

**Introduction to Psychology (ONLINE)**  
**PSYC 1301, CRN 27330**  
**The University of Texas at El Paso**  
**A Spring 2023 Syllabus**

**Instructor: Dr. Abdolhossein Abdollahy Zarandi**

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Office hours: Because this is an online course, I will not have face-to-face office hours. I will be available via Blackboard and email (see next sections).

**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)

**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 MATERIALS**

The adopted textbook for this course is as follows:

<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.)"

Psychology from OpenStax, Print ISBN 1938168356, Digital ISBN 1947172077,  
[www.openstax.org/details/psychology](http://www.openstax.org/details/psychology)

### **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.

### **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS**

#### **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 DISHONESTY**

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes: cheating on exams or assignments, forgery, and plagiarism. If you pass of 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.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Please make sure you review the requirements and their associated due dates. I will not accept late work.

**Watching and Listening to 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 **46** 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 4 points. The research assignment can be conducted in two ways whose brief description follow below:

1. **Psychology Department Research Participation**: By participating in a departmental research study (through a system called SONA), you will complete 8 hours of research studies (amounting to 4 points that will be directly added to your final grade). Students who complete 6 of their required credit hours by April 1st will be given an additional credit hour. This means that for some students, they can complete their 8 required credits by only completing 7 hours of research studies, as long as they complete 6 of their credits by a certain time that will be announced by SONA. 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.

2. **Psychological Article Summarization**: If for some reason, you cannot participate in a SONA study, you can read and summarize a paper on general psychology to receive the 4 points. Instructions for this assignment will be posted in Blackboard. **This option is due April 27, 2023.**

## Course Assessment

1. Quiz 1	10%
2. Quiz 2	10%
3. Midterm Exam	20%
4. Final Exam	26%
5. Weekly Discussions	15%
6. Weekly Chapter Summarization Papers	15%
7. Research Participation	4%

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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

Adjustments to the course schedule are unlikely but may occur. Adjustments will be announced via Blackboard.

### Week 1

#### Activities:

a) Watching and listening to the week lecture (released during each week)

b) Watching videos

c) Reading:

Chapter 1: Introduction to Psychology

d) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on **1/22/2023**

e) Submitting the Chapter 1 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on **1/22/2023**

## Week 2

### Activities:

- a) Watching and listening to the week lecture
- b) Watching videos
- c) Reading:  
Chapter 2: Psychological Research
- d) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on **1/29/2023**
- e) Submitting the Chapter 2 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on **1/29/2023**

## Week 3

### Activities:

- a) Watching and listening to the week lecture
- b) Watching videos
- c) Reading:  
Chapter 3: Biopsychology
- d) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on **2/5/2023**
- e) Submitting the Chapter 3 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on **2/5/2023**

## Week 4

### Activities:

- a) Watching and listening to the week lecture
- b) Watching videos
- c) Reading:  
Chapter 4: States of Consciousness
- d) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on **2/12/2023**
- e) Submitting the Chapter 4 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on **2/12/2023**
- f) Quiz 1 due by 11:59 pm on **2/12/2023**

## Week 5

### Activities:

- a) Watching and listening to the week lecture
- b) Watching videos
- c) Reading:  
Chapter 5: Sensation and Perception
- d) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on **2/19/2023**
- e) Submitting the Chapter 5 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on **2/19/2023**

## Week 6

### Activities:

- a) Watching and listening to the week lecture
- b) Watching videos
- c) Reading:  
Chapter 6: Learning
- d) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on **2/26/2023**
- e) Submitting the Chapter 6 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on **2/26/2023**

## Week 7

### Activities:

- a) Watching and listening to the week lecture
- b) Watching videos
- c) Reading:  
Chapter 7: Thinking and Intelligence
- d) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on **3/5/2023**
- e) Submitting the Chapter 7 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on **3/5/2023**

## Week 8

### Activities:

- a) Watching and listening to the week lecture
- b) Watching videos
- c) Reading:  
Chapter 8: Memory
- d) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on **3/12/2023**
- e) Submitting the Chapter 8 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on **3/12/2023**
- f) Midterm exam due by 11:59 pm on **3/12/2023**

## Week 9

**NO CLASSES**

## Week 10

### Activities:

- a) Watching and listening to the week lecture
- b) Watching videos
- c) Reading:  
Chapter 9: Lifespan Development
- d) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on **3/26/2023**
- e) Submitting the Chapter 9 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on **3/26/2023**

## Week 11

### Activities:

- a) Watching and listening to the week lecture
- b) Watching videos
- c) Reading:  
Chapter 10: Emotion and Motivation
- d) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 4/2/2023
- e) Submitting the Chapter 10 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 4/2/2023

## Week 12

### Activities:

- a) Watching and listening to the week lecture
- b) Watching videos
- c) Reading:  
Chapter 11: Personality
- d) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 4/9/2023
- e) Submitting the Chapter 11 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 4/9/2023
- f) Quiz 2 due by 11:59 pm on 4/9/2023

## Week 13

### Activities:

- a) Watching and listening to the week lecture
- b) Watching videos
- c) Reading:  
Chapter 12: Social Psychology
- d) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 4/16/2023
- e) Submitting the Chapter 12 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 4/16/2023

## Week 14

### Activities:

- a) Watching and listening to the week lecture
- b) Watching videos
- c) Reading:  
Chapter 14: Stress, Lifestyle, and Health
- d) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 4/23/2023
- e) Submitting the Chapter 14 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 4/23/2023



## **Week 15**

### **Activities:**

a) Watching and listening to the week lecture

b) Watching videos

c) Reading:

Chapter 15: Psychological Disorders

d) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on **4/30/2023**

e) Submitting the Chapter 15 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on **4/30/2023**

## **Week 16**

### **Activities:**

a) Watching and listening to the week lecture

b) Watching videos

c) Reading:

Chapter 16: Therapy and Treatment

d) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on **5/7/2023**

e) Submitting all the Chapter 16 papers on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on **5/7/2023**

**f) Final exam due by 11:59 pm on 5/7/2023**

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