



## Psychology 2301.013INT – Spring 2024 GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY (Online)

**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 9:30 AM-12:30 PM, Tues 11:00 AM-12:30 PM, W 9:30 AM-12:30 PM (& by appointment)

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

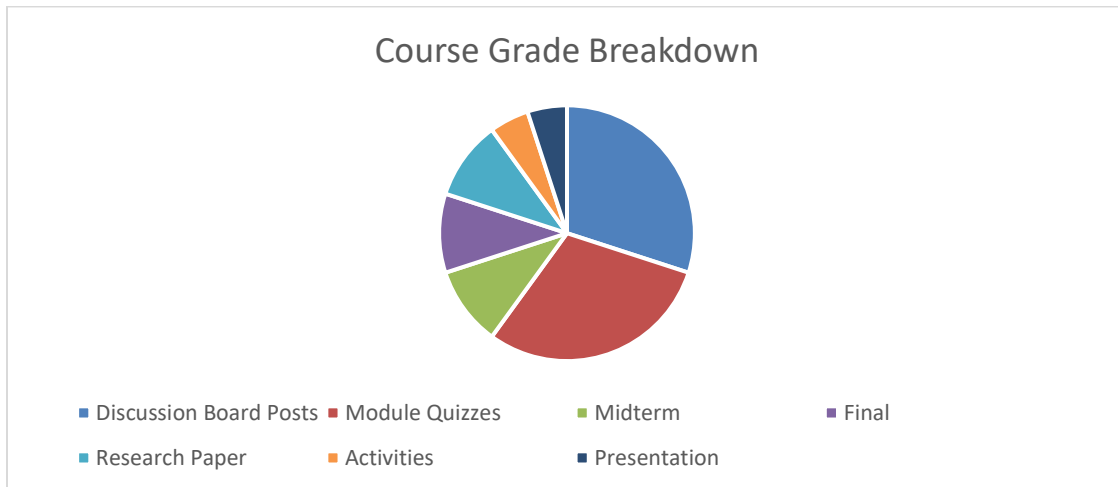
You need a reliable computer and internet access (<http://www.com.edu/computer-labs>).

**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 (12)	30%	12 x 25 pts = 300	A	90%+	900+
Module Quizzes (6)	30%	6 x 50 pts = 300	B	80-89%	800-899
Midterm Exam	10%	100	C	70-79%	700-799
Final Exam	10%	100	D	60-69%	600-699
Research Paper	10%	100	F	59% or less	599 or less
Worksheets (5)	5%	5 x 10 pts = 50	<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	5%	50			
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,000 points</b>			



**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:** Deadlines can be found in the Course Schedule at the end of the syllabus and will also be posted with each assignment on D2L Brightspace. Assignments will be submitted by modules. **Each module (all included assignments) is 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 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., 5 points will be deducted each day for a late module 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 5<sup>th</sup>.**

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 deadlines for a potentially excusable reason, contact me at [kobrien4@com.edu](mailto:kobrien4@com.edu) as soon as possible.**

**Extra Credit:** Extra credit opportunities are available on D2L.

**Attendance Policy:** Regular “attendance” and participation is a critical component to being successful in college courses. This course is entirely online, which means that you must be self-disciplined about completing work on time. (I recommend scheduling out specific time blocks to work on this class each week to avoid the stress of finishing assignments last-minute).

**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.** This is especially crucial for online courses, as all communication for this course occurs via email and D2L. 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. 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 posts). Online discussions may include sensitive topics. It is ok to disagree with others, but it is not ok to verbally (written) 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.

**Technology Outage Policy:** In the event you experience a technology problem, it is your responsibility to communicate immediately with your instructor and the DE department at College of the Mainland (COM). It is a good idea to make a screenshot of the error and email it to the Distance Education Helpdesk as well as your instructor. Contacting COM’s Distance Education department can be accomplished by submitting a ticket anytime at <http://de-support.com.edu/requests> or via live chat Monday to Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM whenever the college is open. If you have trouble submitting assignments via D2L, you may email your assignment directly to the instructor at [kobrien4@com.edu](mailto:kobrien4@com.edu).

**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).

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

**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).

## COURSE SCHEDULE

<b>Module</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topic(s)</b>	<b>Assignments Due</b>
<b>Course Orientation</b>	Open 1/15, Due 1/21 (Closes 1/31)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course Orientation, Syllabus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion Board Post #1</li> <li>• Syllabus Search Worksheet</li> </ul>
<b>Module 1</b>	Open 1/22, Due 2/4 (Closes 2/14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intro to Psychology</li> <li>• Research Methods</li> <li>• Biopsychology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module 1 Quiz</li> <li>• Discussion Board Post #2</li> <li>• Discussion Board Post #3</li> <li>• Zombie Brain Worksheet</li> </ul>
<b>Module 2</b>	Open 2/5, Due 2/18 (Closes 2/28)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lifespan Development</li> <li>• States of Consciousness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module 2 Quiz</li> <li>• Discussion Board Post #4</li> <li>• Discussion Board Post #5</li> <li>• Psychoactive Substances Worksheet</li> </ul>
<b>Module 3</b>	Open 2/19, Due 3/3 (Closes 3/13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sensation and Perception</li> <li>• Learning Principles</li> <li>• Emotion and Motivation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module 3 Quiz</li> <li>• Discussion Board Post #6</li> <li>• Discussion Board Post #7</li> <li>• Conditioning Worksheet</li> </ul>
<b>Midterm Exam</b>	Open 3/4, Due 3/10 (Closes 3/11, 12am)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modules 1-3</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Midterm Exam</li> </ul>
<b><i>College Closed 3/11-3/15: Enjoy your Spring Break</i></b>			
<b>Module 4</b>	Open 3/18, Due 3/31 (Closes 4/10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thinking and Language</li> <li>• Intelligence and Neurodiversity</li> <li>• Memory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module 4 Quiz</li> <li>• Discussion Board Post #8</li> <li>• Discussion Board Post #9</li> <li>• Research Worksheet</li> </ul>
<b>Module 5</b>	Open 4/1, Due 4/14 (Closes 4/24)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Psychology</li> <li>• Stress, Lifestyle, &amp; Health</li> <li>• Personality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module 5 Quiz</li> <li>• Discussion Board Post #10</li> <li>• Discussion Board Post #11</li> <li>• Research Presentation</li> </ul>
<b>Module 6</b>	Open 4/15, Due 4/28 (Closes 5/5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psychological Disorders</li> <li>• Therapy and Treatment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module 6 Quiz</li> <li>• Discussion Board Post #12</li> <li>• Research Paper</li> </ul>
<b>Final Exam</b>	Open 4/29, Due 5/5 (Closes 5/6, 12am)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modules 4-6</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Exam</li> </ul>

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- *Assignments are due at 11:59 PM on the due date specified.*
  - *Modules open at 12:01 AM on Mondays and close 10 days after the due date.*
  - *I advise you all to post Discussion Board Posts early in each module so that everyone has enough time to respond to each other.*