



**Psychology 2301.112C1 – Fall 2024, 1<sup>st</sup> 8 Weeks (8/19-10/10)**  
**GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY**  
**MTWTH 9:30-10:50 AM (LRC Building #8, Room 258)**

**Instructor Information:** Kristin O’Brien, M.A. | [kobrien4@com.edu](mailto:kobrien4@com.edu) | 409-933-8955

**Office Hours and Location:** Tuesdays 1:30-4:30 PM and Wednesdays 12-4:30 PM (and by appointment) in LRC Suite A-Office 217

**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).

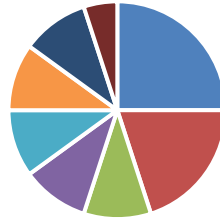
**Course Description:** This is an introduction to the field of psychology, dealing with such topics as the scientific method and theories, neuroscience and behavior, perception, consciousness, learning, memory, intelligence, motivation, emotion and stress, personality, psychological disorders, and therapy.

**Course Requirements:** Grades are based on points accumulated throughout the course. There is the possibility of earning 1,000 total points from assignments and assessments (not including extra credit). You are held accountable for completing all assignments according to the instructions. 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 (10)	25%	10 x 25 = 250	A	90%+	900+
Quizzes (10)	20%	10 x 20 = 200	B	80-89%	800-899
Class Participation Assignments	10%	100			
Exit Tickets	10%	100	C	70-79%	700-799
Exam 1	10%	100	D	60-69%	600-699
Exam 2	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	5%	50			
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,000 points</b>			

## Course Grade Breakdown



■ Discussion Board Posts   ■ Quizzes   ■ Participation Assignments   ■ Exit Tickets  
■ Exam 1   ■ Exam 2   ■ Research Paper   ■ Presentation

**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%

- **Discussion Board Posts (10):** Each discussion board post assignment will require students to: (1) submit an original post addressing the given prompt (20 points) and (2) submit a reply to at least one other student's post (5 points).
- **Quizzes (10):** Each quiz will consist of 20 multiple-choice questions. Students may have two attempts to complete each quiz. There is no time limit. Students are encouraged to use the textbook, any provided learning materials, and class notes to complete quizzes.
- **Class Participation Assignments:** A variety of in-class assignments will be given at various times during the course and will be graded for completion and effort.
- **Exit Tickets:** At the end of each class, students will be instructed to either summarize the main takeaways of the day's class and/or answer questions about the topic covered.
- **Exams (2):** Exam 1 assesses mastery over weeks 1-4 content (textbook chapters 1-6, 9), while Exam 2 assesses mastery over weeks 5-7 content (textbook chapters 7-8, 10-12, 14-16). Exams consist of 35 multiple-choice questions and 3 short answer questions and are not open book/open note.
- **Research Paper:** Students will complete a 2-3-page research paper formatted according to APA style (7<sup>th</sup> edition) about a relevant topic of their choice using a peer-reviewed research article.
- **Presentation:** Students will prepare and present a brief 5–8-minute oral/visual presentation about their research topic.

**Assignment Submission & Extra Credit Policies:** **Assignments must be submitted as .pdf, .doc/.docx, or .jpeg formats to be accepted.** It is good practice to double-check after submitting an assignment (resubmit the correct document if needed). **It is ultimately your responsibility to submit work in the proper format on time.** Extra credit opportunities are available on D2L.

**Late Work & Make-Up Policies:** Assignments submitted after the deadline will incur a 10% deduction per day late (e.g., 2.5 points will be deducted each day for a discussion board post). **Assignments will become an automatic zero at the point of 10 or more days late with no exceptions.** Technological issues are not an acceptable excuse for a late 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 illness or emergency, late work may be accepted without penalty at the discretion of the instructor, *if students contact the instructor before the deadline or exam date.* **Late work will NOT be accepted after October 7<sup>th</sup>.**

**Attendance & Classroom Conduct Policies:** Regular attendance and participation are critical to being successful in this course. Class participation assignments and exit tickets cannot be made up. Each missing exit ticket will result in a 5-point deduction and each missing class participation assignment will result in a 10-point deduction. If you miss class, you are responsible for checking the syllabus and studying the textbook, borrowing notes, or visiting office hours to learn the content.

It is expected that everyone treats each other with mutual respect. Students demonstrate respect to their instructor by arriving on time, staying for the duration of class, participating in class discussion and activities, and listening attentively while the instructor is speaking. The instructor will demonstrate respect to students by arriving on time, 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 attack another person.

**Communicating With Your Instructor:** **ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email.** Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share information about performance in the class through other electronic means. Students are expected to check their COM email and D2L course page regularly. 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.

**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 questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, contact the instructor ([kobrien4@com.edu](mailto:kobrien4@com.edu)). If, after discussing your concern with the instructor, you continue to have questions, contact Department Chair, Shinya Wakao at 409-933-8107 or [swakao@com.edu](mailto:swakao@com.edu).

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### 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	Exams
2. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology		Exams
3. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology	Critical Thinking	Exams, Research Paper
4. Use terminology unique to the study of psychology		Exams, Research Paper
5. Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation	Empirical and Quantitative	Exams
6. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior	Critical Thinking	Exams, Research Paper
7. (CS1) Develop, interpret and express ideas through written communication	Communication Skills (Written)	Research Paper
8. (CS2) Develop, interpret and express ideas through oral communication	Communication Skills (Oral)	Presentation
9. (SR) Demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.	Social Responsibility	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\\_2024-2025\\_v2.pdf](https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2024-2025_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, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: [AccessibilityServices@com.edu](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week session is October 2. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 15. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is November 26.

**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).

**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 SCHEDULE

WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	DUE SUNDAY
1	8/19 Course Orientation	8/20 Introduction to Psychology <hr/> Quiz 1 DUE	8/21 Psychological Science & Research	8/22 Psychological Science & Research	8/25 <b>Quiz 2</b> <b>DB Post 1</b>
2	8/26 Research Day	8/27 Research Day	8/28 Biopsychology: Body Systems	8/29 Biopsychology: The Brain	9/1 <b>Quiz 3</b> <b>DB Post 2</b>
3	9/2 COLLEGE CLOSED – LABOR DAY	9/3 Lifespan Growth & Development: Infancy & Childhood	9/4 Lifespan Growth & Development: Adolescence & Adulthood	9/5 States of Consciousness	9/8 <b>Quiz 4</b> <b>DB Post 3-4</b>
4	9/9 Substance Use	9/10 Sensation & Perception	9/11 Learning Principles	9/12 Emotion & Motivation	9/15 <b>Quiz 5-6</b> <b>DB Post 5-6</b>
5	9/16 EXAM 1	9/17 Thinking & Language	9/18 Intelligence	9/19 Memory	9/22 <b>Quiz 7</b> <b>DB Post 7</b>
6	9/23 Peer Review Day <hr/> Bring a printed draft of your Research Paper	9/24 Social Psychology	9/25 Social Psychology	9/26 Personality	9/29 <b>Quiz 8</b> <b>DB Post 8-9</b> <b>Research Paper</b>
7	9/30 Stress, Health, & Lifestyle	10/1 Psychological Disorders	10/2 Psychological Disorders <hr/> *Withdrawal Deadline	10/3 Therapy & Treatment	10/6 <b>Quiz 9-10</b> <b>DB Post 10</b>
8	10/7 EXAM 2	10/8 Presentations <hr/> ALL presentations must be submitted to D2L BEFORE CLASS	10/9 Presentations	10/10 Presentations (if needed)	

*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.*