



GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY
Psychology 2301-111H1/PSYC 2301-611H1
Fall 2025, 1st 8 Weeks (8/18-10/9)
MW 11:00 AM-12:20 PM (LRC Building #8, Room 213)

Instructor Information: Kristin O'Brien, M.A. | kobrien4@com.edu | 409-933-8955

Office Hours and Location: MW 9:30-10:45 AM, TTH 11:00 AM-12:30 PM & 1:30-2:30 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. (The 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. Students can earn up to 1,000 total points from assignments and assessments (not including extra credit). You should aim to earn at least 700 points (70%, C) by the end of the course. You are responsible for completing all assignments according to the instructions. Ask for help in a timely manner if you need it. If you do the minimum work for assignments, expect to receive the minimum grade.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:

Category	Point Value	Percentage of Final Grade	Letter Grade	Percentage	Points
Class Discussion Participation	250	25%	A	90%+	900+
Quizzes	245	24.5%	B	80-89%	800-899
Application Assignments	245	24.5%	C	70-79%	700-799
Exam	130	13%	D	60-69%	600-699
Research Project	130	13%	F	59% or less	599 or less
Total	1,000	100%	<i>NOTE: Grades of D (60-69) and higher are passing for a COM degree but not for Collegiate HS and dual-credit students and will likely not be accepted in transfers to 4-year institutions.</i>		

Course Grade Breakdown



■ Class Discussion Participation ■ Quizzes ■ Application Assignments ■ Exam ■ Research Project

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%

- **Class Discussion Participation:** Students are expected to attend class on time and actively participate in discussions and activities. Consistent participation in class discussions means that students contribute meaningfully to discussions at least one time every class. **There are only 10 class days of lecture and discussion; for each class in which students do not contribute to discussions, 25 points will be deducted** (absenteeism may be excused according to the instructor's discretion, see next page).
- **Quizzes (7):** Each quiz consists of 35 multiple-choice questions. Quizzes require students to read from the textbook or use other materials provided, as they are to be completed before a topic is discussed in class or pertain to topics that are not covered in class. Students have two attempts to complete each quiz. There is no time limit. You may save your work and return to the quiz later. You are encouraged to use the textbook, notes, and other learning materials.
- **Application Assignments (7):** Application assignments require students to apply what has been learned to real-world/hypothetical scenarios and make the material relevant to their own lives. The assignments will vary in nature. Full instructions are available on D2L.
- **Final Exam:** The Final Exam assesses your mastery over the most important topics covered in the course. The exam will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions (worth 2 points each) and 3 short answer questions (worth 10 points each) to be completed in class (see the course schedule). Students will have the full class period (80 minutes) to complete the exam. Students will be given a review template to complete for extra credit.
- **Research Project:** Students will prepare and give a presentation (see the course schedule). Full instructions are available on D2L and will be discussed in class.

Course Policies

Assignment Submission Policy: Assignments are due by 11:59 PM on the specified deadline (see the course schedule) unless explicitly stated otherwise. **Assignments must be submitted as .pdf, .doc/.docx, or .jpeg formats to be accepted.** Assignments submitted incorrectly may receive a 0 or late penalty. It is good practice to double-check after submitting an assignment (resubmit the correct document right away if needed, you can make multiple submissions for assignments). **It is ultimately your responsibility to submit work in the proper format on time.**

Late Work Policy & Extra Credit: Assignments submitted after the deadline will receive a 10% deduction per day late (e.g., 3.5 points will be deducted each day for a late application assignment). **Assignments will become an automatic zero at the point of 10 or more days late.** 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 ASAP, preferably before the deadline or exam date.* **Late work will NOT be accepted after October 7th – no exceptions.** Extra credit opportunities are available on D2L. Please note that the instructor will not round up final grades for students who do not complete any of the extra credit.

Attendance & Class Participation: **Regular attendance and active participation are critical to being successful in this course and account for 25% of your final grade.** Class time is limited and essential. Tardiness disrupts your learning and the learning of your classmates; thus, **excessive tardiness may result in referral to the Dean of Students.** If you miss class, you are responsible for checking the syllabus and studying the learning materials online, borrowing notes, or visiting office hours to learn the content. Class participation deductions may be forgiven at the instructor's discretion in the event of illness or emergency (contact the instructor as soon as possible).

Conduct: It is expected that all members of the class will treat each other with mutual respect. Students demonstrate respect to their instructor and peers by arriving on time, staying for the duration of class, participating in class discussions and activities, and listening attentively while others are 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 off-limits material, information, devices/technology (e.g., Artificial Intelligence, see below), or help from others during an exam. **Any form of academic dishonesty may result in a reduction of points (up to a zero with no opportunity to make up the grade) at the discretion of the instructor.** Additionally, an academic dishonesty report may be filed and the student may be referred to the Dean of Students for misconduct.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy: Students who use any AI software such as ChatGPT, Claude, Grammarly, Quillbot, Midjourney, or Walter Writes AI Humanizer to compose assignments partially or fully will face disciplinary action. The material generated by these programs may be inaccurate, incomplete, or otherwise problematic. Beware that use may also stifle your own independent thinking and creativity.

Every submission should be an original composition that the students themselves wholly created for this course unless your instructor specifically states that you may use it in a brainstorming manner on a particular assignment; in which case your instructor may want you to cite what has been generated with AI. With the exception noted above, students are not allowed to use any alternative generation tool for any type of submission in this course.

Faculty reserve the right to use AI detection software, compare present to past work, or require verbal explanation of your work to find instances of AI-generated writing in student submissions. The findings are binding and can be subject to student code of conduct, academic dishonesty, and plagiarism policies in the course. **You will receive a grade of zero on your assignment, will be reported to the Dean of Students, and can ultimately fail the course.** Reach out to your instructor, peer or tutoring center if you are having difficulties with assignments.

Student Concerns: If you have questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, contact the instructor (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.

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	Quiz
2. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology		Quiz
3. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology	Critical Thinking	Exam
4. Use terminology unique to the study of psychology		Quiz
5. Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation	Empirical and Quantitative	Quiz
6. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior	Critical Thinking	Application Assignment
7. (CS1) Develop, interpret and express ideas through written communication	Communication Skills (Written)	Research Project
8. (CS2) Develop, interpret and express ideas through oral communication	Communication Skills (Oral)	Research Project
9. (SR) Demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.	Social Responsibility	Application Assignment

Institutional Policies and Guidelines

Grade Appeal Process: Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed directly 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/student-handbook.html>

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 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 14. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is November 25.

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.

Honors Contracts are special projects that extend the work we do in class. They are for ambitious students who wish to deepen their knowledge and experiences of the practices and ideas related to this class. They require students to earn at least a B in class and approval from the instructor since Honors Contracts require that students and faculty work closely together in a mentoring relationship. The student and instructor will collaborate to determine what kind of work/project the student will need to complete to earn honors credit; students are encouraged to be creative and pursue topics of personal interest. Honors Contracts are a great way to seek additional academic or research experience and to boost your resume for future jobs or qualifications for graduate school programs. Please speak with me if you are interested or have questions and visit the site for more information: <https://www.com.edu/honorsprogram/>.

COURSE SCHEDULE

	DUE SUNDAY	CLASS MONDAY	DUE TUESDAY	CLASS WEDNESDAY	DUE THURSDAY
1		8/18 Course Orientation Introduction to Psychology	8/19 Quiz 1	8/20 Psychological Science & Research	8/21 Application Assignment 1
2	8/24 Quiz 2	8/25 Biopsychology	8/26 Application Assignment 2	8/27 Research Project Workshop	8/28 Application Assignment 3
3	8/31	9/1 COLLEGE CLOSED – LABOR DAY	9/2 Quiz 3	9/3 Lifespan Growth & Development: Infancy & Childhood	9/4 Application Assignment 4
4	9/7	9/8 Lifespan Growth & Development: Adolescence & Adulthood	9/9 Quiz 4	9/10 Behavioral Psychology	9/11 Application Assignment 5
5	9/14 Quiz 5	9/15 Cognitive Psychology	9/16 Quiz 6 Application Assignment 6	9/17 Social Psychology	9/18 Application Assignment 7
6	9/21 Quiz 7	9/22 Psychological Disorders	9/23 <i>Work on Exam Review and Research Project</i>	9/24 Therapy & Treatment	9/25 <i>Work on Exam Review and Research Project</i>
7	9/28 <i>Complete Exam Review for extra credit</i>	9/29 EXAM *Bring Exam Review to class	9/30 <i>Complete Research Project</i>	10/1 Presentations Submit your presentation to D2L BEFORE CLASS	10/2
8	10/5	10/6 Presentations	10/7 <i>Last day for extra credit</i>	10/8 Presentations	10/9

All assignments are 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 as well as via D2L Brightspace and COM student email.