2L Brightspace regularly and contacting me promptly with any questions or concerns.

You can expect me, the instructor, to...

- Provide quality learning materials and assignments that directly align with the course objectives and learning outcomes (i.e., no 'busy work').
- Be organized and come to class prepared.
- Maintain open communication outside of class via e-mail and course announcements.
- Show you respect and listen attentively to any concerns that you have.
- Uphold the policies set forth in the syllabus, including being fair and prompt with my grading (students can expect work to be graded within 1 week of the submission deadline at the latest).

These expectations provide guidelines for how you can be successful in this class and get the most out of it as a learning experience. Notice that a lot of this is like a two-way street: I will put forth my best effort into helping you be successful in this course, but I expect your best effort as well. Let's do this!

### **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 Posts, Quizzes, Exams, In-Class Discussions
2. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology		Quizzes, Exams, In-Class Discussions
3. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology	Critical Thinking	Discussion Board Posts, Quizzes, Exams, In-Class Discussions
4. Use terminology unique to the study of psychology		Research Project, Discussion Board Posts, Quizzes, Exams, Student-Led Discussions, In-Class Discussions
5. Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation	Empirical and Quantitative	Research Project, Exams, In-Class Discussions
6. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior	Critical Thinking	Research Project, Discussion Board Posts, Quizzes, Exams, Student-Led Discussions, In-Class Discussions

7. (CS1) Develop, interpret and express ideas through written communication	Communication Skills (Written)	Research Project, Discussion Board posts, Exams
8. (CS2) Develop, interpret and express ideas through oral communication	Communication Skills (Oral)	Research Project, Student-Led Discussion, In-Class Discussions
9. (SR) Demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.	Social Responsibility	Research Project, Discussion Board Posts, Student-Led Discussion, In-Class Discussions

**Academic Dishonesty:**

**Plagiarism will not be tolerated.** If an assignment contains excessive uncited sources or 50% or more of the assignment appears to be copied from another source, the assignment will automatically result in a zero and cannot be made up. *Any* instance of academic dishonesty may result in a reduction of points (including up to a zero for the assignment) at the discretion of the instructor. Additionally, an academic dishonesty report may be filed.

**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 409-933-8107 or [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).

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## COURSE OUTLINE

Week	Date	Class Topic	Readings <i>(Please read before class)</i>	Assignments
1	8/28	Course Orientation Intro to Psychology (Ch 1)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discussion Board Post #1 due 8/31, 9/3</li> </ul>
	8/30	Intro to Psychology (Ch 1) Research & Ethics in Psychology (Ch 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1.1 What is Psychology?</li> </ul>	
2	9/4	<b>NO CLASS – Labor Day</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discussion Board Post #2 due 9/7, 9/10</li> <li>○ Quiz #1 (Ch 1-2) due 9/10</li> </ul>
	9/6	Research & Ethics in Psychology (Ch 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ch 2 Introduction</li> <li>○ 2.1 Why is Research Important?</li> </ul>	
3	9/11	<b>Research Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Research Project Instructions</li> <li>○ Research &amp; APA Style Learning Materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Work on your Annotated Bibliography (due next week)</i></li> </ul>
	9/13	Biopsychology (Ch 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 3.1 Human Genetics (stop before “Genetic Variation”)</li> <li>○ 3.4 The Brain and Spinal Cord (“Brain Imagining”)</li> </ul>	
4	9/18	Biopsychology (Ch 3) States of Consciousness (Ch 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 4.2 Sleep and Why We Sleep (“Why Do We Sleep?”)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Annotated Bibliography due 9/19</li> <li>○ Quiz #2 (Ch 3-4) due 9/24</li> </ul>
	9/20	States of Consciousness (Ch 4)		
5	9/25	Sensation & Perception (Ch 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 5.1 Sensation versus Perception</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Start working on your Research Paper; Rough Draft due 11/7</i></li> </ul>
	9/27	Sensation & Perception (Ch 5) Learning (Ch 6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 6.1 What is Learning?</li> </ul>	
6	10/2	Learning (Ch 6)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discussion Board Post #3 due 10/5, 10/8</li> <li>○ Quiz #3 (Ch 5-6) due 10/8</li> </ul>
	10/4	Thinking & Intelligence (Ch 7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 7.5 Measures of Intelligence (“Why Measure Intelligence?”)</li> </ul>	

7	10/9	Thinking & Intelligence (Ch 7)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discussion Board Post #4 due 10/12, 10/15</li> <li>○ Quiz #4 (Ch 7-8) due 10/15</li> </ul>
	10/11	Memory (Ch 8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 8.4 Ways to Enhance Memory</li> </ul>	
8	10/16	<b>Midterm Exam</b>		
	10/18	Infancy & Childhood (Ch 9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 9.1 What is Lifespan Development? (“Issues in Developmental Psychology”)</li> </ul>	
9	10/23	Adolescence, Adulthood, & Death (Ch 9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 9.4 Death and Dying</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discussion Board Post #5 due 10/26, 10/29</li> <li>○ Quiz #5 (Ch 9) due 10/29</li> </ul>
	10/25	Emotion & Motivation (Ch 10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 10.2 Hunger and Eating (stop before “Eating Disorders”)</li> <li>○ 10.3 Sexual Behavior... (stop before “Sexual Orientation”)</li> </ul>	
10	10/30	Personality (Ch 11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 11.8 Cultural Understandings of Personality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discussion Board Post #6 due 11/2, 11/5</li> <li>○ Quiz #6 (Ch 10-11) due 11/5</li> </ul>
	11/1	Personality (Ch 11) Social Psychology (Ch 12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 12.3 Attitudes and Persuasion</li> </ul>	
11	11/6	Social Psychology (Ch 12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 12.6 Aggression, 12.7 Prosocial Behavior</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rough Draft for Peer-Review Day due 11/7</li> <li>○ Discussion Board Post #7 due 11/9, 11/12</li> <li>○ Quiz #7 (Ch 12) due 11/12</li> </ul>
	11/8	<b>Peer-Review Day</b>		
12	11/13	Industrial/Organizational Psychology (Ch 13) Stress, Lifestyle, & Health (Ch 14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 13.1 What is I/O Psychology? (“Historical Development...”)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discussion Board Post #8 due 11/16, 11/19</li> <li>○ Quiz #8 (Ch 13-14) due 11/19</li> </ul>
	11/15	Stress, Lifestyle, & Health (Ch 14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 14.3 Stress and Illness</li> </ul>	

13	11/20	Psychological Disorders (Ch 15)	○ 15.3 Perspectives on Psychological Disorders	○ Final Paper due 11/21 ○ Quiz #9 (Ch 15) due 11/26
	11/22	Psychological Disorders (Ch 15)		
14	11/27	Therapy & Treatment (Ch 16)	○ 16.1 Mental Health Treatment: Past and Present ○ 16.5 The Sociocultural Model...	○ Presentations due 11/28 ○ Discussion Board Post #9 due 11/30, 12/3 ○ Quiz #10 (Ch 16) due 12/3
	11/29	<b>Presentations</b>		
	12/4	<b>Presentations</b>		○ Discussion Board Post #10 due 12/7, 12/10
	12/6	<b>Presentations</b>		
	12/11	<b>Final Exam</b>		
	12/13	<b>NO CLASS</b>		

*\*All assignments due to D2L Brightspace by 11:59 PM on due date unless otherwise specified.*

*\*\*The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this course schedule. Any changes will be announced in class and through D2L Brightspace and COM student email.*