PSYC 2301.031,331IN
General Psychology
SPRING 2023
Online

Instructor Information: Jennifer Abshire, M.A.
                               jabshire3@com.edu

Student hours and location: 11:00am -12:00pm M/W Gym office 123
Virtual Hours by appointment

Required Textbook:
Psychology in Everyday Life, 5th Edition; By David G. Myers & C. Nathan DeWall; Published by Worth Publishers, 2020

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.

Course Description:
This course will provide an introduction to the major topic areas of psychology including neuroscience, the nature vs nurture debate, learning, cognitive psychology, motivation, personality theory, psychological disorders, and therapeutic approaches.

Course Requirements:
This course primarily consists of online lessons and discussions provided by the instructor. Additionally, videos and other supplementary articles may be used to emphasize key issues. The online lessons parallel and reinforce assigned textbook readings; therefore, it is essential that students keep up to date with their online work. A variety of means will be employed to evaluate student performance. The following sections explain the graded components of the course, the points available for each component, as well as the grading criteria to be used at the end of the semester.

Determination of Course Grade

Discussions:
Discussions represent the interactive component of this course. The graded topics are related to the readings, presentations, and/or current events taking place in psychology today. These forums are a way of exchanging information with your fellow students. You will receive a grade for your thoughtful participation in the discussions associated with each of the topics. Remember you need to be able to support your position with knowledge and research on a particular topic with reliable sources. "Participation" means that for each topic, you should post an Initial Post (a minimum of 250 words) as well as a Response Post to 1 other student (a minimum of 250 words) for full credit. Please note that some points may be deducted if the posts are insufficient – "I agree" "You're right" etc. Graded course Discussions employ a "post first" setting that requires students to post their Initial Post before gaining access to read other students' posts. Attempts to subvert this setting by submitting a blank initial post, or by any other methods will result in a grade of "0" for the unit discussion.

All graded discussion posts are due by 11:59pm on the due date listed on the course schedule. Pay close attention to due dates! Initial Posts and Response Posts have two DIFFERENT due dates.

Ground Rules for Online Discussion:
1. We will respect each other's' confidentiality at all times. Though it is unlikely that sensitive personal information will be discussed in this course, please be aware that any personal information revealed on D2L must be held in strict confidence.
2. In the interest of promoting critical thinking, and serious discussion, students should be prepared to have their views challenged by the instructor and/or fellow students. Respect the right of others to have differing beliefs and attitudes. We do not all have to agree. However, we do need to be respectful in the way we disagree.
3. Disruptive behavior, which interferes with teaching and/or learning, will not be tolerated.

More guidelines for online discussion are provided in the Course Orientation document.

Weekly Chapter Reviews:
There will be 13 Chapter Reviews due on Monday nights throughout the semester. The instructions will be posted in D2L

Social Responsibility Presentation:
Choose only one option. You may voice over your PowerPoint to explain the issue/cause/organization.
Choice 1: Think of a problem in society that concerns you (ex. texting while driving). Create a 3-slide power point. Slide one will be your 'billboard' that defines the problem and advertises your stance. What will make it stand out at people passing by? Why should others care about your concern? Slide 2 will be your researched suggestions to help solve the problem. Slide 3 will be your three references.
Choice 2: Think of an organization you want to bring awareness to. Slide 1 will be the billboard that explains the organization and why they need support. Make sure the name and what they do is clear. What will make it stand out to those passing by? Slide 2 will be details about organization – are they a non-profit/how much do they give back/statistics about them. Slide 3 will be your three references.

Mini projects. There will be 5 mini projects connecting outside sources to the information you are learning about in this class. Each will have its own set of instructions and due dates listed.

FINAL: Oral Presentation Assignment:
This course includes an oral presentation that will be recorded and submitted as an assignment for course credit. There is an "Oral Presentation" section of this course containing all the pertinent information necessary and required for completing this assignment. **Do not skip any of the documents or links provided.**
It is your responsibility to review all these documents and links thoroughly and submit the assignment by the due date listed on the course schedule. A presentation submitted in the incorrect format, emailed to the instructor, or uploaded directly to D2L will be given a grade deduction of 20%.
This Oral Presentation assignment will also include a required APA styled "References" page that will be submitted to D2L and account for a percentage of your Oral Presentation assignment grade.

As you prepare to complete this presentation assignment, you may want to utilize the Speaking, Reading, and Writing Center. You must make an appointment to use the Speaking Booths or to work with a tutor on oral communication. Contact the [Tutoring Center](https://www.com.edu/tutoring), (https://www.com.edu/tutoring), for more information on obtaining assistance.

Videos must be saved and uploaded in one of the following formats: .avi, .m4v, .mp4, or .wmv. Videos saved in any other format may not be viewable by the instructor and may result in a 20% grade deduction. If you need assistance, please contact the Education Technology Department for help by filling out a Support Ticket.

An ungraded Discussion Forum will be located on the course Discussion Board where you may ask the instructor and your fellow classmates' questions about any and all aspects of the assignment. You will have the option to post anonymously, should you feel nervous about asking a silly question. NOTE: There are no silly questions.

Detailed Grading Formula:

Graded Course Work/Activity	Points
Chapter Reviews	325
Mini- Projects 5@ 50 points each	250
Social Responsibility Project	75
FINAL: 1 Oral Presentation @ 150 points & 1 Reference Page @ 50 points	200
"Student Introductions" Discussion @ 20points	20
3 Discussions @ 50 points each	150
Total Points Possible	**1020**

Grading Scale:

Point Range	Letter Grade
918 -1020	A
816-917	B
714-699	C
612-599	D
611 - below	F

Make-Up Policy
20% will be deducted from Chapter Reviews and projects if late.

Attendance Policy:
If you want to pass, come to class. In an online environment, this means that you are **expected to log into the course a minimum of 3 times per week** and you should expect to spend at least 6-8 hours a week in the course reviewing lessons, and other course material, and completing assignments, and discussions. The online material goes beyond the material presented in the text, and you will be held accountable for this material on the course assignments. The discussion component of the course also requires you to engage your fellow students in "conversation," which requires you to regularly read and respond to posts.

NOTE: If for any reason the college closes, continue to work on the assignments spelled out in your syllabus and refer to D2L for further instructions.

Disclaimers/Additional Policies:

Course Communication:
I generally respond to Emails and Discussion Posts within 36 hours, weekends and holidays excluded. Please note that I will not respond to any emails sent via personal email accounts. If you contact me via email, it must be using your College of the Mainland email account. Also note that grades and other course-related information will not be discussed via telephone, as it is impossible to verify the identity of the individual on the

other end of the line.

Technology Compliance Policy

This class uses a Learning Management System called D2L Brightspace for lectures, assessments, and other course-related materials and links. Each student must maintain Internet access throughout the duration of this course. Additionally, students are expected to maintain a state of technical compliance, including (but not limited to):

- up-to-date browsers,
- multiple (minimum of 2) browsers (recommended: Chrome & Firefox),
- appropriate and adequate computer hardware,
- a stable Internet connection,
- and other up-to-date software as required by the instructor.

Computer and internet access are necessary to complete most assignments. If you do not have your own computer and internet access, you may utilize the computers in the Computer Lab and the library.

You are expected to be familiar with the technology and software they must use for this course, including the D2L Brightspace Learning System and any word-processing technology.

You are expected to be able to upload assignments in the proper file format according to assignment directions without instructor assistance. Problems with technology, including computer problems and power outages, will not justify extending a deadline unless the issue is with the college network.

In the event you experience a technology problem or error, it is your responsibility to communicate with your instructor as soon as possible using a working form of technology, viaEmail at jabshire3@com.edu if you experience any technology problems or errors with *college* software (D2L, etc.), **immediately** notify the DE department at College of the Mainland (COM) by submitting a ticket. If possible, make a screenshot of the error and email it to your instructor as well as the Distance Education Helpdesk. Contacting COM's Distance Education departmentcan be accomplished by submitting a ticket at http://de-support.com.edu/requests .

Success Tips for Students

1. **Read your syllabus**, re-read your syllabus, don't lose your syllabus.
2. **Don't procrastinate**. Determine the amount of time you are going to need to spend on each portion of the course. Make sure you give yourself enough time to complete the assignments.
3. **Stay organized** & dedicate a quiet workspace to complete course readings, assignments, quizzes, and exams.
4. Break readings & course work down into **manageable goals**. Set personal deadlines and stick to them.
5. **Create a calendar of due dates** for this and all your courses using a digital calendar (Google calendar, smartphone calendar, etc.) or an old-fashioned paper.
6. **Follow the Course Schedule**!!!

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 Shinya Wakao at swakao@com.edu.

Course Schedule: Subject to Change at instructor discretion

January	Student Introductions – Discussion	1/23
	Chapter 1 Review	1/23
	Chapter 2 Review	1/30
	"Biology of Mind" Discussion – **Initial Post Due**	1/30
	Mini Project – Brain Body connection	1/30
February	Chapter 10 Review	2/6
	Mini Project - Values	2/6
	"Biology of Mind" Discussion – **Response Post Due**	2/13
	Chapter 9 Review	2/13
	Mini Project -Meaningful Photos	2/13
	Chapter 3 Review	2/20
	Chapter 5 Review	2/27
March	Chapter 8 Review	3/6
	SPRING BREAK	3/13-3/17
	"Learning" Discussion – **Initial Post Due**	3/20
	Chapter 6 Review	3/20
	Chapter 7 Review	3/27
April	"Learning" Discussion – **Response Post Due**	4/3
	Chapter 12 Review	4/10
	Mini Project – Personality Tests	4/10
	"Personality" Discussion – **Initial Post Due**	4/10
	Chapter 13 Review	4/17
	Chapter 14 Review	4/24
	Mini Project – TED talk review	4/24
	"Personality" Discussion – **Response Post Due**	4/24
May	Chapter 11	5/1
	Social Responsibility Project	5/1
	Oral Presentation & Reference Page	5/10

Student Learner Outcomes	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Identify various research methods and their characteristics used in the scientific study of psychology	Empirical and Quantitative	Chapter 1 Review
2. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology		Chapter 13 Review
3. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology	Critical Thinking	Chapter 1 Review
4. Use terminology unique to the study of psychology		Mini Projects
5. Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation	Empirical and Quantitative	Chapter 14 Review
6. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior	Critical Thinking	Chapter 11 Review
7. Develop, interpret and express ideas through written communication (CS1)	Communication Skills (Written)	Chapter Reviews
8. Develop, interpret and express ideas through oral communication (CS2)	Communication Skills (Oral)	Oral Presentation
9. Demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities. Social	Social Responsibility	Social Responsibility Project

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 [Student_Handbook_2022-2023_v4.pdf (com.edu)](com.edu). *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 (409) 933-8919 or klachnley@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 March 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is April 24. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is May 3.

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