

**Course Syllabus:** Introduction to Psychology (PSY 1301, CRN: 24090)

**Instructor:** Juliana Cardoso Smith, M.A.

**E-mail:** jdcardoso@miners.utep.edu (preferred contact method)

**Class Meets:** Tuesday/ Thursday 1:30-2:50 p.m.

**Location:** UGLC 342

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 3:30-5:30 p.m., or by appointment requested at least one day in advance

**Office Hours Location:** PSY 104/ PSY 102 (My office is located in the back)

**Course T.A.:** T.B.D.

**Course Overview:**

Throughout the semester students will be exposed to a variety of issues relevant to the study of human behavior. As this is an introductory course, it is aimed to touch upon a number of topics, such as the history of psychology, research methodology, social, behavioral, clinical and cognitive psychology.

**Course Objectives:**

After successfully completing this course, students will:

- Have a general knowledge of the field of psychological science and many of its subfields, preparing them for future classes in statistical methods, research methodology, and field specific courses.
- Have knowledge of the methods used in psychological research and the scientific method.
- Gain experience applying psychological concepts to their lives and the “real world”, using critical thinking skills

As we will discuss in class, modern psychology is based on scientific research. The vast majority of this research is conducted at research universities. Students will be required to get involved in this research process by participating in psychological research studies here at UTEP. **Students will be required to complete a minimum of 8 research credit-hours by the end of the semester.**

Suggestion: DO NOT WAIT until the end of the semester to complete your research credits.

All research conducted with human subjects is voluntary. As such, students who cannot, or choose not to, participate in research will complete an alternative summary paper. You will complete one summary paper per hour of research participation.

**Required Text:**

Hockenbury, S.E., Nolan, S.A., & Hockenbury, D.H., *Discovering Psychology* (7th ed.). New York: Worth Publishers.

ISBN-Loose Leaf: 978-1-4641-7695-1

\*Additional readings may be provided via Blackboard throughout the semester.

### **Blackboard:**

Blackboard will be used in this course. It is your responsibility to check Blackboard, since major announcements will be posted. Partial versions of the PowerPoint will be available on Blackboard. If you miss class, I will not give you a copy of the lecture.

### **Examinations, Grading & Participation Requirements:**

- **Exams:** There will be a total of three exams (Exam 1, Exam 2, and Final Exam). All exams are closed-book and closed-notes. All exams will be multiple choice and they must be completed using scantron sheets. *Students are required to bring their own scantron sheets and pencils for the exams.*

Please make sure you arrive on time. *If you arrive after one of your peers has handed in his or her exam you will no longer be allowed to take the exam and your grade for the missed exam will be zero.*

- **Quizzes:** Will be given every lecture (except on LC 1 and on scheduled exam days). Quizzes will be given within the first 10 minutes of class and within the last 10 minutes of class). These two quizzes will be combined to reflect a quiz grade for the lecture day. The quizzes may be based on assigned readings or lecture materials. No late quizzes will be given or accepted. Your lowest 2 quiz grades will be dropped from final grade calculations.
- **Grading:**  
Final grades will be calculated as follows:
  - o **25%:** will be based on quizzes (25 total quizzes, each quiz is worth 1%)
  - o **69%:** exams (Exam 1: 23%, Exam 2: 23%, Exam 3: 23%)
  - o **6%:** research participation (6% if successfully completed)

### **Final Grades:**

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

**Students are expected to attend all lectures.** It is to your benefit as a student to attend the lectures and take the quizzes as well as the exams. Cell phone use is NOT permitted during class.

### **Classroom Etiquette**

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 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.

### **Late/ Make up Exams/ Quizzes**

Late/make up exams/quizzes will not be given. On exam days, no exams will be handed out after the first exam has been completed. In other words, if you arrive to class late and the first exam has been handed in, you have missed the exam. Exceptions will only be considered in cases of University approved absence or emergency with appropriate documentation. These cases must be brought to the instructor's attention before the exam day, where possible.

### **Excused Absences for University-Recognized Activities**

Make up exams will be granted only for: university-recognized activities, absence for religious Holy Days, and military leave. Anyone who will be missing an exam due to a university- recognized activity, religious holy days or military leave will be required to take the exam before the exam is to be administered to the class on the scheduled exam day. You will have to make an appointment with me to set up a time to take the exam.

For more information on University Excused Absences, please visit:

<https://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=54418>.

### **Absence from Examinations**

A student absent from a test during the semester is graded zero (0) unless the student has contacted me and we have made alternative arrangements.

### **Written notice policy**

I require that any requests or inquiries be made via email (to the email address provided on this syllabus) so that a record of the request is saved. This includes, but is not limited to, grading disputes, information requests, requests for appointments etc. I will respond to any written request/inquiry in a timely manner.

### **Academic Dishonesty:**

*I will certainly report you if you engage in academic dishonesty.* Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion.

- Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student or possessing unauthorized materials during a test.
- Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as one's own.
- Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

### **Accommodations and Support Services:**

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, 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 [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass).

**PSYCH 1301 Tentative Schedule**

\*This schedule is extremely tentative. I reserve the right to make any changes to the schedule.

Schedule	Date	Topic	Announcements: Reading Due
Tuesday	01/17	LC 1: Syllabus Review, Chapter 1: Introduction and Research Methods	No readings due
Thursday	01/19	LC 2: Chapter 1; Special Topics: Ethics and its importance	QUIZ 1; Chapter 1
Tuesday	01/24	LC 3: Chapter 2: Neuroscience and Behavior	QUIZ 2; Chapter 2
Thursday	01/26	LC 4: Chapter 2:	QUIZ 3; Chapter 2
Tuesday	01/31	LC 5: Chapter 3: Sensation and Perception	QUIZ 4; Chapter 3
Thursday	02/02	LC 6: Chapter 3:	QUIZ 5; Chapter 3
Tuesday	02/07	LC 7: Chapter 4: Consciousness and Its Variations	QUIZ 6; Chapter 4
Thursday	02/09	LC 8: Chapter 4; Exam Review	QUIZ 7; Chapter 4
Tuesday	02/14	EXAM 1 will cover materials from LC 1 to LC 8	<b>NO QUIZ: Exam Day</b>
Thursday	02/16	LC 9: Chapter 5: Learning	QUIZ 8; Chapter 5
Tuesday	02/21	LC 10: Chapter 5	QUIZ 9; Chapter 5
Thursday	02/23	LC 11: Chapter 6: Memory	QUIZ 10; Chapter 6
Tuesday	02/28	LC 12: Chapter 6	QUIZ 11; Chapter 6
Thursday	03/02	LC 13: Chapter 7: Thinking, Language and Intelligence	QUIZ 12; Chapter 7
Tuesday	03/07	LC 14: Chapter 7	QUIZ 13; Chapter 7
Thursday	03/09	LC 15: Chapter 8: Motivation and Emotion	QUIZ 14; Chapter 8
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>03/14</b>	<b>NO CLASS- Spring Break</b>	<b>NO CLASS- Spring Break</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>03/16</b>	<b>NO CLASS- Spring Break</b>	<b>NO CLASS- Spring Break</b>
Tuesday	03/21	LC 16: Chapter 8; Exam Review	QUIZ 15; Chapter 8
Thursday	03/23	EXAM 2 will cover materials from LC 9 to LC 16	<b>NO QUIZ: Exam Day</b>
Tuesday	03/28	LC 17: Chapter 9: Lifespan Development	QUIZ 16; Chapter 9
Thursday	03/30	LC 18: Chapter 9	QUIZ 17; Chapter 9 Spring Drop/ Withdrawal Deadline
Tuesday	04/04	LC 19: Chapter 10: Personality	QUIZ 18; Chapter 10
Thursday	04/06	LC 20: Chapter 10	QUIZ 19; Chapter 10
Tuesday	04/11	LC 21: Chapter 11: Social Psychology	QUIZ 20; Chapter 11
Thursday	04/13	LC 22: Chapter 11	QUIZ 21; Chapter 11
Tuesday	04/18	LC 23: Chapter 12: Stress, Health and Coping	QUIZ 22; Chapter 12
Thursday	04/20	LC 24: Chapter 13: Psychological Disorders	QUIZ 23; Chapter 13
Tuesday	04/25	LC 25: Chapter 13	QUIZ 24; Chapter 13
Thursday	04/27	LC 26: Chapter 14: Therapies	QUIZ 25; Chapter 14
Tuesday	05/02	LC 27: Chapter 14	QUIZ 26; Chapter 14
Thursday	05/04	LC 28: Special Topics: ABA; Exam Review	QUIZ 27: Supplemental Reading
Thursday	05/11	<b>FINAL EXAM will cover LC 17 to 28</b>	<b>NO QUIZ: Exam Day</b>

	<b>Location to be confirmed. *Changes may be announced</b>	<b>Exam will be from 1:00-3:45pm</b>
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### **Research Component for Introduction to Psychology (PSYC 1301)**

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.

In order 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 (perhaps because of a work schedule), they have the alternative option of researching articles in psychology journals and writing a brief paper on each article. Other alternative assignments may be offered by individual instructors.

#### 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 alternative 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 alternative 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 a student has 3 credits accumulated by March 10<sup>th</sup>, a 4<sup>th</sup> credit will be automatically added. If 7 credits are accumulated by April 14<sup>th</sup>, then an 8<sup>th</sup> credit will be given.

#### Instructions for Participating in Psychological Studies

1. In order 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."

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. In order 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 Zenaida Olivas ([zolivas@utep.edu](mailto:zolivas@utep.edu)) or Penny Austin ([pgraves@utep.edu](mailto:pgraves@utep.edu)) in the Psychology Department at 747-5551. 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 insure 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 in order 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 in order 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.

### **Alternative Assignment for Research Participation**

For one experimental credit, pick one article from Psychological Science. It is published by SAGE publishing. It can be found at [http://www.psychologicalscience.org/index.php/publications/journals/psychological\\_science](http://www.psychologicalscience.org/index.php/publications/journals/psychological_science). The article must have been published in 2015, or 2016. Download the article as a PDF. These articles are free if you are using the UTEP library (EBSCO and Psychinfo).

Please ask a librarian, the T.A. or myself, if you are having trouble finding this article for free (You should not have to pay for it).

Write a one page single spaced summary that includes the following.

1. The independent variable.
2. The dependent variable
3. Hypothesis/ Goal of the study
4. Participants
5. Summarize *in your words* the primary finding and intent of the article. Use your own words and do not plagiarize.
6. Take home message of the study and limitations or strengths of the study.
7. Identify your major and highlight how this will help you in your career.

Submit the document as a word document along with the PDF of the paper. Each summary is worth one research credit. Your paper must be submitted via Blackboard and will be checked for plagiarism through SafeAssign.

To earn 8 credits, you need to submit 8 different summaries.

Also, recall that is this merely an alternative to participating in the experimental studies. You do not need to do this if you are doing the SONA studies, you can ignore this task. You can also choose to complete your credits through any combination of SONA experimental credits and this alternative

Remember, the deadline for completion is the same as the one for completing research participation through SONA. ***Late papers will not be accepted.***