



Introduction to Psychology (Online)
PSYC 1301 CRN 32373
University of Texas at El Paso
Summer II, 2020

INSTRUCTOR: Rebekah R. Adair, M.A.

E-mail: rradair@miners.utep.edu

Office hours: Wednesday and Friday from 1:00 to 2:00 or by appointment in Blackboard

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 at least once 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 Ms. Adair), and your full name. All emails you send me should come from your UTEP email account.

Questions regarding course content should 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. I will also be using office hours as a drop-in discussion time for this class—you are welcome to come to any or all of these to ask any questions you have. Because the OLI resource we will be using is interactive, we won't be having formal lectures in this class, but please let me know what questions you have about the material so I can help you learn the concepts.

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 as well as quizzes. 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. For you to be successful in this course, you need to have a reliable internet connection and a device to access Blackboard and OLI from.

TECH SUPPORT

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

If you have technical issues on the OLI site, you should contact them at <https://olihelp.freshdesk.com/support/home>

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 off someone else's work as your own, work collaboratively on any assignment or assessment that is not specifically described as a group effort, share course materials with others, 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: <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html>

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.

Here are some general pointers on online courtesy:

- **Be mindful of tone.** Given the absence of face-to-face clues, written text can easily be misinterpreted. Avoid the use of strong or offensive language and the excessive use of exclamation points. If you feel particularly strongly about a point, it may be best to write it first as a draft and then to review it, before posting it, in order to remove any strong language. Comments that would be inappropriate in a regular classroom are likely to be inappropriate in a Web-based course as well. Treat your instructor and your fellow students with respect.
- **Read First, Write Later:** Don't add your comments to a discussion before reading the comments of other students. Comments related to the content of previous messages should be posted under them to keep related topics organized, and you should specify the person and the particular point you are following up on.

- **Be Forgiving:** If someone states something that you find offensive, mention this directly to the instructor. Remember that the person contributing to the discussion may also be new to this form of communication. What you find offensive may quite possibly have been unintended and can best be cleared up by the instructor.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Please make sure you review the requirements and their associated due dates. It is very important that you do not fall behind in this class.

Syllabus quiz: *up to 10 points.* Students will complete a short quiz on Blackboard on the syllabus during the first day of class. This is located in the Getting Started folder. **This quiz is due at the end of the day (11:59pm).**

Discussion: *up to 80 points.* There will be two graded discussion board posts per week (10 points each). The graded discussion posts will have prompts or specific discussion questions posted by the instructor. Students may be organized into groups for discussions—if so, this will be announced on Blackboard. **Discussion posts are due at 11:59pm** on the associated due date (see the course schedule). Note that most discussion topics require you to make an original post and reply to a classmate's post—you must do both to receive full credit. 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). There are also optional discussion boards for each week where you can post questions you have about the course material. You are not graded on these discussion boards.

OLI Activities and Checkpoint Quizzes: *up to 100 points.* As described above, we are not using a regular textbook for this class; instead we are using an online resource from the Open Learning Initiative (OLI). The OLI psychology course is organized into units, which are comparable to a chapter in a textbook. Each unit is broken down into modules. Modules contain text for you to read with learning activities for you to complete. You should complete all of the activities in each module before completing the checkpoint quiz on that topic.

Checkpoint quizzes are given at the end of each module in the OLI course content (there are 46 checkpoint quizzes in total). Quizzes have varying numbers of items, but are weighted equally towards your grade, though I will drop your lowest quiz score each week. Your grade will be the average of your quiz scores on a 100-point scale; for example, if your average quiz score is 85%, you will receive 85 points out of 100 for your quiz grade. **Checkpoint quizzes are due at 11:59pm on the dates listed in the course schedule**, but you can complete them early. Note that each day has multiple quizzes due, so please plan ahead. You will not be able to start a quiz once the deadline has passed.

Exams: *up to 320 points.* Four non-cumulative, exams will be administered, each worth 80 points. Exams will be completed on Blackboard and may contain multiple-choice and fill in the blank questions. Exams will only be offered on the dates listed in the course schedule. Exams will be available for a 24-hour period (midnight to midnight), and **you must complete the exam by 11:59pm** on the due date. Once you begin the exam, you will have **one hour** to complete it. Lockdown browser software will be required for the exam; more information about this will be

posted to Blackboard. If you have a serious emergency that prevents you from taking the exam, you must alert me as soon as possible. Make-ups will be considered only under extreme circumstances (e.g., serious illness) and are at my discretion.

Research Participation: *up to 40 points.* The Psychology Department requires all 1301 students to earn research credits—you are required to earn 2 research credits, either through participation in psychological research or through completion of the alternate assignments described in the Research Participation document posted to Blackboard.

GRADING

Grades will be based on the total number of points earned (out of a possible 550). Letter grades will be based on the following scale:

495 and above	=A
440 to 494.9	=B
385 to 439.9	=C
330 to 384.9	=D
329.9 and below	=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 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	Date	Topic	Readings/Activities	Assignments Due (see above for times)
1	TUESDAY July 7th	Getting started	Getting Started, Syllabus, Instructor Bio, System checks for BB and OLI OLI instructions	Syllabus Quiz
		Learning Strategies	OLI Unit 1	Set up OLI account
		Welcome to Psychology	Module 1	Module 1 Quiz <i>Post on discussion board (reply due Thursday)</i>
	WEDNESDAY July 8th	History and Perspectives	Module 2	Module 2 Quiz
		Scientific Method	Module 3	Module 3 Quiz
		Research Designs	Module 4	Module 4 Quiz <i>Post on discussion board (reply due Friday)</i>
	THURSDAY July 9th	Introduction to Lifespan Development	Module 5	Module 5 Quiz
		Prenatal and Early Childhood Development <i>(more below)</i>	Module 6	Module 6 Quiz

		Cognitive Development in Childhood	Module 7	Module 7 Quiz
	FRIDAY July 10th	Social & Personality Development in Children	Module 8	Module 8 Quiz
		Development During Adolescence	Module 9	Module 9 Quiz
		Adulthood: Early, Middle, and Late	Module 10	Module 10 Quiz
	MONDAY July 13 th	EXAM 1		
2	Tuesday July 14 th	Neurons: The Building Block of the Nervous System	Module 11	Module 11 Quiz
		Brain Regions	Module 12	Module 12 Quiz
		Methods for Studying the Brain	Module 13	Module 13 Quiz
				<i>Post on discussion board (reply due Thursday)</i>
	Wednesday July 15 th	The Nervous System and the Endocrine System	Module 14	Module 14 Quiz
		Introduction to Sensing & Perceiving	Module 15	Module 15 Quiz
		Seeing: The Visual System	Module 16	Module 16 Quiz
				<i>Post on discussion board (reply due Friday)</i>
	Thursday July 16 th	Audition & Other Senses	Module 17	Module 17 Quiz
		Perception: Interpreting	Module 18	Module 18 Quiz

		Sensation Based on Knowledge		
	Friday July 17 th	Classical Conditioning	Module 19	Module 19 Quiz
		Operant Conditioning	Module 20	Module 20 Quiz
		Learning by Insight and Observation	Module 21	Module 21 Quiz
	MONDAY July 20 th	EXAM 2		
3	Tuesday July 21 st	Types and Stages of Memory	Module 22	Module 22 Quiz
		How We Remember: Cues to Improving Memory	Module 23	Module 23 Quiz
		The Biology of Memory	Module 24	Module 24 Quiz <i>Post on discussion board (reply due Thursday)</i>
	Wednesday July 22 nd	Accuracy and Inaccuracy in Memory and Cognition	Module 25	Module 25 Quiz
		Defining and Measuring Intelligence	Module 26	Module 26 Quiz <i>Post on discussion board (reply due Friday)</i>
	Thursday July 23 rd	Bell Curve	Module 27	Module 27 Quiz
		Sternberg & Gardner	Module 28	Module 28 Quiz
		Issues and Controversies Related to Intelligence	Module 29	Module 29 Quiz

	Friday July 24 th	Personality and Behavior: Approaches and Measurement	Module 30	Module 30 Quiz
		The Origins of Personality	Module 31	Module 31 Quiz
		Is Personality More Nature or More Nurture?	Module 32	Module 32 Quiz
	MONDAY July 27 th	EXAM 3		
4	Tuesday July 28 th	Social Cognition: Making Sense of Ourselves and Others	Module 33	Module 33 Quiz
		Interacting with Others: The Cost of Helping, Hurting, and Conforming	Module 34	Module 34 Quiz
		Working with Others: The Costs and Benefits of Social Groups	Module 35	Module 35 Quiz <i>Post on discussion board (reply due Thursday)</i>
	Wednesday July 29 th	Defining Psychological Disorders	Module 36	Module 36 Quiz
		Anxiety, Obsessive-Compulsive, and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders	Module 37	Module 37 Quiz
		Mood Disorders	Module 38	Module 38 Quiz
	Thursday July 30 th	Schizophrenia	Module 39	Module 39 Quiz
		Personality Disorders	Module 40	Module 40 Quiz
		ADHD and Autism Spectrum Disorders	Module 41	Module 41 Quiz

		Dissociative Disorders	Module 42	Module 42 Quiz
	Friday July 31 st	Psychotherapy	Module 43	Module 43 Quiz
		Biomedical	Module 44	Module 44 Quiz
		Social	Module 45	Module 45 Quiz
		Prevention	Module 46	Module 46 Quiz
				<i>Post on discussion board</i>
	MONDAY August 3rd	EXAM 4		