

**The University of Texas at El Paso**  
**Department of Psychology**  
**Introduction to Psychology (PSYC 1301, CRN 25824) -- Online**  
**A Spring 2024 Syllabus**

**Instructor:** Dr. Abdolhossein Abdollahy Zarandi

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**Office hours:** Wednesday: 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm. For communicating questions, comments, concerns, or suggestions, please feel free to email me to set a time to talk via Blackboard using the digital platform Zoom.

### **COMMUNICATION**

The primary preferred way to communicate with me is via the email above. 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)

### **LECTURE MEETINGS VIA ZOOM**

There will be a series of lecture meetings (please, visit, for more information, the course schedule at the end of this syllabus) during the semester during which the thematic aspects of each relevant chapter will be presented, and the possible questions and comments will be answered and heard.

### **RECORDED LECTURES**

There is a set of recorded lectures, visible on Blackboard (please, visit, for more information, the course schedule at the end of this syllabus), which cover the assigned chapters of the adopted textbook.

### **BLACKBOARD**

This course will involve extensive use of Blackboard. I will make announcements regarding the course via Blackboard periodically. Please check Blackboard for announcements (by clicking on the link **Announcements**) at least twice per day almost every day. Blackboard is also where you will find information about the textbook (see below), recorded lectures, assignments, exams, and other materials relevant to the course. We will also be using the discussion boards on Blackboard to communicate about course topics. When, especially for the first time, you visit Blackboard, look at the left side of the screen (the dark menu) to learn about **Announcements** -- and also to find the weekly folders for the activities that you are expected to do during a typical week (for example, Week 1, Week 2, etc.).

## **REQUIRED MATERIAL**

The adopted free textbook's information can be found in the link below:

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

### **How to get the book:**

Visit OpenStax.org/subjects and select your book (i.e., Psychology). Then choose your preferred format under "Get the book."

Below you find more information on the textbook -- directly adapted from the publisher's website:

"Good news: your textbook for this class is available for free online! If you prefer, you can also get a print version at a very low cost.

Your book is available in web view and PDF for free. You can also choose to purchase on iBooks or get a print version via the campus bookstore or from OpenStax on Amazon.com.

You can use whichever formats you want. Web view is recommended -- the responsive design works seamlessly on any device. If you buy on Amazon, make sure you use the link on your book page on openstax.org so you get the official OpenStax print version. (Simple printouts sold by third parties on Amazon are not verifiable and not as high-quality.)"

## **BLACKBOARD CONTENT FOLDERS**

Each week a beautiful content folder appears on the Blackboard homepage which is named as "Week" plus the week number -- for example, Week 1, Week 2, etc. You are expected to visit the folder and do all the assigned activities for that week. The activities throughout the semester's weeks look similar: they mostly consist of watching and listening to lectures, watching videos, discussions and summarizations.

## **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.

**ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY (quoted directly from a UTEP administrative source)**

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#) (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or apply for accommodations online via the [CASS portal](#).

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes cheating on exams or assignments, forgery, and plagiarism. If you pass off someone else's work as your own, work collaboratively on any assignment or assessment that is not specifically described as a group effort, or access course materials not made available to you from the instructor, you are engaging in academic dishonesty. If you are caught engaging in academic dishonesty, you will receive an "F" for the relevant assignment, and you may receive a final grade of "F" for the course. Please review UTEP's policy statement on academic dishonesty:

<https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html>

**ONLINE COURTESY**

Students must engage in proper online courtesy. Please respect your fellow classmates and instructor. Even though we do not meet face-to-face, the same courtesies that are extended in a face-to-face learning environment are in place. Failure to engage in proper online courtesy will result in earning a zero for each assignment where the incident occurred.

Each student is expected to be engaged in classroom discussion. While magnitude of participation does not imply quality, you should be well prepared to share insightful comments, constructive criticism, and unique perspective in class, and to do so in a respectful manner.

**LATE WORK POLICY**

Generally writing, I do not accept late work but in the possible and potential case of receiving late assignment performance requests which are supported by one or a set of documented reasons, the request and its associated work will be considered for acceptance without the implementation of any grade reductions.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Please make sure you review the requirements and their associated due dates.

**Attending Some Live Lecture Meetings:** As specified on the course schedule.

**Watching and Listening to Recorded Lectures** through Blackboard Collaborate Ultra. The lectures are recorded. Each lecture will review the content of each week's assigned chapters. More information will be provided during the semester.

**Watching Videos:** To enrich and support the weekly discussions and summarization paper, some videos, for watching, will be posted to Blackboard.

**Discussions:** *up to 15 points.* There will be one graded discussion board post per week. The graded discussion posts will have prompts or specific discussion questions posted by the instructor. **Discussion posts are due at 11:59 pm** on the associated due date. Note that most discussion topics require you to make an original post and reply to my questions and/or a classmate's post. It is highly recommended that you type your discussion posts and responses in a Word document and save them for your reference in case there are any technical problems. In addition to the required posts, you can post questions about the course material on the discussion board or reply to your classmates' questions. Your grade will be based on the quality of your original post and your contribution to the overall discussion (i.e., replying to classmates).

**Chapter Summarization:** *up to 15 points.* Each week, you will write, **in your own words**, a short summarization paper which will be submitted on Blackboard. In this activity, first you read the week's chapters and PowerPoint slides and then summarize the content of the chapters and slides in at least **200** words – answering the question "**What did I learn in these chapters?**" For the sake of clarity and precision, please divide your summary into **2** paragraphs -- each containing **100** words. Please number the paragraphs as **1** and **2**. Each paragraph is expected to begin with these words "**In this chapter, I learned that.**" And, as mentioned above, your total summary is expected to contain at least **200** words. After writing your paper, you will submit it on Blackboard using the icon named as, for example, "Week 1 Summarization Paper."

**Quizzes:** *up to 20 points.* During the semester, you will take two non-cumulative quizzes. Typically, each quiz's questions will come from the textbook (chapters and slides), but it is also possible that some questions may come from the discussion board topics.

**Exams.** *up to 42 points.* During the semester, you will take two non-cumulative midterm and final exams. Typically, each exam's questions will come from the textbook (chapters and slides), but it is also possible that some questions may come from the discussion board topics.

**Research Participation:** *up to 8 points.* There are **two options**. Please, feel free to choose **one**:

### 1. The SONA research participation

By participating in a departmental research study (through a system called **SONA**), you will complete 8 hours of research studies (amounting to **8 points** that will be directly added to your final grade). Students who complete 6 of their required credit hours by **March 29, 2024**, will be given an additional

credit hour. This means that for some students, they can complete their 8 required credits by only completing 8 hours of research studies, if they complete 6 of their credits by the **March 29, 2024**, deadline. A **SONA** system policy document will be posted to the course Blackboard. For more information on how the **SONA** system works, you can write to [SONA@utep.edu](mailto:SONA@utep.edu). You can also see an informational video on the document. The due date and time for this research participation is **May 3, 2024**.

**2. A psychological article review and summarization paper**

If for some reason, you cannot participate in a SONA study, you can read and summarize a paper on general psychology to receive the **8 points**. On the Blackboard dark menu, there is a link titled “Research Paper Information” in which you will see two icons: If you click on the first one, you will find a psychological article which you can read, review, and summarize by the due date and time. If you click on the second icon titled “Research Paper: Please Submit Here.”, you can upload your summary of that paper. More instructions on this assignment will be posted on Blackboard. The due date and time for this research participation alternative is **May 3, 2024**.

**Course Assessment**

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>1. Quiz 1</b>                              | <b>10%</b> |
| <b>2. Quiz 2</b>                              | <b>10%</b> |
| <b>3. Midterm Exam</b>                        | <b>20%</b> |
| <b>4. Final Exam</b>                          | <b>22%</b> |
| <b>5. Weekly Discussions</b>                  | <b>15%</b> |
| <b>6. Weekly Chapter Summarization Papers</b> | <b>15%</b> |
| <b>7. Research Participation</b>              | <b>8%</b>  |

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**Total** **100%**

**GRADING**

Grades will be based on the total number of points earned (out of a possible 100). Letter grades will be based on the following scale:

**Grading Scale**

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

If you have any questions or disputes regarding grades, you must raise these in writing within 48 hours of the grade being released. Grades will only be changed in cases of administrative error.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### Week 1

#### Activities:

- a) Live Lecture meeting, Thursday, 6:00-7:00 pm Via Zoom
- b) Watching videos
- c) Watching recorded lectures
- d) Reading:  
Chapter 1: Introduction to Psychology
- e) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 1/21/2024
- f) Submitting the Chapter 1 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 1/21/2024

### Week 2

#### Activities:

- a) Watching videos
- b) Watching recorded lectures
- c) Reading:  
Chapter 2: Psychological Research
- d) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 1/28/2024
- e) Submitting the Chapter 2 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 1/28/2024

### Week 3

#### Activities:

- a) Watching videos
- b) Watching recorded lectures
- c) Reading:  
Chapter 3: Biopsychology
- d) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 2/4/2024
- e) Submitting the Chapter 3 summarization paper<sup>3</sup> on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 2/4/2024

### Week 4

#### Activities:

- a) a) Live Lecture meeting, Thursday, 6:00-7:00 pm Via Zoom
- b) Watching videos
- c) Watching recorded lectures
- d) Reading:  
Chapter 4: States of Consciousness
- e) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 2/11/2024
- f) Submitting the Chapter 4 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 2/11/2024
- g) **Quiz 1** due by 11:59 pm on 2/11/2024

## Week 5

### Activities:

- a) Watching videos
- b) Watching recorded lectures
- c) Reading:  
Chapter 5: Sensation and Perception
- d) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 2/18/2024
- e) Submitting the Chapter 5 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 2/18/2024

## Week 6

### Activities:

- a) Watching videos
- b) Watching recorded lectures
- c) Reading:  
Chapter 6: Learning
- d) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 2/25/2024
- e) Submitting the Chapter 6 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 2/25/2024

## Week 7

### Activities:

- a) Live Lecture meeting, Thursday, 6:00-7:00 pm Via Zoom
- b) Watching videos
- c) Watching recorded lectures
- d) Reading:  
Chapter 7: Thinking and Intelligence
- e) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 3/3/2024
- f) Submitting the Chapter 7 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 3/3/2024

## Week 8

### Activities:

- a) Watching videos
- b) Watching recorded lectures
- c) Reading:  
Chapter 8: Memory
- d) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 3/10/2024
- e) Submitting the Chapter 8 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 3/10/2024
- f) **Midterm exam** due by 11:59 pm on 3/10/2024

## **Week 9**

**Spring Break, No Classes**

## **Week 10**

### **Activities:**

- a) Watching videos
- b) Watching recorded lectures
- c) Reading:  
Chapter 9: Lifespan Development
- d) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 3/24/2024
- e) Submitting the Chapter 9 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 3/24/2024

## **Week 11**

### **Activities:**

- a) Live Lecture meeting, Thursday, 6:00-7:00 pm Via Zoom
- b) Watching videos
- c) Watching recorded lectures
- d) Reading:  
Chapter 10: Emotion and Motivation
- e) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 3/31/2024
- f) Submitting the Chapter 10 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 3/31/2024

## **Week 12**

### **Activities:**

- a) Watching videos
- b) Watching recorded lectures
- c) Reading:  
Chapter 11: Personality
- d) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 4/7/2024
- e) Submitting the Chapter 11 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 4/7/2024

## **Week 13**

### **Activities:**

- a) Watching videos
- b) Watching recorded lectures
- c) Reading:  
Chapter 12: Social Psychology
- d) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 4/14/2024
- e) Submitting the Chapter 12 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 4/14/2024
- f) **Quiz 2** due by 11:59 pm on 4/14/2024



## **Week 14**

### **Activities:**

- a) Live Lecture meeting, Thursday, 6:00-7:00 pm Via Zoom
- b) Watching videos
- c) Watching recorded lectures
- d) Reading:  
Chapter 14: Stress, Lifestyle, and Health
- e) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 4/21/2024
- f) Submitting the Chapter 14 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 4/21/2024

## **Week 15**

### **Activities:**

- a) Watching videos
- b) Watching recorded lectures
- c) Reading:  
Chapter 15: Psychological Disorders
- d) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 4/28/2024
- e) Submitting the Chapter 15 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 4/28/2024
- f) **Research paper** due by 11:59 pm on 4/28/2024

## **Week 16**

### **Activities:**

- a) Watching videos
- b) Watching recorded lectures
- c) Reading:  
Chapter 16: Therapy and Treatment
- d) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 5/3/2024
- e) Submitting the 16 summarization papers on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 5/3/2024
- f) **Final exam** due by 11:59 pm on 5/3/2024

**Note: This syllabus is subject to change.**