



PSYC 2301-125H2
General Psychology
Fall 2025

Monday/Wednesday 12:30 PM – 1:50 PM
LRC 258

Instructor Information:

Name: Cynthia Campbell Palmer, Ph.D.
Email: ccampbellpalmer@com.edu
Office phone: 409-933-8656

Office hours and location:

Hours: Monday/Wednesday 9:30 am – 11:15 am; Tuesday 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm and by appointment
Location: Learning Resource Center (LRC); Suite A – Office 218

Required Textbook/Materials:

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

Course Description:

General Psychology is a survey of the major psychological topics, theories and approaches to the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. Prerequisites: TSIA2 945-990 ELAR/CRC test AND 5 or higher on Essay OR 910-944 on CRC with 5-6 on Diagnostic Test + 5 or higher on Essay, or [IRW 0320](#) with a grade of "C" or better. This is an academic transfer course.

Course requirements:

Grades are based on points accumulated throughout the course. Students can earn up to 1000 total points from assignments, exams and other coursework (not including extra credit). You should aim to earn at least 700 points (70%, C) by the end of the course. You are responsible for completing all assignments according to the instructions. Ask for help in a timely manner if you need it.

Determination of Course Grade:

Detailed Grading Formula:

Category	Point Value	Percentage of Final Grade	Letter Grade	Percentage	Points
Discussion Board Posts (12)	12 x 25 = 300	30%	A	90%+	90+
Chapter Quizzes (15)	15 x 20 = 300	30%	B	80-89%	80-89
Exams (2)	2 x 100 = 200	20%	C	70-79%	70-79
Research Project Part 1	100	10%	D	60-69%	60-69
Research Project Part 2	100	10%	F	59% or less	59 or less

Total	1,000	100%	<i>NOTE: Grades of D (60-69) and higher are passing for a COM degree but not for Collegiate HS and dual-credit students and will likely not be accepted in transfers to 4-year institutions.</i>
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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%

Please note all assignments and exams must be well-written, concise and coherent. Grammar mistakes, typos, spelling mistakes and other errors will result in lost points on your grade. It is critical that you proofread. The College of the Mainland Tutoring Center is available if you need additional assistance.

How Grades are Determined:

The performance of students in this course will be evaluated by the instructor based on evidence of actual mastery of the course goals and objectives, as evidenced by attendance, class participation and in the written assignments and other coursework. Although individual progress and efforts are laudatory, the assessment criteria do not accommodate to grading for growth or effort; rather, the focus is upon the evaluation of evidence of the actual level of achievement in relationship to the stated goals and objectives by the end of the grading period, regardless of the person's level of accomplishment at the outset or the intensity of efforts during the term. **In other words, simply completing the basic requirements of an assignment will NOT earn you an A on an assignment (A's are for exceptional work), nor will showing great effort or improvement over the course of the semester earn you an A for the course.** Grades will be assigned based on the following criteria:

F: Performance is inadequate on most goals and objectives; cognitive understanding of concepts and principles does not appear to be clear or integrated; student is excessively dependent upon or avoidant of instruction for direction.

C, D: Individual is engaged in some of the course goals and objectives at a minimal level of skill or cognitive processing required for performance of some tasks; integration and implementation of concepts are occasionally apparent; student is inappropriately dependent upon structured instruction to overcome deficiencies.

B- : Individual identifies, distinguishes, illustrates, and applies concepts and principles from course materials to show understanding of some course goals and objectives; demonstrates comprehension and appropriate usage of methods and principles; gives correct answers to questions and satisfactorily addresses most components of assignments; relies extensively on structured instruction for conceptualizing tasks; reflects to a limited extent on own mastery and integration of material.

B+, A-: In addition to above, individual clearly describes and assesses concepts from course materials, explores underlying linkages and relationships among concepts and principles; evaluates content, structure, and utilization of material; draws inferences for applications in new situations; demonstrates

development of high level of skill in analysis and application of concepts and methods; takes initiative in developing and demonstrating mastery of all course goals and objectives.

A: In addition to all of the above, individual takes extensive initiative in demonstrating exceptional mastery and integration of all areas related to course goals and objectives; makes explicit use of standards of excellence to critically appraise a wide range of resources beyond those covered in this course; creatively synthesizes and formulates innovative approaches to dealing with complex problems; demonstrates superior cognitive, affective, and practical mastery of all aspects of this field.

Attendance Class Participation: Class attendance is one component necessary to complete the course successfully. Active participation is mandatory. You are required to participate in all discussions and complete the assigned readings and assignments according to the schedule and deadlines. Participation includes but is not limited to, completing and critically examining assigned readings, regularly participating in class discussions and activities, and completing assignments. Part of this portion of your grade will depend on your participation in discussions including how much and how often you contribute to discussions. The depth and scholarly consideration of your discussions and contributions are included in your participation grade. **Please note that simply showing up for class does not automatically ensure that you will receive full credit for this portion of your grade.** Evaluation of your participation, attendance and preparation will be determined by how well you meet all these expectations. If you appear to be unprepared (e.g., have not read chapters or other reading assignments), or not engaged during class (e.g. not paying attention, working on other tasks during class) points will be deducted from your grade.

- **Discussion Board Posts (12):** Each discussion board post assignment will require students to: (1) submit an original post addressing the given prompt (20 points) and (2) submit a meaningful reply to at least one other student's post (5 points). Specific instructions will vary and can be found on D2L.
- **Chapter Quizzes (15):** Each quiz consists of 20 multiple-choice questions. Students have one attempt to complete each quiz. There is no time limit. You are allowed to use the textbook, notes, and other learning materials. You are not allowed to work with other students to complete your quiz.
- **Exams (2):** Each exam covers approximately half the course material: Exam 1 covers Ch. 1- 4; 6, 7-9, while Exam 2 covers Ch. 5, 10-12, and 14-16. Each exam consists of 35 multiple-choice questions and 3 short answer questions. Students will have the full class period (80 minutes) to complete each exam (see the course schedule at the end of the syllabus).
- **Research Project (Two Parts):** Students will complete a written analysis for a fictional character of choice (Part 1: Character Analysis) and, using this information, will then prepare a case presentation that includes formulation and reasoning of a DSM-5 TR diagnosis (Part 2: Case Presentation). Full instructions are available on D2L and will be discussed in class.

Assignment Submission Policy:

Assignments are due by 11:59 PM on the specified deadline (see the course schedule) unless explicitly stated otherwise. **Assignments must be submitted as .pdf, .doc/.docx, .ppt, or .jpeg formats to be accepted.**

Assignments submitted incorrectly may receive a 0 or late penalty. It is strongly recommended to check after

submitting an assignment to ensure it was submitted in the appropriate format and on time. **It is your responsibility to submit work in the specified format and on time.**

You are required to turn in your written assignments according to the schedule and deadlines. You are also required to take exams on the scheduled dates. These assignments will serve the purpose of increasing your knowledge including enhancing your critical thinking skills. All assignments must be well-thought out and coherent as well as free of grammatical and spelling errors and typos. Please see the Grading section above to determine what constitutes an A, B, etc. for clarification.

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

All assignments and coursework will be due by the specified deadline (see syllabus and D2L for deadlines for assignment submissions). **NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Technological issues are NOT an acceptable excuse for a late submission or not turning in an assignment. 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 significant illness or emergency, late work may be accepted without penalty at the discretion of the instructor if students contact the instructor ASAP, preferably before the deadline or exam date. Please note that the instructor determines what is deemed an emergency. Extra credit opportunities may be available at the discretion of the instructor.

Attendance Policy:

Your on-time attendance is included in your overall grade. PLEASE BE ON TIME FOR CLASS. Attendance will be taken within the FIRST 5 MINUTES of class, anyone showing up to class after attendance has been taken will be considered ABSENT. On-time attendance provides an opportunity to participate in class discussion and gain important information about the topic of General Psychology. No distinction will be made between excused vs. unexcused absences. Please note that each time a student arrives 5+ minutes late to class, he or she may lose 2 points from her/his total grade. Excessive tardiness (two or more) may result in a referral to the Dean of Students. For each day of class missed, a student may lose 5 points of her/his total grade. If you miss more than two classes, the instructor may determine that you have not completed the requirements of the course, especially given the amount of practice and learning that takes place during class. If you miss class, you are responsible for checking the syllabus, D2L, learning the material missed during your absence and completing assignments by the specified deadlines.

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 or via phone. Students are expected to check their COM email and D2L course page regularly (at minimum daily). Communicate with your instructor in a timely manner so that your instructor can best help you. Your instructor should respond within 24-48 business hours.

Core Objectives:

Students successfully completing this course will demonstrate competency in the following Core Objectives:

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	Exam

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

Academic Dishonesty:

Any incident of academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, other individuals completing your coursework, exams or any other course assignments. Instances of academic dishonesty will result in a **grade of zero** on that exam or assignment and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate disciplinary action.

- **AI Policy:** The use of any AI programming including ChatGPT, Claude, Grammarly, Quillbot, Midjourney, or Walter Writes AI Humanizer to assist with creating, writing, completing part or all of any assignments, quizzes, exams or any other coursework is prohibited. Coursework containing any AI generated material will receive a **grade of zero**. Also, the student may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate disciplinary action. The material generated by these programs may be inaccurate, incomplete, or otherwise problematic. Beware that use may also stifle your own independent learning, thinking and creativity.
- Every submission should be an original composition that the student created, on their own. Students are not allowed to use any alternative generation tool for any type of submission in this course.

Faculty reserve the right to use AI detection software, compare present to past work, or require verbal explanation of your work to find instances of AI-generated writing in student submissions. The findings are binding and can be subject to student code of conduct, academic dishonesty, and plagiarism policies in the course. **You will receive a grade of zero on your assignment, will be reported to the**

Dean of Students, and can fail the course. Reach out to your instructor, peer or the Tutoring center if you are having difficulties with assignments.

- **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is using research without citations or using a created product including writings and other materials without crediting the source. This includes paraphrasing and/or directly copying and pasting from a website or other source into your work product. Plagiarism also includes the unintentional use of the same groups of words as another source without proper quotation and attribution (accidental plagiarism). Plagiarism carries a significant penalty. Assignments or any course work 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 disciplinary action.

Link(s) to resource(s) about avoiding plagiarism:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/02/>

<http://en.writecheck.com/ways-to-avoid-plagiarism/>

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, please contact Department Chair, Shinya Wakao at 409-933-8107 or 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/student-handbook.html>

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, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: AccessibilityServices@com.edu

Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, 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 October 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 14. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is November 25.

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.

Nondiscrimination Statement:

The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.

Course Outline – Please note that the course outline is subject to changes at any time at the discretion of the instructor. You are responsible for all changes on the syllabus, outline and D2L.

1 Monday In-Class 10-13-2025	Tues. Online 10-14-2025	Wed. In-Class 10-15-2025	Thurs. Online 10-16-2025	<i>Due Sunday 10-19-2025</i>
Syllabus Chapter 1 Introduction to Psychology	Read Ch. 2 Psychological Research DB Post 1	Ch. 2 Psychological Research	Read Ch. 3 Biopsychology DB Post 2	Syllabus Quiz Ch. 1 Quiz Ch. 2 Quiz
2 Monday In-Class 10-20-2025	Tues. Online 10-21-2025	Wed. In-Class 10-22-2025	Thurs. Online 10-23-2025	<i>Due Sunday 10-26-2025</i>
Ch. 3 Biopsychology	Read Ch. 4 States of Consciousness and Chapter 6 Learning DB Post 3	Ch. 6 Learning	Read Ch. 7 Thinking and Intelligence DB Post 4	Ch. 3 Quiz Ch. 4 Quiz Ch. 6 Quiz
3 Monday In-Class 10-27-2025	Tues. Online 10-28-2025	Wed. In-Class 10-29-2025	Thurs. Online 10-30-2025	<i>Due Sunday 10-31-2025</i>
Ch. 7 Thinking and Intelligence	Read Ch. 8 Memory and Ch. 9 Lifespan Development DB Post 5	Ch. 9 Lifespan Development	Review Exam 1	Ch. 7 Quiz Ch. 8 Quiz Ch. 9 Quiz
4 Monday In-Class 11-3-2025	Tues. Online 11-4-2025	Wed. In-Class 11-5-2025	Thurs. Online 11-6-2025	<i>Due Sunday 11-9-2025</i>
Exam 1	Read Ch. 15 Psychological Disorders DB Post 6	Introduce Research Project Ch. 15 Psychological Disorders	Read Ch. 16 Therapy and Treatment DB Post 7 Read Ch. 10 Emotion and Motivation	Ch. 15 Quiz Ch. 10 Quiz

5 Monday In-Class 11-10-2025	Tues. Online 11-11-2025	Wed. In-Class 11-12-2025	Thurs. Online 11-13-2025	<i>Due Sunday 11-14-2025</i>
Ch. 16 Therapy and Treatment	Read Ch. 14 Stress, Lifestyle and Health DB Post 8	Ch. 14 Stress, Lifestyle and Health	Read Ch. 11 Personality DB Post 9	Ch. 16 Quiz Ch. 14 Quiz **Research Project Part 1 due**
6 Monday In-Class 11-16-2025	Tues. Online 11-17-2025	Wed. In-Class 11-18-2025	Thurs. Online 11-19-2025	<i>Due Sunday 11-23-2025</i>
Ch. 11. Personality	Read Ch. 12 Social Psychology DB Post 10	Ch. 12. Social Psychology	Review Exam 2 Work on Research Project Part 2 DB Post 11	Ch. 11 Quiz Ch. 12 Quiz
7 Monday In-Class 11-24-2025	Tues. Online 11-25-2025	Wed. In-Class 11-26-2025	Thurs. Online 11-27-2025	<i>Due Sunday 11-30-2025</i>
Exam 2	DB Post 12	**Research Project Part 2 Due** Submit presentation to D2L DUE BEFORE CLASS Presentations	Thanksgiving Break No Class	
8 Monday In-Class 12-1-2025	Tues. Online 12-2-2025	Wed. In-Class 12-3-2025	Thurs. Online 12-4-2025	
Presentations		Presentations		

