



**PSYC-2301-331IN**  
**General Psychology**  
**Fall 2021**  
**ONLINE**

**Instructor Information**

**Name:** Douglas A. Alvarez, M.A.

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**Phone:** (409) 933-8435

**Student hours and location**

Monday/Wednesday: 9:00am – 11:00am

Tuesday/Thursday: 7:45am – 8:05am (FHS)  
1:30pm – 3:00pm (Online)

Friday: Online by appointment or email

Weekends: By email

**Office Location**

Social and Behavioral Sciences Department, LRC Bldg., Suite A Room 228

**Required Textbook:**

Psychology in Everyday Life, 5th edition; by David G. Myers; published by Worth Publishers.

**Course Description:**

General Psychology is a survey of the major psychological topics, theories and approaches to the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. Prerequisites: TSIA2 945-990 ELAR/CRC test AND 5 or higher on Essay OR 910-944 on CRC with 5-6 on Diagnostic Test + 5 or higher on Essay, or IRW 0320 with a grade of "C" or better. This is an academic transfer course.

### **Course requirements**

**Communication:** Communication will take place primarily through the Blackboard messaging/email system. This will utilize your COM email, so be sure to check this email regularly.

I prefer for students to contact me through the Blackboard “Send Email” button under the Course Tools, but a direct email to my COM email address will also be acceptable. Please put “Online PSYCHOLOGY Student” in the subject area.

It is my policy to respond to discussion posts, messages, and emails within 48 hours, weekends and holidays excepted. I do hold my students to this same policy, so be sure to check your COM email regularly.

Quiz and Exam grades will be posted immediately to your Grade Center, and grades for Journal Posts and Discussion Forums will generally be updated twice a week on Wednesday and Saturday.

**Participation:** You are expected to log into the course a **minimum of two times per week** and you should expect to spend at least 2 ½ hours a week in the course reviewing lessons and other course material.

The discussion component of the course requires you to engage your fellow students in “conversation,” which requires you to regularly read and respond to posts. Due to the online nature of this course, it is up to the student to provide thoughtful and elaborate responses to discussion posts in order for the instructor to measure the students’ understanding of the material. In addition, any aggressive, rude, degrading, etc., posts may be deleted without notice to the student. All such responses will receive a grade of 0 for the deleted thread.

Please understand that minimal participation will result in minimal points.

More information about expectations in regards to your postings and replies is provided below in the Grading Rubrics.

**Method of Instruction:** 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 readings; therefore it is essential that students keep up to date with their online work. The online lessons will be open for one week, giving you plenty of time to complete the required materials.

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

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

**Late Work/Make-Up Policy:** 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 in Blackboard. The due dates will also be posted on the course schedule.

**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:**

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:**

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:**

Each student will be required to complete 4 Presentation Posts throughout the semester. This Presentation Post will help students examine some of the ethical issues within psychology and identify how these impact our society on the community, state and national level. 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 Discussion Forum topic(s)
2. Develop and record a **5 minute** minimum presentation. Specific instructions will be provided in Blackboard.
3. Write a brief outline of your presentation (1 page minimum).
4. Share your presentation with the instructor through YouTube, Screen-Cast-O-Matic, etc..

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 LESS THAN 5 MINUTES WILL NOT BE GRADED!**

### **Exams:**

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

ASSIGNMENT	POINTS EACH	TOTAL POINTS
Quizzes (14)*	20	260*
Introduction Forum (1)	20	20
Discussion Forum (12)	15	180
Exams (4)	100	400
Presentation Posts (4)	35	140
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>1000</b>

\*Your Lowest Quiz Grade will be dropped

### Grading Scale

EARNED POINTS	LETTER GRADE
900 – 1000	A
800 – 899	B
700 – 799	C
600 – 699	D
0 – 599	F

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

**Late Work/Make-Up Policy:** It is advised that you submit **ALL** assignments **BEFORE THE DUE DATE**.

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 in Blackboard. The due dates will also be posted on the course schedule.

**NOTE:** The instructor reserves the right to make changes and accommodations regarding late work, but will only do so if accommodations are discussed prior to the due date. **AFTER THE DUE DATE, NO ACCOMMODATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED OR LATE WORK ACCEPTED.**

**Extra Credit Opportunities:** There will be numerous ways to earn extra credit. All extra credit opportunities will be posted with directions and due dates using ANNOUNCEMENTS in Blackboard.

Be sure to closely monitor your email and Blackboard ANNOUNCEMENTS for these opportunities. If you miss the due date there will be **NO MAKE-UP EXTRA CREDIT.**

**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 two times per week and you should expect to spend at least 2 ½ hours a week in the course reviewing lessons and other course material. The online material goes beyond the material presented in the text, and you will be held accountable for this material on the exams and 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. **For each week that you do not log in twice this semester, 15 points (per week) will be deducted from your overall points total.**

**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. (Faculty may add additional statement requiring monitoring and communication expectations via Blackboard or other LMS)

<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	Critical Thinking	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	Communication Skills (Oral) Communication Skills (Written)	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 discipline action.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is using someone else’s words or ideas and claiming them as your own. Plagiarism is a very serious offense. Plagiarism includes paraphrasing someone else’s words without giving proper citation, copying directly from a website and pasting it into your paper, using someone else’s words without quotation marks. Any assignment containing any plagiarized material will receive a **grade of zero** and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action.

**Link(s) to resource(s) about avoiding plagiarism:**

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/02/> <http://www.com.edu/on-site-services/speaking-reading-writing-center.php>

<http://en.writecheck.com/ways-to-avoid-plagiarism/>

**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) 933-8212.

**Tentative Course Outline - Students are responsible for any and all schedule changes**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>CHAPTER &amp; TOPIC</b>	<b>Quiz</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
<b>Week 1 8/23</b>	"Getting Started" Chapter 1 Psychology's Roots, Critical Thinking, and Self-Improvement Tools	Syllabus Ch. 1	Introduction Post
<b>Week 2 8/30</b>	Chapter 2 The Biology of Behavior and Consciousness	Ch. 2	Ch. 2 Discussion Post
<b>Week 3 9/6</b>	Chapter 3 Developing Through the Life Span	Ch. 3	Ch. 3 Discussion Post
<b>Week 4 9/13</b>	Chapter 4 Sex, Gender, and Sexuality	Ch. 4	Ch. 4 Discussion Post
<b>Week 5 9/20</b>	<b>Exam 1 (Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4)</b>		Presentation Post 1
<b>Week 6 9/27</b>	Chapter 5 Sensation and Perception	Ch. 5	Ch. 5 Discussion Post
<b>Week 7 10/4</b>	Chapter 6 Learning	Ch. 6	Ch. 6 Discussion Post
<b>Week 8 10/11</b>	Chapter 8 Thinking, Language, and Intelligence	Ch. 8	Ch. 8 Discussion Post
<b>Week 9 10/18</b>	<b>Exam 2 (Chapters 5, 6, and 8)</b>		Presentation Post 2
<b>Week 10 10/25</b>	Chapter 9 Motivation and Emotion	Ch. 9	Ch. 9 Discussion Post
<b>Week 11* TWO CHAPTERS 11/1</b>	Chapter 10 Stress, Health and Human Flourishing Chapter 11 Social Psychology	Ch. 10 Ch. 11	Ch. 10 Discussion Post Ch. 11 Discussion Post
<b>Week 12 11/8</b>	Chapter 12 Personality	Ch. 12	Ch. 12 Discussion Post
<b>Week 13 11/15</b>	<b>Exam 3 (Chapters 9, 10, 11, and 12)</b>		Presentation Post 3
<b>Week 14 11/22</b>	Chapter 13 Psychological Disorders	Ch. 13	Ch. 13 Discussion Post
<b>Week 15 11/29</b>	Chapter 14 Therapy	Ch. 14	Ch. 14 Discussion Post
<b>Week 16** 12/6</b>	<b>Exam 4 (90% from Chapters 13 &amp; 14; 10% from all other chapters)</b>		Presentation Post 4

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



**Technology Outage Policy:** Please be aware that outages do occur. If a student becomes aware of a Blackboard outage or is having difficulties accessing their Blackboard account, please contact Blackboard Student Support - DE Hotline at 409-933-8453. Phone hours are Monday through Friday between 8:00am and 5:00pm. After 5:00pm or on weekends, please leave a message with the following information: Student name, COM ID, phone number and issue. Please plan on completing assignments during the work week (Mon-Fri) in case a Blackboard outage or problem occurs. If you wait until the last minute and Blackboard has an outage, your grade can be affected.

## **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 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 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 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.