



PSYCH 2301.155H2
General Psychology
Fall 2024

M/W 12:30 –1:50

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

Student hours and location: T/Th -9:30-10:30am LRC Suite A

Required Textbook/Materials: *Psychology 2e* (OER imbedded in 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:

Chapter Reviews: There will be 7 Chapters in Review due weekly throughout the semester. Lowest review grade will be dropped. Details can be found in D2L.

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 if necessary.

Ground Rules for Discussion:

1. We will respect each other's confidentiality. Though it is unlikely that sensitive personal information will be discussed in this course, please be aware that any personal information revealed in class 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.

Mini projects: There will be a variety of mini projects expanding on the concepts covered in class. These will be turned into D2L by the dates given.

Critical Thinking Research Oral Presentation Final Project:

The research should look objectively at both sides of an issue or problem in society, and you will present your findings in an unbiased manner at the end of the semester with a video presentation. (More information can be found within D2L assignment link.)

This will be a PowerPoint Presentation with voice recording. Your device must have a microphone enabled to record audio:

Select Record Audio. Type in a name for your audio file, select Record, and then speak. To review your recording, select Stop and then select Play. Select Record to re-record your clip or select OK if you're satisfied. To move your clip, select and drag the audio icon to where you want it on the slide.

(<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.** If you need assistance, please contact the Education Technology Department for help by filling out a Support Ticket.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:

Assignments	Possible Points	Letter Grade	Points Possible
6 Chapters in Review (25pts each)	150	A	900-1000
5 Mini Projects (60pts each)	300	B	800-899
10 discussions (40pts each)	400	C	700-799
Critical Thinking Research	150	D	600-699
Total Points	1000	F	599 and below

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

20% will be deducted from Chapters in Review and projects if late.

Attendance Policy: Attendance Policy: Students will fill out a “**Classroom Daily Thought Card**” each day. **Your name, date, and a thought for the day need to be on the card, along with 1 thing you are grateful for. You may add anything else after that 😊.** I will use the cards to take attendance. Communication with your instructor is extremely important. If you are unable to attend class, if possible, e-mail me prior to class. Students are expected to attend each class! There will be no distinction between an excused and unexcused absence.

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.

Communicating with your instructor: ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. I generally respond to emails within 24-48 hours, weekends and holidays excluded. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means. The best way to reach me is by email - jabshire3@com.edu or make an appointment for virtual office hours if you cannot make it to campus.

Academic Dishonesty: Any incident of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as using AI to write any

assignments, copying someone else's Reviews or projects is an extremely serious offense and will result in a **grade of zero** on that assignment and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline 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 Shinya Wakao at swakao@com.edu or 409-933-8107.

Disclaimers/Additional Policies:

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,

Computer and internet access are necessary to complete 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 used 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 the 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, via email at jabshire3@com.edu If you experience any technology problems or errors with *college* software (D2L, etc.), notify the DE department at College of the Mainland (COM) by submitting a ticket as soon as 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 department can 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 and become familiar with D2L content 😊
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 and assignments.

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 😊

Monday Wednesday	Content Folder	Topics <i>This schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.</i>	To Do	Assignments Due
Monday October 14	*Syllabus and class schedule *Psychology 2e Introduction to Psychology	Look around in D2L! Explore the Free online textbook Ch.1 Introduction to Psychology	Explore! Introductions Read Ch.1 Watch: "The Joy of being Wrong"	Survey
Wednesday October 16	Psychological Research	Ch. 2 Psychological Research	Read Ch. 2 Watch: Change your Mindset, Change the Game"	Chapters in Review #1
Monday October 21	Biopsychology *Videos to review	Ch. 3 Biopsychology	Read Ch. 3 Watch: "The 3 M's" and "Exercise and the Brain"	Mini Project 1 -Values
Wednesday October 23	Stress, Lifestyle, and Health *Videos to Review	Ch. 14 Stress, Lifestyle, and Health	Read Ch. 14 Watch "How to Make Stress your Friend"	Chapters in Review #2
Monday October 28	States of Consciousness	Ch. 4 States of Consciousness	Read Ch. 4 Watch: "What would happen if you didn't sleep?"	Mini Project 2 – Meaningful Photos
Wednesday October 30	Motivation and Emotion *Videos to Review	Ch. 10 Motivation and Emotion	Read Ch. 10 Watch: "You aren't at the Mercy of your Emotions, your Brain Creates Them"	Chapters in Review #3
Monday November 4	Lifespan Development Lifespan Development *Videos in Review	Ch. 9 Lifespan Development	Read Ch.9 Watch: How Every Child Can Thrive by Five" Watch "What I Learned from Being a Stay-at-Home Dad"	

Wednesday November 6	Sensation and Perception	Ch.5 Sensation and Perception	Read Ch. 5 Watch "Optical Illusions show how we see" and "What color is Tuesday"	Chapters in Review #4
Monday November 11	Thinking and Intelligence *Information to Review	Ch. 7 Thinking and Intelligence	Read Ch. 7	Mini Project 3 Learning & Intelligence
Wednesday November 13	Learning	Ch. 6 Learning	Cont. Read Ch. 6 Watch "The Bobo Beatdown"	Chapters in Review #5
Monday November 18	Memory	Ch. 8 Memory	Read Ch. 8 Watch "Feats of Memory anyone can do" Watch "Dory meets Marlin" Look over Brain Website	Mini Project 4 – Personality Tests
Wednesday November 20	Personality	Ch. 11 Personality	Read Ch. 11 Watch "The Power of Introverts"	Chapters in Review #6
Monday November 25	Social Psychology *Videos to Review	Ch. 12 Social Psychology	Read Ch. 12 Watch "What it takes to be Racially Literate"	Mini Project 5 Favorite Chapter
Wednesday November 27	Psychological Disorders	Ch. 15 Psychological Disorders	Read Ch. 15 Watch "Living with ADHD"	Chapters in Review #7
Monday December 2	Therapy and Treatment	Ch. 16 Therapy and Treatment	Read Ch. 16 Watch "Why we should all try Therapy"	
Wednesday December 4			Critical Thinking Oral Presentations	

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 2 Review
2. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology		Chapter 1 Review
3. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology	Critical Thinking	Final Project
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 16 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)	Discussion Board
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	Final Project

Institutional Policies and Guidelines

Grade Appeal Process: *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, *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 2nd. The last date to withdraw from the 2nd 8-week session is November 26th. The last date to withdraw for the 16-week session is November 15.

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.