



Psychology 2301.104CL – Spring 2024
GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY
Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:50 AM (ICB Building #23, Room 301)

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

Student Hours and Location: LRC Suite A-Office 217
 M 9:30 AM-12:30 PM, Tues 11:00 AM-12:30 PM, W 9:30 AM-12:30 PM (& by appointment)

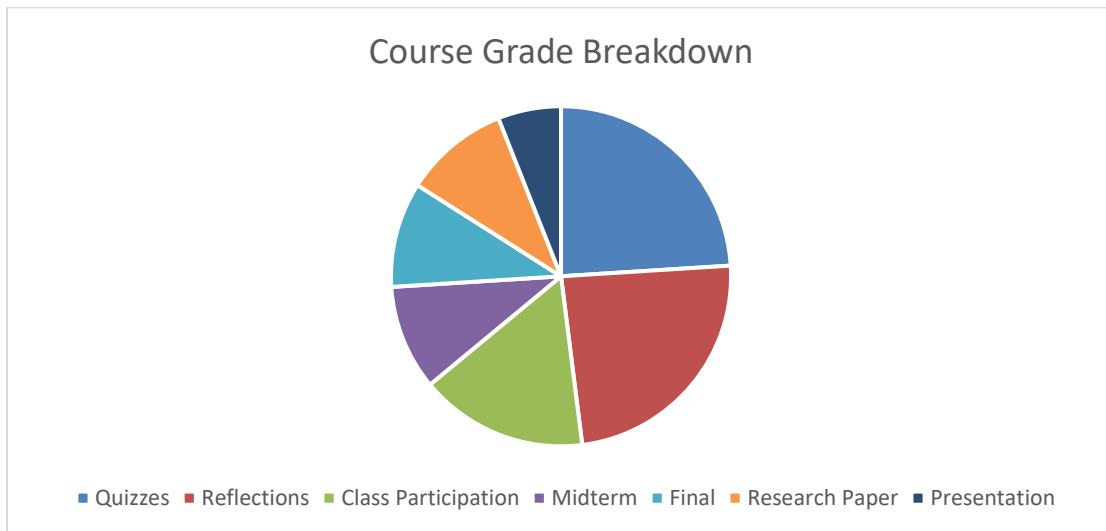
Required Textbook: *Psychology 2e* published for free online by OpenStax. Students may choose to order a print copy at the above link, but it is not required. (Textbook is also linked on D2L).

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
Quizzes (12)	24%	12 x 20 each = 240	A	90%+	900+
Reflections (12)	24%	12 x 20 each = 240	B	80-89%	800-899
Class Participation	16%	160	C	70-79%	700-799
Midterm Exam	10%	100	D	60-69%	600-699
Final Exam	10%	100	F	59% or less	599 or less
Research Paper	10%	100	<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>		
Presentation	6%	60			
Total	100%	1,000 points			



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%

Assignment Submission Policies: Exam dates and assignment deadlines can be found in the Tentative 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 must be submitted as .PDF, .DOC, or .JPEG formats to be accepted. It is good practice to double-check after submitting an assignment (you may email your instructor with the correct document if you realize that you made an incorrect submission). *NOTE: If for any reason the college closes, continue to work on the assignments as spelled out in your syllabus and on D2L. You are accountable for the work upon the re-opening of the college.*

Late Work & Make-Up Policies: Assignments submitted after the deadline will incur a 10% deduction per day late (e.g., 2 points will be deducted each day for a late quiz). 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, May 5th.** Missed exams and in-class participation activities 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 a potentially excusable reason, contact me at kobrien4@com.edu as soon as possible.**

Extra Credit: Extra credit opportunities are available on D2L. Additional opportunities may be announced throughout the semester on D2L or in class.

Attendance Policy: Regular attendance and participation is a critical component to being successful in this course. Students are expected to arrive on time for each class and stay for the duration of the class. **Each class, students will complete activities for the Class Participation grade. In-class participation cannot be made up for any reason (including being sick or for emergencies). However, students can miss up to two class days without penalty; after two missed class days, each additional day's absence or lack of participation will incur a 16-point deduction from the Class Participation grade.** Additionally, if you incur four or more tardies throughout the semester, you will also be deducted 16 points total from your Class Participation grade (therefore, 4+ tardies = 1 absence). If you miss class, you are responsible for checking the syllabus and familiarizing yourself with the content covered (ask questions as needed).

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. **Students are expected to check their COM email and D2L course page (for announcements) regularly.** Communicate with your instructor about any questions or concerns related to the course in a timely manner so that your instructor can best help you. Your instructor should respond within 24-48 business hours (when the college is open).

Classroom Conduct: It is expected that everyone treats each other with mutual respect. Students demonstrate respect to their instructor by arriving on time for class, staying for the duration of class and participating in class activities, and listening attentively while the instructor is speaking. The instructor will demonstrate respect to students by arriving on time for class, being prepared with quality learning materials and activities, and listening attentively while students are speaking. Class discussions may include sensitive topics. It is ok to disagree with others, but it is not ok to verbally (or physically) attack another person because of their ideas or beliefs.

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 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 a zero with no make-up) 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.

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, Reflections, In-Class Activities, Exams, Research Paper, Presentation
2. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology		Quizzes, Reflections, In-Class Activities, Exams, Research Paper, Presentation
3. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology	Critical Thinking	Quizzes, Reflections, In-Class Activities, Exams, Research Paper, Presentation
4. Use terminology unique to the study of psychology		Quizzes, Reflections, In-Class Activities, Exams, Research Paper, Presentation
5. Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation	Empirical and Quantitative	Quizzes, Reflections, In-Class Activities, Exams, Research Paper, Presentation
6. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior	Critical Thinking	Quizzes, Reflections, In-Class Activities, Exams, Research Paper, Presentation
7. (CS1) Develop, interpret and express ideas through written communication	Communication Skills (Written)	Reflections, In-Class Activities, Exams, Research Paper
8. (CS2) Develop, interpret and express ideas through oral communication	Communication Skills (Oral)	In-Class Activities, 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, Reflections, In-Class Activities, Exams, 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 1st 8-week session is February 28th. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is April 22nd. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is May 1st.**

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.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	TUES	Class Topic	THURS	Class Topic	Assignments
1	1/16	Course Orientation	1/18	Introduction to Psychology	Reflection 1 due 1/21
2	1/23	The Science of Psychology	1/25	Research Methods in Psychology	Quiz 1 due 1/22 Reflection 2 due 1/28
3	1/30	Body Systems	2/1	The Brain	Quiz 2 due 1/29 Reflection 3 due 2/4
4	2/6	Lifespan Development: Body & Mind	2/8	Lifespan Development: The Social World	Quiz 3 due 2/5 Reflection 4 due 2/11
5	2/13	Consciousness & Sleep	2/15	Substance Use	Quiz 4 due 2/12 Reflection 5 due 2/18
6	2/20	Sensation & Perception	2/22	Learning Principles (Psychology of Behavior)	Quiz 5 due 2/19 Reflection 6 due 2/25
7	2/27	(Emotion/Motivation) Movie Analysis: <i>Inside Out</i>	2/29	(Emotion/Motivation) Movie Analysis: <i>Inside Out</i>	Quiz 6 due 2/26 Reflection 7 due 3/3
8	3/5	Midterm Review	3/7	Midterm Exam	
<i>College Closed 3/11-3/15: Enjoy your Spring Break</i>					
9	3/19	Research Workday	3/21	Research Workday	Quiz 7 due 3/18 <i>*Start rough draft of Research Paper*</i>
10	3/26	Thinking & Language	3/28	Intelligence & Neurodiversity	Quiz 8 due 3/25 Reflection 8 due 3/31
11	4/2	Memory	4/4	Social Psychology	Quiz 9 due 4/1 Reflection 9 due 4/7
12	4/9	Stress, Lifestyle, & Health	4/11	Personality	Quiz 10 due 4/8 Reflection 10 due 4/14
13	4/16	Psychological Disorders	4/18	Psychological Disorders	Quiz 11 due 4/15 Research Paper due 4/21
14	4/23	Therapy & Treatment	4/25	Final Review	Quiz 12 due 4/22 Reflection 11 due 4/28
15	4/30	Presentations	5/2	Presentations	Presentations due 4/29 Reflection 12 due 5/5
16	5/7	Final Exam	5/9	NO CLASS	

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.