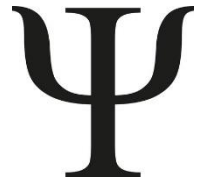




The University of Texas at El Paso
Department of Psychology
PSYC 1301 - CRN 20440



INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

INSTRUCTOR: Patricia Juárez Mendoza, M.S.

TERM: SPRING 2025 **Meeting Times:** M & W 12:00 – 1:20 am **Classroom:** FOXM M402

Office: Psychology 102B **Office Hours:** M & W 10:00 – 12:00 and 1:20 – 2:30pm (**ONLY by appointment**)
Phone: 915-747-6289 **Email:** pjuarez32@utep.edu

TEACHING ASSISTANT (TA)

TA's contact information will be provided as soon as one is assigned

***NOTE:** This syllabus has been adapted from courses taught by Dr. Abdolhossein Abdollahy Zarandi and Adolfo J. Alvarez, M.A.*

COMMUNICATION – UTEP email and BLACKBOARD

UTEP email is the official mode of university correspondence; therefore, students are responsible for reading their UTEP email for university and course-related information and announcements. Therefore, **students should check their UTEP e-mail regularly and frequently** (at least twice per week) to stay informed about University, College and/or Department announcements, which may require responses within specific time limits.

The best and preferred way to communicate with me for any questions or concerns is through the course is through my **UTEP email** above (please refrain from using the Blackboard Course Messages tool). I tend to check my email several times per day Monday through Friday. However, please allow 24 hours for a response (48 hours if you send a message Friday evening or during the weekend). Make sure any email you send to me includes **“PSYC 1301” and your full name in the subject line**. Keep in mind that any email you send **must** come from your UTEP email account.

Announcements regarding the course will be made periodically via **BLACKBOARD**, therefore, please check the link **Announcements** at least once a day. Here is also where you will find information about the textbook (see below), slides in pdf format, assignments, quizzes/exams, extra credit opportunities, and other materials relevant to the course, including a **pdf copy of this document**. We will also use the **discussion boards** to communicate about course topics throughout the course. I will upload slides and materials to **BLACKBOARD** on a weekly basis, organized according to the chapters in your book, and based on what will be covered in each of the 4 quizzes/exams scheduled throughout the course.

Keep in mind that you are responsible for staying informed and up to date with possible changes to the class schedule throughout the semester.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will offer students an introduction to the main subject areas within the science of psychology, which tends to be briefly defined as the scientific study of behavior.

It will include a succinct coverage of a wide array of topics on how we humans sense, attend, perceive, memorize, retain, remember and learn information. As well as on how we use that information to create mental concepts and images (i.e., covert verbal behavior), which give rise to the language capabilities that allow us to think intelligently - in the form of reasoning, inferring, imagining, making judgments, making decisions, and solving problems. We will see how these “mental” processes (i.e., covert verbal behavior) interact with feelings and motivations to allow us to interact and adapt to our constantly changing environments/contexts.

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.

REQUIRED MATERIAL

The adopted **FREE** textbook and other materials can be found in the link below:

<https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology>

To get the book, go to **OpenStax.org/subjects** and select your book (i.e., Psychology 2e). Then choose your preferred format under **“Get the book.”** Below you can 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.)”

COURSE EVALUATION

Quiz 1 (Chapters 1-4)	15 points	} 80% of your total grade
Midterm Exam (Chapters 5-8)	25 points	
Quiz 2 (Chapters 9-12)	15 points	
Final Exam (Chapters 14-16)	25 points	
4 Quiz/Exam Study Guides	40 points (10 points each)	
In class and Blackboard participation	10 points	
Research Participation (SONA or Article)	8 points	
Professor/course Evaluation	2 points	
Total possible points	= 100 points + 30 extra credit points	

GRADING

Final Letter Grades will be based on the total number of points earned. Keep in mind that **a 100% is equivalent to 100 points** and will be based on the following scale:

100% = 100 points

- A** = 90 - 100%
- B** = 80 - 89.9%
- C** = 70 - 79.9%
- D** = 60 - 69.9%
- F** = 0 - 59.9%

If you have any questions or disputes regarding grades, you must raise them via email within 48 hours of the grade being released. Keep in mind that grades will only be changed in cases of administrative error.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS - ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION ACTIVITIES

EXAMS – 80 points

There will be **2 QUIZZES and 2 EXAMS** to be taken through **BLACKBOARD** - scheduled during class time throughout the course, covering all the content from the chapters assigned and from the material covered in class, up to the date of the quiz/exam.

Keep in mind that there will be **NO study guide provided**. Therefore, you are responsible for keeping up with the readings of the assigned chapters and for creating and submitting your **own Quiz/Exam study guides**.

PDF files of the PowerPoint slides presented in class will be uploaded to **BLACKBOARD** in preparation for each exam.

Quizzes/Exams will be scheduled and done through **BLACKBOARD** on the specified date and will have a set duration to be completed, which will be calculated based on the number of questions in each quiz/exam. Once the quiz/exam is open, you will have only the time permitted to complete it and the exam will close once that time is up.

Keep in mind that you will also be requested to **lock down your browser** in order to complete each exam.

Be prepared to demonstrate your understanding of key theoretical concepts (**multiple and true/false questions**), as well as to demonstrate your ability to respond to possible practical **open questions** implementing the processes reviewed in the course.

Keep in mind, that tests may be scheduled at another date for **extraordinary and approved** reasons and should only occur **prior** to the scheduled date of the exam for all class members.

QUIZ/EXAM STUDY GUIDES - 40 points (10 points each)

In preparation for each Quiz or Exam, you will prepare **your own study guide**. This should be done in the form of an outline with definitions and examples for the concepts and topics reviewed in your chapters and in class, plus a brief paragraph summarizing the personal impact the chapters had on you (in first person and in your own words). These study guides will be submitted on **BLACKBOARD** in the corresponding section.

IN CLASS AND BLACKBOARD PARTICIPATION: Maximum of 10 points

There will be several opportunities to participate in class and on discussion boards created on BLACKBOARD. In order for your participation to earn a point, this will make a significant contribution to the group's learning, by asking a relevant question, offering an example and/or sharing your personal experience. **Discussion posts are due at 11:59 pm** on the associated due date. You may want to type your discussion posts and responses in a Word document, paste them in the corresponding **BLACKBOARD** space, and save them in case there are technical issues. 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).

RESEARCH PARTICIPATION - up to 8 points - There are **two options**. Please, feel free to choose **one**:

1. The SONA research participation

You can choose to participate in a departmental research study (through the system called **SONA**), you will complete 8 hours of research studies (amounting to **8 points** that will be directly added to your final grade). If you complete 6 of these points by **March 28, 2025**, you will be given 2 additional points. **This means that for some students, they can complete their 8 points by only completing 6 hours of research studies, by the March 28, 2025, deadline.**

A **SONA** system policy document will be posted to the course Blackboard. For more information on how the **SONA** system works, you can write to **SONA@utep.edu**. You can also see an informational video on the document. The due date and time for this research participation is **May 2, 2025**.

2. Psychological article review and summarization paper

If it is not possible for you to participate in a SONA study, you can read and summarize a paper on general psychology to receive the **8 points**. There will be a link in BLACKBOARD titled "**Research Paper Information**" in which you will find 2 article options, the details required for this assignment and the space to submit your work. More instructions on this assignment will be posted on Blackboard. The due date and time for this research participation alternative is **May 2, 2025**.

PROFESOR/COURSE EVALUATION – 2 points

You are strongly encouraged to submit the professor/course evaluation **prior to the institutional deadline** and submit a **screen shot** of your completed evaluation in the corresponding **BLACKBOARD** section.

ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY (quoted directly from a UTEP administrative source)

The University has a strong commitment to provide reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty and all other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with **documented disabilities**. The purpose of these accommodations is to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008.

University policy states that the student is 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 determines whether students need accommodation, and assists the instructor in providing the respective accommodation. If you have or suspect you may have a disability and therefore may need accommodations, you should contact The CASS at 747-5148. You can also email the office at cass@utep.edu or visit Room 302, Union Building East. For additional information, visit the CASS Website at <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>.

CLASS POLICIES

ATTENDANCE and the Drop Deadline

ATTENDANCE IS ESSENTIAL for meeting the course objectives. So, by missing any class, you will miss key class content, in class discussion and practice exercises. Please take this into account and leave absences for **true emergencies**.

In order to accredit the course it is **required** for you to attend to **80% of the classes**, which means you are allowed to miss a total of **6 times**. Keep in mind that these absences include **BOTH: justified or unjustified absences**. **If you go over the 6 "allowed" absences, you will receive a final grade of F.** (*It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor of the reasons and extent for the absences*).

*When, **in the judgment of the instructor**, a student has been absent to such a degree as to impair his or her status relative to credit for the course, the instructor can drop the student from the class with a **grade of W before the course drop deadline and with a grade of F after the course drop deadline.***

Students wishing to drop a course and receive a **grade of W** must do so prior to the **DROP DEADLINE on April 4th**. Dropping a course after that time will result in an **automatic grade of F**.

Classes over zoom – A class session may occur over zoom for extraordinary reasons. You will be notified via **BLACKBOARD** and a zoom link will be shared. Make sure you join with equipment that allows you to activate your microphone (and camera if possible) to be able to participate during class.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

It is the philosophy of the University of Texas at El Paso that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures.

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. All such acts of academic dishonesty shall be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution

Keep in mind that if you are caught engaging in academic dishonesty, you will receive an “F” for the relevant assignment/exam, and you may receive a final grade of “F” for the course. You can review UTEP’s policy statement on academic dishonesty: <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html>

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Students are expected to **treat all others in the classroom with respect**. This includes paying attention during class activities and discussions, not holding side conversations or engaging in any activities that disturb other members of the classroom (e.g., texting, emailing, dominating discussions, disrespectful behavior). The culture of the learning environment we will all promote is one of challenging ideas not individuals. **Personal attacks of any form will not be tolerated.**

UTEP expects students to maintain standards of personal integrity that are in harmony with the educational goals of the institution; to observe national, state, and local laws and University regulations; and to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Any disruptive behavior that interrupts faculty’s ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, and/or inhibits students’ ability to learn could lead to deductions in evaluation points, removal from the classroom and/or reporting the behavior to the **Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution**

Confidentiality

Information shared in class about agencies and clients is considered to be covered by the **NASW Code of Ethics** regarding the sharing of information for supervisory purposes. Agencies are aware that information is shared in class for this purpose. However, discussion outside of class with individuals not in this class or with other class members in settings where you cannot assure that no one else may overhear the conversation is considered a breach of confidentiality and will result in a referral to the **Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution**.

Cell Phones and Pagers

Using cell phones and earbuds during class is prohibited. Please be considerate of your professor and classmates by **setting your phones to be in silent mode** while in the classroom. Disturbances and distractions may result in asking you to leave the class and your attendance will not be accounted for that day. If it is absolutely necessary to take an emergency phone call or text, please leave the classroom and return as soon as possible.

Title IX Statement

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities operated by recipients of Federal financial assistance. This commitment to non-discrimination

applies to both employment in and admission to such programs and activities. [Link to full text at <http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=68750>]

Sexual harassment of students, which includes acts of sexual violence, is a form of sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX. Sexual violence refers to physical sexual acts perpetrated **against a person's will or where a person is incapable of giving consent** due to the victim's use of drugs or alcohol, or due to an intellectual or other disability. Some of the acts considered sexual violence or harassment, covered under Title IX, include rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual coercion, stalking, and relationship violence.

In accordance with **Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972**, UTEP does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the operation of its educational programs and activities.

Inquiries regarding Title IX should be referred to the University's **Title IX Coordinator(s)**:

Sandy Vasquez , Title IX Coordinator (Investigation of concerns related to Faculty and Staff) **915.747.5662**
svasquez@utep.edu

Dr. Ryan C. Holmes, Deputy Title IX Coordinator (Investigation of concerns related to Students)**915.747.8694**
rholfmes@utep.edu

Dr. Catie McCorry-Andalis, Deputy Title IX Coordinator (Education, Training and Outreach) **915.747.5648**
cmandalis@utep.edu

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 and 2 (1/22-1/29)

- a) Syllabus review, teacher presentation
- b) Watching videos
- c) Reading: **Chapter 1: Introduction to Psychology**
- d) In person lectures
- e) Reading: **Chapter 2: Psychological Research**

Week 3 (2/3-2/5)

- a) In person lectures
- b) Watching videos
- c) Reading: **Chapter 3: Biopsychology**

Week 4 (2/10-2/14)

- a) In person lectures
- b) Watching videos
- c) Reading: **Chapter 4: States of Consciousness**
- d) Submit the Quiz 1 study guide on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 2/14/2025

Quiz 1 - 2/17/2025 - No class

Week 5 and 6 (2/19- 2/26)

- a) In person lectures
- b) Watching videos
- c) Reading: **Chapter 5: Sensation and Perception**
- d) Reading: **Chapter 6: Learning**

Week 7 (3/3 – 3/5)

- a) In person lectures
- b) Watching videos
- c) Reading: **Chapter 7: Thinking and Intelligence**

Week 8 - Spring Break (3/10-3/14) - NO CLASSES

Week 9 (3/17-3/21)

- a) In person lectures
- b) Watching videos
- c) Reading: **Chapter 8: Memory**
- d) Submit the **Midterm exam** study guide on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 3/21/2025

Midterm exam 3/24/2025 - No class

Week 10 and 11 (3/26-4/2)

- a) In person lectures
- b) Watching videos
- c) Reading: **Chapter 9: Lifespan Development**
- c) Reading: **Chapter 10: Emotion and Motivation**

Week 12 (4/7-4/9)

- a) In person lectures
- b) Watching videos
- c) Reading: **Chapter 11: Personality**

Week 13 (4/14-4/18)

- a) In person lectures
- b) Watching videos
- c) Reading: **Chapter 12: Social Psychology**
- d) Submit the Quiz 2 study guide on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 4/18/2025

Quiz 2 - 4/21/2025 - No class

Week 14 & 15 (4/23-4/30)

- a) In person lectures
- b) Watching videos
- c) Reading: **Chapter 14: Stress, Lifestyle, and Health**
- d) Reading: **Chapter 15: Psychological Disorders**
- f) **Research paper due by 11:59 pm on 5/2/2025**

Week 16 (5/5-5/9)

- a) In person lectures
- b) Watching videos
- c) Reading: **Chapter 16: Therapy and Treatment**
- d) Participating in Discussions due by 11:59 pm on 5/3/2025
- d) Submit the **Final exam** study guide on Blackboard due by 11:59 pm on 5/9/2025

Midterm exam 5/12/2025 - No class

Note: This syllabus is subject to change.