



**PSYC 2301.101CL**  
**General Psychology**  
**Fall 2021**  
**Monday and Wednesday 8:00 AM - 9:20 AM**

**Instructor Information:** Robert Cloud, [rcloud1@com.edu](mailto:rcloud1@com.edu), 409-933-8212 (Kerry Kloesel office)

**Student hours and location:** I will be available (Wednesday) 30 minutes before class begins in the assigned classroom; Learning Resource; Bldg. #8, Room 213

**Required Textbook/Materials:** *Psychology in Everyday Life, Fourth Edition; by David G. Myers; published by Worth Publishers. 2017*

**Course Description:** An introduction to the field of psychology and 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:**

**Coursework Policy:** All coursework will be assigned and opened online on a weekly basis. For this course, weeks begin at 12:00 am on the MONDAY of the assigned week and end at 11:59 pm on the SUNDAY of the assigned week.

**EXCEPTION:** Due to it being the last week of classes, Week 16 will be a short week. Accommodations have been made and Week 16 assignments will open at 12:00 am on SATURDAY of Week 15 and close at 5:00 pm on WEDNESDAY of Week 16.

**Failure to complete an assignment:** All assignments will be due by the date assigned by the professor. NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

**Chapter Quizzes: 260 points**

There will be a total of 13 Chapter Quizzes and one syllabus quiz, with each quiz having a maximum of 20 points. Quizzes will be assigned for each chapter and each quiz will have a total of 10 questions. Chapter Quizzes may include a combination of true/false, multiple-choice, and/or matching questions. Each Chapter Quiz will be timed and you will have a total of 15 minutes to complete each quiz.

All students must complete the online quizzes by the scheduled date. There are **NO Make-up Quizzes**.

**NOTE:** Please be aware that although you have one full week to take the quizzes, once the quiz has started it must be completed in one timed session.

### **Discussion Forum Posts: 200 points**

Each student will be required to complete 1 Introduction Forum and 12 Discussion Forum posts throughout the semester. These posts will allow you to discuss a topic related to the assigned chapter in greater depth.

In the Introduction Forum, each student will be required to complete an Introduction Post during the first week of classes. This post will allow you to introduce yourself to the class with a short biography. In this biography, you can include any details about yourself that will allow your fellow students to “put a person to the name”. The Introductions Forum Post will be worth a maximum of 20 points.

Each Discussion Forum Post has the following instructions:

1. Review the assigned article(s) or video(s)
2. Post a brief description of the topic and discuss what they have learned
3. Post a brief summary of their thoughts are on the topic
4. Reply to a minimum of one other student’s posts and rate it

Each Discussion Forum Post will be worth a maximum of 15 points. You will earn up to 5 points for your description of the topic and what you have learned up to 5 points for your thoughts on the topic and up to 5 points for your reply to another student.

**NOTE:** Responses can be deleted at the discretion of the instructor. Responses will only be deleted if the instructor determines them to be aggressive, rude, degrading, etc., and they may be deleted without notice to the student. All such responses will receive a grade of 0 for the deleted thread. Please refer to the syllabus for more information regarding student conduct and expectations.

### **Presentation Post: 140 points**

Each student will be required to complete 4 Presentation Posts throughout the semester. These Presentation Posts will help students examine some of the ethical issues within psychology and identify how these impact our society on the community, state, and national levels. Further, this presentation will allow students to examine the importance of being knowledgeable of their own personal biases and/or stereotypes, and how they can be more informed in their future interactions.

Each Presentation Post has the following instructions:

1. Review the assigned topic
2. Develop and record a 5-minute presentation on the topic. Specific instructions will be provided.
3. Write a brief summary of your presentation.
4. Share your presentation with the instructor. Specific instructions will be provided

Each Presentation Post will be worth a **maximum of 35 points**. You will earn up to 10 points for Quality of Information and Organization, up to 10 points for Quality of Verbal Communication, up to 10 points for Quality of Non-Verbal Communication, and up to 5 points for the Written Summary.

**ALL PRESENTATIONS IN LESS THAN 5 MINUTES WILL NOT BE GRADED!**

### **Exams: 400 points**

There will be a total of 4 Exams, with each exam having a maximum of 100 points. Exams will be broken down into sections containing between 2 and 4 chapters, and each exam will have a total of 100 questions. Exams may include a combination of true/false, multiple-choice, matching, and/or short answer questions. Exams will be timed and you will have a total of 120 minutes to complete each exam.

All students must complete the online exams by the scheduled date. There are **NO Make-up Exams**.

NOTE: Please be aware that although you have one full week to take the exam, once the exam has been started it must be completed in one timed session.

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

#### **Grading Formula**

| Assignments and Point Values               |      |
|--|------|
| Best 13 Chapter Quizzes (20 points each)*  | 260  |
| 1 Introduction Forum Post (20 points)      | 20   |
| 12 Discussion Forum Posts (15 points each) | 180  |
| 4 Presentation Posts (35 points each)      | 140  |
| 4 Exams                                    | 400  |
| <hr/>                                      |      |
| Total Points                               | 1000 |

## Grading Scale

The final point value required for each course grade is indicated below.

A 900 or more  
B 800 – 899  
C 700 – 799  
D 600 – 699  
F Below 600

**Failure to complete an assignment:** There are NO make-up quizzes, assignments, discussions, or exams! With NO exception! I leave them all open for a wide period of time to give you every opportunity to complete them within the required period. The dates and times that the graded materials are available will be clearly visible on Blackboard. The due dates will also be posted on the course schedule.

**Make-Up Policy** Failure to complete an assignment: There are NO make-up quizzes, assignments, discussions, or exams! With NO exception! I leave them all open for a wide period of time to give you every opportunity to complete them within the required period. The dates and times that the graded materials are available will be clearly visible on Blackboard. The due dates will also be posted on the course schedule.

**Changes to the Syllabus:** The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus if they are deemed necessary to improve the overall learning process. It is the student's responsibility to keep updated on course information if he or she is absent.

**Attendance Policy:** Students are expected to communicate with the instructor if the need arises to miss a class. One absence per semester will be granted without a penalty. Students are expected to attend each class; therefore, points will be deducted from an excused and unexcused absence. Attendance will be taken the first ten minutes of class; anyone showing up to class after attendance has been taken and will be considered absent. Students are expected to be on time to class; therefore, timeliness will also factor into the semester grade. Being tardy three times will count as one absence.

**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. Only questions about your grade or private matters should be sent via email ([rcloud1@com.edu](mailto:rcloud1@com.edu)) or discussed during my student hours. I will respond within 24 hours during the week and Monday during weekends. All other questions about the course should be posted on the discussion board because that is where you will find answers to questions about the course. This way, everyone learns from each other. Please answer questions posted by your peers if you know the answer.

## **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 an informed conclusion.

| <b>Student Learner Outcome</b>  | <b>Maps to Core Objective</b>  | <b>Assessed via this Assignment</b>                                 |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Identify various research methods and their characteristics used in the scientific study of psychology   | Empirical and Quantitative     | Discussion Board Questions, Quizzes, and Exams                      |
| 2. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology  |                                | Discussion Board Questions, Quizzes, and Exams                      |
| 3. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology   | Critical Thinking              | Discussion Board Questions, Quizzes, and Exams                      |
| 4. Use terminology unique to the study of psychology  |                                | Discussion Board Questions, Quizzes, Presentation and Exams         |
| 5. Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation  | Empirical and Quantitative     | Discussion Board Questions, Quizzes, and Exams                      |
| 6. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior   | Critical Thinking              | Discussion Board Questions, Quizzes, Presentation and Exams         |
| 7. (CS1) Develop, interpret and express ideas through written communication   | Communication Skills (Written) | Discussion Board Questions, Presentation, and Exams (Short Answers) |
| 8. (CS2) Develop, interpret and express ideas through oral communication  | Communication Skills (Oral)    | Discussion Board Questions (Classroom Discussions) and Presentation |
| 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 Questions and Presentation                         |

**Academic Dishonesty:** Any incident of academic policy will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as cheating on exams is an extremely serious offense and will result in a grade of zero on that exam and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate disciplinary action.

**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.

**Course outline:**

| <b>Date</b>                         | <b>Chapter &amp; Topic</b>  | <b>Quiz</b>       | <b>Assignment</b>     |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Week 1<br/>Aug 23 – Aug 29</b>   | "Getting Started" Chapter 1<br>Psychology's Roots, Critical Thinking,<br>and Self-Improvement Tools | Syllabus<br>Ch. 1 | Introduction Post     |
| <b>Week 2<br/>Aug 30 - Sept 5</b>   | Chapter 2 The Biology of Behavior<br>and Consciousness  | Ch. 2             | Ch. 2 Discussion Post |
| <b>Week 3<br/>Sept 6 - Sept 12</b>  | Chapter 3 Developing Through the<br>Life Span   | Ch. 3             | Ch. 3 Discussion Post |
| <b>Week 4<br/>Sept 13 - Sept 19</b> | Chapter 4 Sex, Gender, and<br>Sexuality   | Ch 4              | Ch. 4 Discussion Post |
| <b>Week 5<br/>Sept 20 - Sept 26</b> | Exam 1 (Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4)  |                   | Presentation Post 1   |
| <b>Week 6<br/>Sept 27 - Oct 3</b>   | Chapter 5 Sensation and Perception  | Ch 5              | Ch. 5 Discussion Post |
| <b>Week 7*<br/>Oct 4 - Oct 10</b>   | Chapter 6 Learning<br>Monday, Oct 4th (No Class)  | Ch 6              | Ch. 6 Discussion Post |
| <b>Week 8<br/>Oct 11 - Oct 17</b>   | Chapter 8 Thinking, Language, and<br>Intelligence   | Ch 8              | Ch. 8 Discussion Post |
| <b>Week 9<br/>Oct 18 - Oct 24</b>   | Exam 2 (Chapters 5, 6, and 8)   |                   | Presentation Post 2   |
| <b>Week 10</b>                      | Chapter 9 Motivation and Emotion  | Ch 9              | Ch. 9 Discussion Post |

|  |  |                |  |
|--|--|----------------|--|
| <b>Oct 25 - Oct 31</b>   |  |                |  |
| <b>Week 11*</b><br><b>TWO CHAPTERS</b><br><b>Nov 1 – Nov 7</b> | Chapter 10 Stress, Health, and Human Flourishing<br>Chapter 11 Social Psychology | Ch 10<br>Ch 11 | Ch. 10 Discussion Post<br>Ch. 11 Discussion Post |
| <b>Week 12</b><br><b>Nov 8 - Nov 14</b>                        | Chapter 12 Personality   | Ch 12          | Ch. 12 Discussion Post                           |
| <b>Week 13</b><br><b>Nov 15 - Nov 21</b>                       | Exam 3 (Chapters 9, 10, 11, and 12)  |                | Presentation Post 3                              |
| <b>Week 14</b><br><b>Nov 22 - Nov 28</b>                       | Chapter 13 Psychological Disorders   | Ch 13          | Ch. 13 Discussion Post                           |
| <b>Week 15</b><br><b>Nov 29 - Dec 5</b>                        | Chapter 14 Therapy   | Ch 14          | Ch. 14 Discussion Post                           |
| <b>Week 16</b><br><b>Dec 4 - Dec 8</b>                         | Exam 4 (90% from Chapters 13 & 14;<br>10% from all other chapters)               |                | Presentation Post 4                              |

**NOTE: \*\***Due to it being the last week of classes, **Week 16** will be a short week. Accommodations have been made and Week 16 assignments will open at 12:00am on Saturday of Week 15 and close at 5:00 pm on **WEDNESDAY** of Week 16

### **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](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.* [https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student\\_Handbook\\_2019-2020v5.pdf](https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf)

**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 Holly Bankston at 409-933-8520 or [hbankston@com.edu](mailto:hbankston@com.edu). The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

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

**Textbook Purchasing Statement:** A student attending the 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 6. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 19. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is December 2.

**F<sub>N</sub> Grading:** The F<sub>N</sub> grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The F<sub>N</sub> 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<sub>N</sub> grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an F<sub>N</sub> grade.

**Early Alert Program:** The Student Success Center at the 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](http://www.com.edu/coronavirus). In compliance with Governor Abbott's May 18 Executive Order, face coverings/masks will no longer be required on the 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 [com.edu/coronavirus](http://com.edu/coronavirus) for future updates.

