

INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY
PSYCHOLOGY 1301 (CRN 20556) spring 2023
Undergraduate Learning Center (UGLC), Room 128
Mondays & Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.

Instructor: Lawrence Cohn, Ph.D.
Office: 118 Psychology Building

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Office Hours: Mondays 3:00 – 4:40 p.m. (In-Person);
Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. (via Zoom);
or by appointment

PASS Review Leader: Vianey Quaney (vquaney@miners.utep.edu)

Teaching Assistant: To be announced

Textbook: *Psychology 2e* (2020, 2e Edition) by Rose M. Spielman, William J. Jenkins, & Marilyn D. Lovett (Senior Contributing Authors). OpenStax
Download a **Free** digital version: <https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology-2e>
(click “Download a pdf”). Alternatively, you can purchase a print version of the text from the UTEP bookstore for about \$30.

WELCOME!!! This course will introduce you to many of the exciting and major research findings in psychology. We will review a range of topics, including studies of brain structures and their impact on behavior, sleep and dreaming (don’t do either in class!), visual illusions, cognitive illusions, phobias and Pavlovian conditioning, ‘one-armed bandits’ (Las Vegas slot machines) and Skinnerian conditioning, memory and strategies for improving it, infant development (quite remarkable), and factors affecting social behavior, including your own.

The course has several goals, including 1) increasing your knowledge of key research findings in psychology, 2) increasing your ability to draw connections between research findings and your everyday life, and 3) increasing your empirical orientation towards knowledge (that is, thinking in terms of evidence). The topics and reading assignments for each class are provided below. We may deviate from this schedule, so the dates are intended as rough guides for where we will be throughout the course.

Strategies for Success in This Course

1) You can also increase your likelihood of success in the course by identifying a ‘backup-buddy’; that is, someone who you can contact via email or phone to get the class notes for any day that you miss class due to illness. The latter ‘backup-buddy’ strategy has been very useful to students in past semesters. Please do not contact me for class notes if you miss a class until you have first

contacted your study-buddy for the class notes. Each student in the class should **identify a 'backup buddy' by the end of the 2nd week of classes.**

2) Students sometimes earn low grades in PSYC 1301 because they do not invest the time needed to succeed in the course. **Please note: you should spend, on average, 7 hours per week studying for this class in addition to spending 3 hours per week attending this class.** Thus you should commit at least 10 hours per week to succeed in this course. You should be reading all of the assigned chapters, and you should be reading these chapters more than once (that is, twice, three times, or more). Most importantly, you should interact with the material! Write comments in the margins of the text, type up additional notes, discuss the material with friends (or even enemies), or just close the door to your room and review the material aloud. Actively engaging material is absolutely critical for your success in any course. Passively reading a chapter once is useless. At the University level, you are expected to master material in a non-trivial way. Hence the need to genuinely commit the type of time and energy described above in order to get the payoff that you desire.

Although the class is large I continually encourage student interaction and I have designed several exercises to facilitate this process. I will also 'walk around' the lecture hall inviting comments and encouraging you to respond to questions and interact with the material. So please make sure that you attend each class.

3) You can increase your likelihood of success in the class by attending weekly review sessions. These review sessions will be conducted by Vianey Quaney (vquaney@miners.utep.edu) who is a Peer Leader in UTEP's Peers Assisting Student Success (PASS) program. I have had Peer Leaders collaborate with our class for several years and these Peer Leaders are great! I invited Vianey to work with our class this semester as a Peer Leader. Vianey will conduct review sessions for you 2-3 times per week, as well as hold office hours for individual meetings! Vianey is an extremely talented UTEP undergraduate who has already taken PSYC 1301. She has been working with staff members at the Miner Learning Center and she has developed a number of engaging exercises that are designed for small group review sessions that should help you master and remember the course material. **I will award you 10 extra percentage points on one exam score if you attend at least one PASS review session between now and Exam 2!**

Vianey and her colleagues at the Miner Learning Center will send you an e-mail survey asking you to indicate your preferred meeting times for the review sessions. **Please complete and return the survey by Monday morning January 23rd 2023. Completing the survey does not obligate you to attend any of the PASS sessions** but it helps Vianey identify meeting times that might be convenient for you if you decide to attend one or more review sessions. So take advantage of the opportunity to learn the material better AND earn the extra credit points towards a higher course grade.

Examinations

There will be three exams and one final exam. Each of the four exams will be administered online via Blackboard during our regularly scheduled class time. Just go to the Home Page of our Blackboard course shell and click on the folder labeled "Exams" to access each exam. Each exam will become available on the scheduled day and time of the exam.

The exams are tentatively scheduled for the dates listed below. **The exam dates are tentative, so please do not plan business trips or other obligations around the latter dates.** Each exam (including the final exam) is worth 13% of your course grade. Thus your exam grades comprise 52% of your final course grade. If you miss one exam then you will have the opportunity to take a comprehensive make-up exam at the end of the semester. There will be no individual make-up exams administered except for health emergencies (e.g., you are hospitalized) or other problems that I judge to be extreme.

Quizzes

There will be eight (8) quizzes during the semester. Quizzes will usually be administered in-person in our classroom. I will drop your two lowest quiz grades when computing your final course grade. Thus I use your six (6) highest quiz grades when computing your final grade. Each quiz is worth 8% of your final course grade (thus the quizzes comprise 48% of your final grade). The quizzes are intended to help keep you on track and attentive to the readings and class material. The quizzes are **tentatively** scheduled for the dates listed below. The quizzes will typically be administered at the beginning or at the end of our class (so make certain that you arrive to class on time and remain in class). If you arrive more than five minutes after the quiz begins then you will not be administered a quiz (so, again, please arrive to class on time!). I know that many students may miss one or two quizzes due to family obligations, work obligations, commute difficulties, or related problems; for this reason, I purposely drop your two lowest quiz grades. **Because I drop your two lowest quiz grades I will not administer make-up quizzes, regardless of the reason.**

Research Requirement

All students are required to participate in eight (8) hours of research conducted in the Psychology Department. Your participation will help you learn about the research techniques and procedures that are used in behavioral science research. **Three (3) percentage points will be added to one exam score for each hour of participation (maximum research credit: 24 percentage points).** Three points will be deducted from an exam score for each hour of research that you sign-up to participate in but fail to attend without notifying the experimenter sufficiently in advance. All research credits must be completed by Dead Day, Friday May 5th 2023.

The attached sheet (“*SONA System Policies - Spring 2023 Participant Guide*”) provides instructions for identifying and signing-up for studies that are conducted in the Psychology Department this semester. **If you are unable to participate in these research studies then you must write eight (8) short research papers (each paper should be 2-pages in length, typed) based on research articles that I have selected for you.** Each 2-page paper should briefly summarize the research question that was addressed in the article, the research methods that were employed in the study, and the main findings. Please write your name, student ID number, and course number (PSYC 1301) at the top of each paper that you submit. Each research paper requires about one hour of work. Three (3) percentage points will be added to one exam score for each paper submitted (maximum research credit: 24 percentage points). **Please contact our Teaching Assistant if you want copies of the research articles.** Request for articles must be made by **Wednesday May 3rd 2023** at 5 p.m. Your 2-page papers summarizing each article that you request must be submitted to our Teaching Assistant by Dead Day (**Friday May 5th 2023**).

Note: Students who **complete** 6 of their required credit hours by **March 10th 2023** will be awarded one additional credit hour. This means that students can complete their 8 required credits by only completing 7 hours of research, as long as they complete at least 6 of their credits by the March 10th 2023. Please note that latter one hour of research credit is not automatically assigned to our course! You will need to log in to your account and choose to assign that bonus credit to this particular course for it to eventually count towards your full set of research credits for our course.. It is very important that students go into their SONA accounts no later than one week following these dates to confirm the additional credit was granted to them and to assign this credit to the appropriate class.

Class Participation and Attendance

Class attendance is required and class participation is encouraged. **If you miss four or more classes then you must make an appointment to meet with me. I reserve the right to lower your final course grade by one grade level if you miss four or more classes.** Please do not surf the web during class. Note that I am insistent that students attend class because many studies indicate that class attendance improves grades and graduation success. So don't skip-out on class..... for lots of reasons!

It is important that you read this syllabus carefully. Course syllabi often provide information on exam dates, quiz dates, extra credit opportunities, and course expectations. Many students do not read their course syllabi and thus miss important information. However, you have devoted the time to read through this material carefully. Thus, you now have the opportunity to win something. Before class, on the second Wednesday morning of the semester, I will tape a twenty dollar bill under the bench in the Contemplative Garden facing the water sculpture in the Chihuahua desert gardens, which is adjacent to north side of the Undergraduate Learning Center. Good luck getting it early Wednesday morning before someone else does. The goal is to reinforce the importance of reading the syllabus of each class that you enroll in at UTEP.

Classroom Accommodations

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, then please contact the *Center for Accommodations and Support Services* (CASS) by phone at 747-5148 or by email at cass@utep.edu . The CASS office is located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass.

A NOTE REGARDING ACADEMIC HONESTY, INTEGRITY, AND DISHONESTY

Academic integrity and academic honesty are highly valued at UTEP. The Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (<http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/>) notes the following: "...students are expected to maintain absolute integrity and a high standard of individual honor in scholastic work undertaken at the University. At a minimum, you should complete any assignments, exams, and other scholastic endeavors with the utmost honesty..."

"Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable to another person.

“Cheating: Copying from the test paper of another student; communicating with another student during a test; giving or seeking aid from another student during a test; possession and/or use of unauthorized materials during tests (i.e. Crib notes, class notes, books, etc.); substituting for another person to take a test; falsifying research data, reports, academic work offered for credit.

“Plagiarism: Using someone’s work in your assignments without the proper citations; submitting the same paper or assignment from a different course, without direct permission of instructors

“Collusion: Unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments”

Academic dishonesty will result in disciplinary actions that can include a failing grade for the course or expulsion from the University (without a refund for tuition costs). So please do your own work.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

NOTE 1: Do not fall behind in your readings or your class attendance. Introductory level classes are sometimes the most difficult classes to master due to the large amount of material that is covered during the semester. If you have questions about the readings or class material then let's discuss these during office hours- **I enjoy meeting with students!!**

NOTE 2: March 30th is the spring 2023 Drop/Withdrawal Deadline. Student-initiated drops are permitted after this date, but the student is not guaranteed a grade of W. The faculty member of record will issue a grade of either W or F.

Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
Jan. 16 th	UTEP Closed in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.	
Jan. 18	Introduction, Research Examples, & Research Methods	Chapter 1
Jan. 23	Topic: Research Methods	Chapter 2
Jan. 25	Topic: Research Methods	Chapter 2
Jan. 30	Quiz #1: Chapters 1 & 2	
	Topic: Research Methods	Chapter 2
	Topic: Biopsychology	Chapter 3
Feb. 1	Topic: Biopsychology (Neuroscience)	Chapter 3

Feb. 6	Quiz #2: Pages 40-61 & pages 83-89	
	Topic: Biopsychology	Chapter 3
Feb. 8	Topic: Biopsychology	Chapter 3
Feb. 13	Exam #1.....	Chapters 1, 2, 3
Feb. 15	Topic: Consciousness	Chapter 4 (pp. 115-134)
Feb. 20	Topic: Sensation & Perception	Chapter 5 (pp. 155- 171)
Feb. 22	Topic: Sensation & Perception (con't)	
Feb. 27	Quiz #3: Pages 115-134 & Pages 155-171	
	Topic: Learning I: Classical Conditioning	Chapter 6 (pp.191-203)
March 1	Topic: Learning I (con't)	
March 6	Quiz #4 Learning I: Pages 191 - 203	
	Topic: Learning II	Chapter 6 (pp. 203-223)
March 8	Topic: Learning II (con't)	Chapter 6
March 13th & 15th	NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK	
March 20	Quiz #5: Learning II Pages 203-223	
	Topic: Thinking & Problem Solving	Chapter 7 (pp. 234-241)
March 22	Exam #2	Chapters 3, 4, 5 & 6 as indicated
March 27	Topic: Thinking & Problem Solving	Chapter 7 (pp. 225-229 & 234-241)

March 29	Topic: Memory	Chapter 8
[March 30	Fall 2022 Drop/Withdrawal Deadline "Student-initiated drops are permitted after this date, but the student is not guaranteed a grade of W. The faculty member of record will issue a grade of either W or F."]	
April 3	Topic: Memory (con't)	
April 5	Quiz #6: Thinking & Memory (pages as indicated) Topic: Memory	
April 10	Topic: Lifespan Development	Chapter 9
April 12	Quiz #7: Chapter 9 (Lifespan Development) Topic: Social Psychology	Chapter 12 (pp.421-452)
April 17	Topic: Social Psychology	
April 19	Topic: Social Psychology (con't)	
April 24	Quiz #8: Chapter 12 (pages as indicated) Topic: Psychological Disorders	Chapter 15
April 26	Exam #3:	Chapters 7, 8, 9, & 12 (as indicated)
May 1	Semester Review	
May 3	COMPREHENSIVE MAKE-UP EXAM.....	All material covered during the semester
May 10 (Wednesday)	FINAL EXAM 10:00 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.	All material covered during the semester