



**PSYCH 2301.303CL**  
**General Psychology**  
**Spring 2024**  
**T/TH 7:10 -8:30**

**Instructor Information:** Jennifer Abshire, M.A.  
[jabshire3@com.edu](mailto:jabshire3@com.edu)

**Student hours and location:** M/W 11:00-12:00 Gym office #123. Virtual hours by appointment.

**Required Textbook/Materials:** *Psychology 2e* (OER), notecards.

**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 15 Reviews due weekly throughout the semester. Details can be found in D2L.

**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.

**Perspectives Dialogue:** Throughout the semester, questions, videos, and articles will be shown or explained. You will be given a short time to write your opinion, discuss it with a partner or group, then share your ideas with the rest of the class. Variations of this will be done for **in class assignments**. These cannot be made up if missed.

**Social Responsibility Presentation: (in class presentation)**

Your grade will be determined by product and presentation for both choice 1 or 2. Three reputable resources will be needed.

**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. 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. 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.

**Critical Thinking Research:**

You will conduct your own research that stems from your Social Responsibility Project. You can take your research in any direction you choose. The research should look objectively at both sides of an argument/topic, and you will present your findings to the class in an unbiased manner at the end of the semester. (More information presented in class).

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

Assignments	Possible Points	Letter Grade	Points Possible
Mini Projects	300	A	900-1000
15 Chapter Reviews (25pts each)	350(drop lowest)	B	800-899
In Class Assignments (10pts each)	150	C	700-799
Critical Thinking Research	100	D	600-699
Social responsibility Project	100	F	599 and below
Extra Credit -course evaluation	20		
Total Points	1000		

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

20% will be deducted from Chapter Reviews and projects if late. There will be no makeup for the Social Responsibility Project or Critical Thinking Presentation. Completing the course evaluation given by the college at the end of the semester will add 20pts to your final point total.

**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.

**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. The best way to reach me is by email [-jabshire3@com.edu](mailto:-jabshire3@com.edu) or during student hours listed on the syllabus.

**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 Final 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](mailto:swakao@com.edu) or 409-933-8107.

Student Learner Outcome	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	In class assignments
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)	Chapter Reviews
8. Develop, interpret and express ideas through oral communication (CS2)	Communication Skills (Oral)	Think, Pair, Shares
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

Week		Plan of Action <i>This schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.</i>	What's Due Tuesday	What's Due Thursday
1 Jan. 16-19		Ch.1 Introduction to Psychology	Introductions/name plates	notecards
2 Jan. 22-26		Ch.2 Psychological Research		CR 1 and 2
3 Jan.29-Feb.2		Ch.3 Biopsychology		CR 3
4 Feb. 5-9		Ch. 14 Stress, Lifestyle, and Health	Mini project 1	CR 14
5 Feb. 12-16		Ch.4 States of Consciousness		CR 4
6 Feb. 19-23		Chapter 10 Motivation and Emotion	Mini project 2	CR 10

7 Feb. 26- Mar 1		Chapter 9 Lifespan Development		CR 9
8 Mar. 4-8		Ch.5 Sensation and Perception		CR 5
Mar. 11-15		<b>SPRING BREAK</b>		
9 Mar. 18-22		Ch.7 Thinking and Intelligence		CR 7
10 Mar. 25-29		Chapter 6 Learning	Mini Project 3	CR 6
11 Apr.1-5		Chapter 8 Memory		CR 8
12 Apr. 8-12		Chapter 11 Personality	Mini Project 4	CR 11
13 Apr. 15-19		Chapter 12 Social Psychology	Social Responsibility Projects	CR 12 Last Day to turn in Late Work
14 Apr. 22-26	22 <sup>nd</sup> – W Day	Chapter 15 Psychological Disorders	Mini Project 5	CR 15*
15 Apr. 29-May 3		Chapter 16 Therapy and Treatment	Mini Project 6	CR 16 Presentations
16 May 6-10		CRITICAL THINKING PRESENTATIONS		

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## 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\\_2023-2024\\_v2.pdf](https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2023-2024_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 at 409-933-8919 or [klachney@com.edu](mailto:klachney@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 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week session is February 28. **The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is April 22.** The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is May 1. The last date to withdraw for spring mini session is May 29.

**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).