



Introduction to Psychology (Online)
PSYC 1301 CRN 22423
University of Texas at El Paso
Spring 2019

INSTRUCTOR

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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 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 course content could be emailed to me or could be posted to the discussion board in Blackboard. If you have a question about something, it is likely that others have the same question (or maybe they have the answer). I will check the discussion boards at least once per day weekdays.

BLACKBOARD

This course will involve extensive use of Blackboard. I will make announcements regarding the course via Blackboard periodically. Please check Blackboard for announcements at least once per day Monday through Friday. Blackboard is also where you will find information about the **OLI** resources (see below), assignments, exams, and other materials relevant to the course. We will also be using the discussion boards on Blackboard to communicate about course topics.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Students must set up an account with the **Open Learning Initiative (OLI)** "Introduction to Psychology" course. This online resource provides all readings related to the course. There is no physical textbook for this course. There are instructions on Blackboard showing you how to set up your OLI account in the Getting Started folder. Make sure you follow the instructions carefully.

HOW TO REGISTER ON OLI TO ACCESS THE COURSE MATERIALS

1. Go to <https://oli.cmu.edu/>
2. Click on the "Students" tab on the upper right side of the page.
3. Scroll down and find the "REGISTER WITH COURSE KEY" tab and click on it.
4. On the upper left side of the page where it says "Register with a course key", enter "**Miners-2019**" in the box and click on the "REGISTER" tab. Again, the course key is **Miners-2019**.
5. On the new page, fill out the required boxes, select an account ID, and create a password.

6. Using your selected account ID and password, sign into **OLI**.
 7. On the new page, enter the course and access your book -- which consists of 17 units or chapters.
 8. Enjoy reading and navigating the materials.
- Note. Let me know, via email, if you have any questions regarding accessing the course.

BLACKBOARD CONTENT FOLDERS

Each week a beautiful colorful 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 discussions and summarizations.

TECH SUPPORT

The University of Texas at El Paso offers complete technical information and online help desk support at <http://at.utep.edu/techsupport/>

If you have technical issues on the OLI site, you should contact them at <http://oli.cmu.edu/jcourse/webui/help.do>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide an overview of the field of psychology. Different models for the study of human behavior will be presented, as well as an introduction to research methods in psychology. Students will obtain an understanding of each area of psychology and learn to critically evaluate psychological research.

LEARNING 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.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

If you have a disability and require accommodation, please contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148 or via e-mail (cass@utep.edu) no later than the first day of class. They will help you with the required paperwork necessary to obtain accommodation.

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:

<http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=23785>

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.

Discussion: *up to 10 points.* There will be one graded discussion board post per week (1 point each). The graded discussion posts will have prompts or specific discussion questions posted by the instructor. **Discussion posts are due at 11:59pm** on the associated due date. Note that most discussion topics require you to make an original post and reply to 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).

Unit Summarization: *up to 10 points.* Each week, you will write a short summarization paper which will be submitted on Blackboard. In this activity, first you read each unit (chapter) and then summarize the unit in at least 200 words – answering the question “What did I learn in this unit?” After writing your paper, you will submit it on Blackboard using the icon named as, for example, “Week1 Summarization.”

Quizzes: *up to 20 points.* During the semester, you will take two non-cumulative quizzes in Weeks 4 and 12. Each quiz's questions will come from the OLI content, and also all the activities that appear on the OLI environment at the end of each section or module within each unit. More specifically, the quiz questions will come from the “Explanatory Content” or actually what you read on OLI, “Learning by Doing” activities, “Did I Get This?” activities, and “Checkpoints” that contain many content-relevant questions.

Exams. *up to 50 points.* During the semester, you will take two non-cumulative midterm and final exams in Weeks 8 and 16. Each exam's questions will come from the OLI content, and also all the activities that appear on the OLI environment at the end of each section or module within each unit. More specifically, the exam questions will come from the “Explanatory Content” or actually what you read on OLI, “Learning by Doing” activities, “Did I Get This?” activities, and “Checkpoints” that contain many content-relevant questions.

Research Article Reviews: *up to 10 points.* You will read and summarize two research articles from a psychology journal (5 points each). Instructions for this assignment are posted in Blackboard.

Course Assessment

1. Quiz 1	10%
2. Quiz 2	10%
3. Midterm Exam	25%
4. Final Exam	25%
5. Discussion	10%
6. Unit Summarization Paper	10%
7. Research Article Review	10%

Total	100%
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GRADING

Grades will be based on the total number of points earned (out of a possible 710). 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.

The OLI psychology course is organized into units, which are comparable to a chapter in a textbook. Each unit is broken down into modules. You should complete all of the activities in each module before completing the checkpoint quiz on that topic.

All OLI content can be accessed via your OLI account. All other materials, assignments, and exams are in Blackboard organized into folders sorted by week.

Week 1

Activities:

- a) Reading Unit 1: Learning Strategies and Unit 2: Introduction
- b) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 1/27/2019
- c) Submitting the Unit 2 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 1/27/2019

Week 2

Activities:

- a) Reading Unit 3: Methods
- b) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 2/3/2019
- c) Submitting the Unit 2 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 2/3/2019

Week 3

Activities:

- a) Reading Unit 4: Brains, Bodies, and Behavior
- b) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 2/10/2019
- c) Submitting the Unit 2 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 2/10/2019

Week 4

Activities:

- a) Reading Unit 5: Sensing and Perceiving
- b) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 2/17/2019
- c) Submitting the Unit 2 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 2/17/2019
- d) **Quiz 1** due by 11:59 pm on 2/17/2019

Week 5

Activities:

- a) Reading Unit 6: Learning
- b) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 2/24/2019
- c) Submitting the Unit 2 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 2/24/2019

Week 6

Activities:

- a) Reading Unit 7: Memory
- b) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 3/3/2019
- c) Submitting the Unit 2 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 3/3/2019

Week 7

Activities:

- a) Reading Unit 8: Language
- b) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 3/10/2019
- c) Submitting the Unit 2 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 3/10/2019

Week 8

Activities:

- a) Reading Unit 9: Intelligence
- b) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 3/17/2019
- c) Submitting the Unit 2 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 3/17/2019
- d) **Midterm Exam** due by 11:59 pm on 3/17/2019

Week 9

(No Classes)

Week 10

Activities:

- a) Reading Unit 10: Lifespan Development
- b) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 3/31/2019
- c) Submitting the Unit 2 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 3/31/2019

Week 11

Activities:

- a) Reading Unit 11: Emotion and Motivation
- b) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 4/7/2019
- c) Submitting the Unit 2 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 4/7/2019

Week 12

Activities:

- a) Reading Unit 12: Personality
- b) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 4/14/2019
- c) Submitting the Unit 2 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 4/14/2019
- d) **Quiz 2** due by 11:59 pm on 4/14/2019

Week 13

Activities:

- a) Reading Unit 13: Psychology in Our Social Lives
- b) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 4/21/2019
- c) Submitting the Unit 2 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 4/21/2019
- d) **Research Article Review Papers** due by 11:59 pm on 4/21/2019

Week 14

Activities:

- a) Reading Unit 14: Wellness
- b) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 4/28/2019
- c) Submitting the Unit 2 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 4/28/2019

Week 15

Activities:

- a) Reading Unit 15: Disorders
- b) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 5/5/2019
- c) Submitting the Unit 2 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 5/5/2019

Week 16

Activities:

- a) Reading Unit 16: Treatment
- b) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 5/12/2019
- c) Submitting the Unit 2 summarization paper on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 5/12/2019
- d) **Final Exam** due by 5/12/2019

This syllabus is subject to change.