

**The University of Texas at El Paso**  
**Department of Psychology**  
**Introduction to Psychology (PSYC 1301, CRN 11931)**  
**Fall 2022**

**Instructor:** Abdolhossein Abdollahy Zarandi, PhD

**Email:** aabdollahyzarandi@utep.edu

**Office:** Department of Psychology

**Class Days:** Tuesday and Thursday: 6:00 pm – 7:20 pm

**Location:** College of Business Administration, Room 323

**Office Hours:** Tuesday and Thursday from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm (Please, email me for appointments.)

### **Communication**

In addition to in-class face-to-face communication, students can contact me via email. I will check my email multiple times per day Monday through Friday, and also during weekends. However, please allow 24 hours for a response (48 hours if you send a message Friday evening or during the weekend). Each email you send me should contain a subject line that includes "PSYC 1301", a proper greeting (i.e., Dear Dr. Abdollahy Zarandi), and your full name. All emails you send me should come from your UTEP email account.

Questions regarding the course and its content are expected to be emailed to me at [aabdollahyzarandi@utep.edu](mailto:aabdollahyzarandi@utep.edu). Note: Blackboard has a Course Messages tool, but before using this tool, please try emailing me via [aabdollahyzarandi@utep.edu](mailto:aabdollahyzarandi@utep.edu)

### **Blackboard**

This course will use Blackboard as an additional learning-teaching platform. I will make announcements regarding the course via Blackboard periodically. Please check Blackboard for announcements (by clicking on the link **Announcements**). Blackboard is also a place where you will find some course-related information and materials. When, especially for the first time, you visit Blackboard, look at the left side of the screen (the dark menu) to learn about **Announcements**.

### **Course Description**

This course introduces students to a number of subject matters within the science of psychology defined as the scientific study of mental processes and behavior. It includes a concise coverage of a vast array of topics on how we sense, attend, perceive, memorize, retain, remember and learn information and also on how we use that information to create mental concepts and mental images that join hands with language to allow us think intelligently -- in the form of reasoning, inferring, imagining, making judgments, making decisions, and solving problem; a number of mental operations that interact with feelings and motivations to allow us adjust with the environment.

### **Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific basis of psychology.
2. Identify the primary historical figures in the field of psychology.
3. Explain the major theories and empirical findings in the field of psychology.
4. Apply psychological concepts to various real-life situations.
5. Think critically about psychological research findings.

## Course Text

<https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology>

When on the textbook link, just click on “View online” or “Download a PDF” or “Table of contents” and access the contents.

## Course Assignments, Participation, and Activities

### 1) Instructor-Facilitated Student Oral Presentations

Students are expected to give a talk on an assigned book chapter subject. The oral presentation, facilitated by me (Dr. Abdol), may take two forms: Individual presentation or up-to-5-member group presentation. During the initial class meetings, students will be scheduled to give their talk. A user-friendly rubric appears below:

1. The inclusion, in the oral presentation, of at least 10 PowerPoint slides (2 points)
2. The inclusion, in the oral presentation, of at least one topic-related short (not more than 3 minutes) video adapted from a valid Internet source (2 points)
3. The inclusion, in the oral presentation, of at least 3 questions to be posed to the audience (1 point)
4. The inclusion, in the oral presentation, of at least 5 questions, ideas, and comments that show the presentation group’s disagreement with the content. (2 points)
5. The demonstration of a clear and coherent oral presentation (1 point)

### 2) In-Class Activities and Participation

At the end of each class meeting -- right after each lecture – students will engage in a series of in-class activities individually and/or in groups. The activities will enable students to think and write about, examine, and discuss various topics in cross-cultural psychology.

### 3) Research Paper

You will read and summarize a suggested paper on general psychology. The paper you will write will include at least 500 words. The Instructions for this assignment will be posted in Blackboard. The written report is expected to be uploaded on Blackboard before or by or on **December 1, 2022**.

## Quizzes and Exams

You will take, throughout the semester, two quizzes, a midterm exam, and a final exam (see Course Assessment below). The quizzes and exams will mainly consist of multiple choice and fill-in-the blank items and each item on the quizzes and exams counts one percent towards the final grade. The quizzes and exams dates are specified in the course schedule (see below). Finally, it is to be noted that the content of the quizzes and exams will come from both the lectures and the textbook chapters.

## Class Attendance, Participation, and Course Drop

Class attendance is expected because you can learn better when you are physically present. If a student has more than four unexcused absences throughout the semester, they will lose a possible extra credit opportunity. Also, please note that if you are in a situation in which you need or plan to drop the course, you are expected to do it by yourself. If you don’t drop the course, your final grade will be

reported based on your available quiz, exam, and participation grade record. Class participation is important and has its own points as shown below. Class participation involves two parts: Part 1) Showing such behaviors and attitudes as active listening to the lectures and to other students, making comments during class discussions, asking questions, and being respectful to others and Part 2) Taking part in an activity I call "group discussion". In this activity, students are expected to discuss some topics in groups of 2-4 and report the results of their discussions at the end of the class sessions.

### Extra Credit Assignment Possibility

If needed, students can choose to do a possible extra credit assignment to increase their final grades. But it comes with a condition: students can use this possible assignment only if they do not have a noticeable history of unexcused absences.

### Course Assessment

1. Quiz 1	10%
2. Quiz 2	10%
3. Midterm Exam	26%
4. Final Exam	30%
5. Oral Presentation	10%
6. Research Paper	4%
7. In-Class Activities	10%
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Total	100%

### Grading Scale

- 90% - 100% = A
- 80% - 89.9% = B
- 70% - 79.9% = C
- 60% - 69.9% = D
- 00% - 59.9% = F

### Classroom Behavior

Please turn off your cell phone on arrival. Don't talk when others are talking. If you want to ask a question or make a comment, raise your hand and try not to interrupt others as they speak. Don't use your computer for irrelevant in-class activities such as emailing, visiting a social network profile, playing games, watching videos, listening to music and so on. These activities prevent you from focusing on lectures and other class engagements and may distract other students.

### Disability

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS

website at <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/>.

### **Academic Conduct, Discipline, and Integrity**

It is assumed that students are implicitly aware of the principles of academic conduct, discipline, and integrity. But having an explicit knowledge of the principles will be highly beneficial for anybody working within the realm of academia. The following link provides a wide-range information about academic conduct and discipline at UTEP. Please read the file carefully and enthusiastically:  
<https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html>

### **Course Schedule and Lecture Topics**

#### **Week 1**

**August 23: General Introduction and Chapter 1: Introduction to Psychology**

**August 25: Chapter 1: Introduction to Psychology**

#### **Week 2**

**August 30: Chapter 2: Psychological Research**

**September 1: Chapter 2: Psychological Research**

#### **Week 3**

**September 6: Chapter 3: Biopsychology**

**September 8: Chapter 3: Biopsychology**

#### **Week 4**

**September 13: Chapter 4: States of Consciousness**

**September 15: Chapter 4: States of Consciousness **Quiz 1****

#### **Week 5**

**September 20: Chapter 5: Sensation and Perception**

**September 22: Chapter 5: Sensation and Perception**

#### **Week 6**

**September 27: Chapter 6: Learning**

**September 29: Chapter 6: Learning**

#### **Week 7**

**October 4: Chapter 7: Thinking and Intelligence**

**October 6: Chapter 7: Thinking and Intelligence**

#### **Week 8**

**October 11: Chapter 8: Memory**

**October 13: **Midterm Exam****

#### **Week 9**

**October 18: Chapter 8: Memory**

**October 20: Chapter 9: Lifespan Development**

**Week 10**

October 25: Chapter 9: Lifespan Development  
October 27: Chapter 10: Emotion and Motivation

**Week 11**

November 1: Chapter 10: Emotion and Motivation  
November 3: Chapter 11: Personality

**Week 12**

November 8: Chapter 11: Personality  
November 10: Chapter 12: Social Psychology **Quiz 2**

**Week 13**

November 15: Chapter 12: Social Psychology  
November 17: Chapter 15: Psychological Disorders

**Week 14**

November 22: Chapter 15: Psychological Disorders  
November 24: **No Classes**

**Week 15**

November 29: Chapter 16: Therapy and Treatment  
December 1: Chapter 16: Therapy and Treatment **Research paper due on December 1, 2022**

**Final Exam: December 8 at 7:00 pm – 9:45 pm**

This syllabus is subject to change.