



## INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY



Fall 2018

Mon & Wed 4:30 to 5:50 UGLC 342

F:Syll 430 MW Intro Fall 2018

### **PSYC 1301 INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY CRN: 11804+**

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Instructor: Adolfo J. Alvarez, M.A.

Office hours: I have an open-door policy. If my office door is open and I am not occupied you can talk to me. In addition, I will be available by appointment, and also during the following office hours+:

Mon 3:15 to 3:45 Tue: 10:30 to 11:00 & 1:30 to 2:00

Office: Prospect Hall, Room 208 Telephone: 747-6589 E-mail: adolfoa@utep.edu

Please use your UTEP e-mail when e-mailing me, use proper English, and correct grammar. Always specify that you are in the 10:30 class+.

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

Hockenbury, S.E., Nolan, S.A., & Hockenbury, D.H. *Discovering Psychology* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: Worth. ISBN: 978-1-319-10297-5. The UTEP bookstore has a “special UTEP” loose-leaf edition of the textbook. I suggest you purchase it from the cheapest source. There are copies of the book in the Library’s Circulation Desk.

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE+**

The overall objective of this course is to give you an overall introduction to the science of psychology.

The specific learning objectives of the course are for you to learn about:

- 1) The major theories in psychology;
- 2) The basic research methods used in psychology;
- 3) The applications of psychological research; and
- 4) How to apply critical scientific thinking to everyday psychological topics.

### **EXAMS**

**Please go to the bathroom before the exam as you will not be permitted to leave the classroom once the exam has begun+. No student will be allowed to enter the classroom once a student has finished an exam and has left the classroom+.** Makeup exams will consist of open-ended questions+ and will be given only with documented medical emergencies or documented military deployment.

You will need an **882-E green** Scantron and a number-two pencil for the tests. The answers on the Scantron will be considered the final answers, regardless of whether you wrote a different answer on the test itself or if you changed your mind and did not erase completely.

There will be four tests, each consisting of 40 to 60 multiple-choice questions. Each test will be worth 100 percentage points. I will keep the exams in my office for two weeks+ in case you want to go over your answers, which I strongly suggest you do. Going over your exam will very likely help you improve your grade. The tests will be recycled after two weeks.

Test questions will come from my lectures, the textbook, and films. Some questions will come from the textbook on material that I will not cover in my lectures. If you don’t study the textbook, you will most

likely not get an A nor a B. I will not ask you to memorize dates, names of psychologists, or statistics, unless I mention them in class or the textbook states something like: “The most common psychological ...”; “The number one cause of ... is ...”; or “The most important ...” You will be required to watch the film *A Beautiful Mind*+ (with Russell Crowe) for the final exam. There are two DVDs of the film in the Media and Microfilm office, in the first floor of the Library. This syllabus contains important information so it is very important for you to read it. There will be several questions about the syllabus on each test on information that has a +.

### Participation in Experiments

The Department of Psychology requires Introduction-to-Psychology students to participate as research subjects in experiments conducted by its faculty and students. You will be required to participate in several experiments for a total of **EIGHT**+ experimental credits. Each experimental credit will be worth 10 points for a maximum of 80 points. Read the document titled “Research Component for Introduction to Psychology (PSY 1301),” in pages 4 through 6 of the syllabus.

In case you cannot or do not want to participate in the experiments, you can write summaries of **EIGHT** research articles are posted in Blackboard. The instructions for these summaries are at the end of the syllabus, under the title of Research Participation — Alternate Assignment. Research Summaries.

You can combine any number of research participation with any number of written research summaries. For example, you can participate in four experiments and write four summaries; or, participate in six experiments and write two summaries. The research participation and the written research summaries must add up to eight.

### Grades

Your grade for each exam will be based on the following percentage scale:

F = 0 – 59%    D = 60 – 69%    C = 70 – 79%    B = 80 – 89%    A = 90 – 100%

Your final course grade will be the addition of the four exams (400 points), plus the points for participating in the experiments or the summaries of the research articles (80 points).

The final grade will be based on the following point scale:

F = 0 – 287    D = 288 - 335    C = 336 - 383    B = 384 - 431    A = 432 - 480

### **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is essential to learn the course material, and because I will discuss some topics that are not in the textbook. If you miss four or more classes+, your final grade will be dropped one letter grade. If you know you are going to be absent, please notify me in advance via an e-mail. Be sure to specify that you are in the 10:30 class+. If you are absent, get the notes from a student as it is not my policy to give my PowerPoint presentations.

### **SEATING**

You will be assigned a specific seat in the classroom.

### **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACTS**

UTEP is dedicated to providing reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities so they have equal access and opportunity to complete their education. Students are responsible for informing the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) of their disability, and for requesting accommodations within two weeks of the start of each semester. CASS is in Room 106, Union East Building. CASS can be contacted at 747-5148 and at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu).

**CALENDAR**

The following schedule is tentative. I will inform you of any changes in class or through Blackboard.

				<b>Lecture Topic &amp; Textbook Chapter</b>	4:30
1	M	Aug	27	Orientation to course & Introduction to Psychology (Chapter 1)	
2	W	Aug	29	Introduction to psychology (Ch. 1)	
3	M	Sept	3	Labor Day	
4	W	Sept	5	Introduction to Psychology	
5	M	Sept	10	Research Methods (Ch. 1)	
6	W	Sept	12	Research Methods	
7	M	Sept	17	Research Methods	
8	W	Sept	19	Neuroscience and Behavior (Ch. 2)	
<b>9</b>	<b>M</b>	Sept	<b>24</b>	Neuroscience and Behavior	
10	W	Sept	26	Neuroscience and Behavior	
11	M	Oct	1	<b>TEST 1. Chapters 1, 2, and syllabus</b>	
12	W	Oct	3	Sensation and Perception (Ch. 3)	
13	M	Oct	8	Consciousness and Its Variations (Ch. 4)	
	F	Oct	12	Last day to obtain 4 <sup>th</sup> SONA research/written summary credit free	
14	W	Oct	10	Consciousness and Its Variations	
15	M	Oct	15	Learning (Ch. 5)	
16	W	Oct	17	Learning	
17	M	Oct	22	Memory (Ch. 6)	
18	W	Oct	24	Memory	
<b>19</b>	<b>M</b>	Oct	<b>29</b>	<b>TEST 2. Chs: 3, 4, 5, 6, and syllabus</b>	
20	W	Oct	31	Motivation & Emotion (Ch. 8)	
21	M	Nov	5	Motivation & Emotion	
22	W	Nov	7	Lifespan Development (Ch. 9)	
	F	Nov	9	Last day to obtain 8 <sup>th</sup> SONA research/written summary credit free	
23	M	Nov	12	Lifespan Development	
24	W	Nov	14	Social Psychology (Ch. 11)	
<b>25</b>	<b>M</b>	Nov	<b>19</b>	<b>TEST 3. Chs: 8, 9, 11, and syllabus</b>	
26	W	Nov	21	Personality (Ch. 10)	
27	M	Nov	26	Psychological Disorders (Ch. 13)	
28	W	Nov	28	Psychological Disorders.	
29	M	Dec	3	Psychological Disorders	
30	W	Dec	5	Therapies (Ch. 14). Last day to participate in experiments.	
<b>31</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Final Exam at 4:00 p.m.* Chs: 10, 13, 14, and film</b>	4:30

\*\*\*Under no circumstances (unless you are deployed by the military or you have a documented medical emergency) will the final exam be given at another day.

**USE OF TECHNOLOGY DURING CLASS**

Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off during class, and during and after exams. Students who use cell phones during class will be told to leave the classroom+. If you are expecting an urgent call during class, tell me before the class starts.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Academic dishonesty is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated in any form. Any student involved in academic dishonesty will be referred to the Office of Student Conflict and Resolution+ and will be disciplined in accordance with UTEP's policy. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in

whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Cheating is defined as, but not limited to, copying answers from another student, looking in the direction of another student's test or Scantron, talking to students during exams, looking at or using cell phones or other electronic communication devices during and after exams, and looking at any type of notes or the textbook during exams.

### **Research Component for Introduction to Psychology (PSYC 1301) TuTh**

In this course, the student will learn about numerous factors that interact to influence thinking and behavior. Just as in other scientific disciplines, knowledge in psychology is obtained by conducting carefully designed studies. Most of what the student will learn in this course, therefore, represents the findings of previous psychological studies. Although this type of information is very important, it is also important for the student to learn about the methods that are used to create scientific knowledge. Learning about scientific procedures is considered to be so vital that many scientific disciplines require students to take laboratory classes in addition to lecture classes. For example, students in chemistry courses participate in laboratory exercises in which they mix various chemicals, and observe and record the outcome of these exercises.

To facilitate learning the scientific procedures used in psychology, the Introductory Psychology course has a research requirement. The preferred method for students to fulfill this requirement is by actual participation in psychology studies. Not only will students learn about the scientific procedures that are used in psychology, but they will also be contributing to future knowledge. Studies conducted in the UTEP Psychology Department often appear in prominent scientific journals. When students are unable to or wish not to participate, they have the option of completing the "Alternate Assignment", which involves completing 2-page reports on a series of pre-selected journal articles.

### **Introductory Psychology Research Requirement**

Part of the student's final grade will be based on credits earned via participation in psychological research. Students in all introductory psychology classes are required to earn a **minimum of 8** units of research credit. For students who choose the experiment participation option, one credit is earned for each hour of participation. Students must be at least 18 years old to participate in experiments; students under the age of 18 should complete the alternate assignment provided by the instructor.

The course instructor will inform students of how research credit will be factored in to compute the final semester grade, and whether or not students can earn extra credit by completing more than the required 8 research credit units. The instructor will also provide details on alternate assignments that can be completed to fulfill the research requirement without research participation.

*Students can obtain 8 credits with only 6 hours of participation or the equivalent in alternate assignments if:*

- 3 credits are accumulated by **Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup>**, a 4<sup>th</sup> credit will be automatically added.
- 7 credits are accumulated by **Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>**, the 8<sup>th</sup> credit will be added.

**\*\*You have until the last day of class (DECEMBER 6, 2018) to complete your credit requirements.\*\***

### **Instructions for Participating in Psychological Studies**

1. To participate in research studies, you must have a current UTEP e-mail address. If you do not already have a UTEP e-mail address, you may obtain a free e-mail account from the University. For details on getting an e-mail account or finding computer labs on campus for student use, contact the HELP desk at 747-5257 (or x4357 on campus).
2. You will need to create an account on the online psychology research participation system. To access the system, go to the following website: <http://utep.sona-systems.com/> (there is a link from the Psychology Department website). To create an account the first time you access the system,

use the link marked “request an account here.” Enter the information requested, including your name, your UTEP student ID number, your UTEP e-mail address, and the course in which you are enrolled. Then press the button marked “Request Account.”

**I teach several psychology classes so make sure you specify that the Course Register Number (CRN) for this class is 11804+**

3. Your log-on ID and password will be sent to your UTEP e-mail account within several minutes. You may then go to <http://utep.sona-systems.com/> and log in using the information that was e-mailed to you.
4. You may then select the link marked “Browse a list of studies and sign up for those that interest you.” By selecting a study, you can see more detailed information and sign up for the study if you wish.
5. Once you have signed up for a study, the system will send you an e-mail and the study will appear under “My Schedule/Credits.” You can use this feature to remind yourself of the time and location of the study. Within two days after your participation, your credit for the study should appear online. If you do not receive credit for a study within two days of your participation, please contact the researcher by e-mail or telephone to resolve the problem.
6. You may generally participate only once in each study. Some studies may have additional restrictions on participation that will be displayed online.
7. To ensure that your participation is recorded properly, do not set up more than one account per person and do not use someone else’s account.
8. If you have questions about how to use this system, contact the Psychology Department’s participant pool administrator, Professor Veronica Whitford, at [SONA@utep.edu](mailto:SONA@utep.edu). Please include your name, UTEP e-mail address, and instructor’s name in your request for information.

**Policy on Cancellations and Failures to Appear for Scheduled Experimental Sessions**

It is important that you attend all studies for which you sign up. The Psychology Department encourages students to exercise professionalism and courtesy in keeping or canceling scheduled appointments. That is, if you schedule a session and later find that you are unable to or no longer wish to attend, please cancel such participation through the SONA system. If you cannot access the SONA system at that time, then you may cancel by sending an e-mail to the experimenter or calling to leave a message for the experimenter. Cancellation through the SONA system allows other students who need credit to sign up for the cancelled session, which makes it the ideal method. Canceling by e-mail or phone lets experimenters know that they can either open a new slot for another participant or make other plans for their time. Remember that most experimenters are other students and are also quite busy.

***\*\*Failing to show up for a scheduled experiment without appropriate cancellation will result in a penalty of one credit being applied to your account.\*\* Each penalty credit increases the number of experiment hours you must complete to fulfill the requirement.***

**The Student’s Rights as Research Participant**

Participation in research is meant to be an enjoyable and educational experience. Therefore, specific steps are taken to ensure that the student’s participation will be beneficial to both the student and society (by the knowledge gained from the study):

1. The Institutional Review Board, an ethics committee, screens each study before anyone is allowed to participate to ensure that volunteers are not in any way mistreated.
2. Before participation, the researcher will give students information about what will take place during the study. Students will then be asked to sign a statement of consent to participate.
3. After completion of the study, the researcher will debrief the participants as to the purpose of the study.
4. Students have the right to discontinue participation in the study at any time and without penalty.

5. Student participants have the right to expect the researcher to be present on time to conduct the study. If a participant is present on time and the researcher is not, the participant should first check to ensure that the date/time/location is correct. If that information is correct, the student should contact the researcher as soon as possible to resolve the error and receive whatever credit is appropriate.
6. Students who feel that their rights have been violated during participation in any of the Psychology Department's research studies should inform their instructor. If the matter is not satisfactorily resolved by the instructor, they should contact the Chairperson of the Psychology Department Undergraduate Committee at 747-5551 and/or the Coordinator for Institutional Research Review at 747-8841.

Rev. 08/18

### **Research Participation — Alternate Assignment. Research Summaries**

As aforementioned, **all students enrolled in PSYC 1301 are required to earn 8 research participation credits.** You have the option to write papers summarizing pre-selected research articles from psychology journals instead of participating in research experiments.

Each paper should summarize each research article, and counts as the equivalent of 1 hour of research participation. **Thus, if you do not participate in any research experiments, you must write eight papers to fulfill the research requirement (or six if completed in a timely manner as noted in the syllabus).**

**If you turn in to me three summaries (in hard copy) by Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, you will automatically earn one additional research summary credit. If seven research summary credits are accumulated by Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, an additional 8<sup>th</sup> research summary credit will be given to you.**

#### **Paper requirements:**

1. The journal articles can be found on Blackboard, and each paper must be typed, double-spaced with 1-inch margins, and 12-point font.
2. Each paper must be 2 pages in length.
3. The last day to submit the summaries is **the last day of class (DECEMBER 6). Late papers will not be accepted. Summaries must be turned in as hard copies.**
4. Each paper should contain the following information:
  - a. What were the primary research questions for the study? In other words, what were the researchers trying to examine, and why?
  - b. Briefly describe how the researchers conducted their study. Was data collected from human participants? If so, how many (what was their sample size)? How was the data collected (i.e., questionnaires, interviews, etc.)?
  - c. Briefly describe the results of the study. You are not expected to be able to interpret the statistics used, but you should be able to talk about the overall findings. The findings are generally discussed in plain, non-statistical language in the discussion section.
  - d. Reflect on what you learned from reading this article, and briefly discuss what was or was not surprising about what the researchers found.
5. All information from the paper must be in summary form, meaning that you read the paper and put it in your own words. If you directly quote from the article or you copy word for word (or nearly word for word) from the article, you will not receive credit for this assignment.
6. Include the citation for the article you summarized.