

COURSE SYLLABUS • LAMAR UNIVERSITY

General Psychology

Psychology 2301-05 (CRN 10691)

Fall 2017

T-TH 3:50-5:10; SBS 100

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This course is an introductory survey of the major areas of psychology such as learning, personality, social, testing, developmental, and physiological. Emphasis is on psychology as the scientific study of behavior and includes both human and animal behavior.

Note: A good liberal arts education allows students to appreciate a diversity of methods used to develop and test ideas. In some fields, these ideas may be called “theories,” in other fields they may be called “facts.” Many disciplines put forth notions and ideas about human behavior, and each has its own methods with inherent advantages and disadvantages. It is our task in this class to study the methods of psychology and to integrate the various findings. Psychology is a science and as such relies heavily upon the experimental method. However, within the field of psychology there is a plethora of opinions. Be prepared to experience and be challenged by the differing points of view.

Prerequisite: Passing TASP Reading score

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Andy Garza, MS

Adjunct Instructor, Department of Psychology

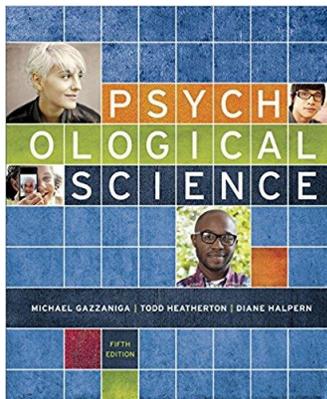
Asst. Professor, Lamar Institute of Technology

Office: Social and Behavioral Sciences Bldg. Room 203G

Phone: 409-880-8285 ■ e-mail: algarza@lamar.edu

Office hours: by appointment

REQUIRED TEXT



Psychological science (5th ed.). Gazzaniga, M. S., & Heatherton, T. F., D. Halpern (2015). New York: Norton.
ISBN 978-0-393-93749-7

SPECIFIC COURSE OUTCOMES

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Define and explain the basic vocabulary of psychology and the basic principles/theories in the major areas of psychology.

2. Describe appropriate research methods, technologies, and ethical standards employed in psychological research with humans and animals.
3. Apply diverse perspectives in examining human behavior and emotions.
4. Analyze the complex interactions among biological, psychological, and environmental influences.
5. Describe and analyze the contributions of nature and nurture to human development.
6. Demonstrate the application of psychological principles to our daily lives.
7. Describe the existence of individual differences and variety within the range of “normal” behavior and to differentiate these from pathological.

Student Learning Outcomes for the Behavioral & Social Science Core Component Area

Critical Thinking Skills: Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate critical thinking by applying psychological principles and the logic underlying the empirical and scientific methods used in the field of psychology to their daily lives. Methods of teaching critical thinking skills include: lecture, group and classroom discussions, required textbook readings designed to emphasize critical thinking about the course content, and supplemental reading assignments. Students will also complete a written presentation project in which they interpret and critique the results of a (hypothetical) experiment examining variables affecting helping behaviors.

Communication Skills: Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate effective written communication skills through the creation of an original written project in which they develop, interpret, and clearly express their interpretation/critique of the outcomes of a (hypothetical) research experiment on helping behavior. Methods of teaching appropriate written communication skills include lecture and group discussion.

Empirical and Quantitative Skills: Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate empirical and quantitative skill by accurately formulating central conclusions from quantitative data and appropriately creating/interpreting graphic representations of numerical data. Methods of teaching empirical and quantitative reasoning include: lectures that address research techniques and strategies; group discussions and exercises requiring students to reach logical conclusions based on empirical data and basic descriptive statistics; required textbook readings emphasizing empirical and quantitative reasoning; and the completion of a written project in which students interpret and critique the findings and implication of a (hypothetical) experiment examining helping behavior.

Social Responsibility: Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate an accurate understanding of the influence of personal, situational, and social variables upon the demonstration of helping behaviors. Teaching methods include: class discussions, lecture, and required textbook readings.

SYLLABUS POLICY

I will make every effort to follow the syllabus as printed. During the course of the Semester; minor adjustments may be necessary due to unforeseen circumstances. In such instances, I will give as much advance notification as possible. This syllabus is not a binding contract, but exists to give you a rough outline of the course and requirements.

NOTE: The professor reserves the right to make changes in the course, including additional readings or requirements, exam date changes, etc. Any changes will be announced in class

and posted on Blackboard. **It is the student's responsibility to keep up with announced changes in the course.**

ATTENDANCE

Regular class attendance is expected of all students and attendance will be monitored. Regular class attendance is expected of all students. Students who are **absent** or **tardy** for a total of **5** times of the scheduled class meetings will incur a **decrease by one letter grade** to their final grade for the course. You will be **counted as absent** unless prior notice and arrangements have been made with the instructor. Anyone that misses 25% or more will fail and be assigned an F regardless of total grade. Each student is accountable for all work missed because of absence, however, students who are absent may not be able to complete activities outside of class. Instructors are under no obligation to make special arrangements for students who have been absent. Should an absence from class be unavoidable, the student is encouraged to obtain lecture notes from a classmate. Lecture notes will not be provided by the course instructor. Attendance data will be reported to the Financial Aid Department in accordance with state and federal laws. *I will also call randomly from the class roll for participation as part of your grade.* You are responsible for all material covered in class and in the text.

EXAM ATTENDANCE

Each exam will consist of objective multiple-choice items as well as computational problems. Questions will come from both lecture material and textbook readings, which means that you may be tested over material not presented in class. The exams will be given **ONLINE** on the days scheduled unless changes have been made by the instructor. **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES! Students who miss two exams will earn an F for the course. The final is mandatory and CANNOT be dropped!!!** Note that a grade of "F" may be recorded for a student who fails to submit the final exam and is not passing the course (Lamar University General Catalog). A student who will miss an exam due to a university sponsored event has the responsibility to make arrangements to take the exam **prior** to his/her absence. If prior arrangements have not been made in a timely manner, the exam will be treated as a "missed" exam.

If you know that you will be absent the day of the test, we can schedule an exam no more than 1 day (24 hours) before the scheduled exam. At least 2 days of notice to the instructor is required. **Note. Quizzes** may be either announced in advance or simply announced in class on the day of the quiz.

GRADING POLICY

CRASH COURSE IN PSYCHOLOGY VIDEOS (no credit, but very useful):

These short videos (~10 min via youtube mashups) will quickly introduce you to the material and make it easier to comprehend readings in your book. There are a few videos for every chapter.

BLACKBOARD ASSIGNMENTS:

The most important part of each chapter will be reading the textbook and completing your chapter assignments. By completing these assignments, you will master the knowledge needed to perform well in the remainder of the homework. These media-rich assignments will help you delve deeper into challenging, relevant topics from the readings of each chapter. These assignments contain a mix of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer questions; most can be completed in 30 mins or less.

CRITICAL THINKING DISCUSSIONS:

For each chapter, there will be an exercise in Blackboard concerning critical thinking. You will write and post to the class a 500 word discussion using the elements of thought to discuss the logic of the chapter concerning the chapter topic of introductory psychology. You will then use intellectual standards to give feedback to two other students to qualify your original posting. After receiving and giving feedback and editing your draft, you will turn in a final copy for a grade. **Failure to bring an analysis to class counts as an absence!**

POST-TESTS:

There are 25-question, multiple-choice quizzes are called post-tests; there is one at the end of every chapter. While they are completely open book, **you will only have 50 minutes to complete them and there is no way to stop the clock once you have started**, so you will need to know the material well ahead of time.

Core Assessment Project: Every student will complete a written project. Detailed information about this project will be presented in class.

FINAL CRITICAL THINKING ASSIGNMENT

Instead of a multiple choice test, your final will be to write out the logic of this course (General Psychology) using the elements of thought. Examples will be provided and you can use the textbook, encyclopedias, and other resources as references and make sure you apply intellectual standards to produce a quality product replete with critical thinking. The paper should be at least 800 words.

Failure to notify the instructor of any grade discrepancy within 10 days will finalize the score for the remainder of the semester.

Component	Points	~%	Grading Schema
Chapter Quizzes	163	15%	911-1013=A
CT Analyses	300	30%	810-910=B
Chapter Exams	300	30%	709-809=C
CA Project	100	10%	608-708=D
Final	150	15%	<607=F
Σ	1013	100%	

ELECTRONICS/CELL PHONES/PAGERS

Students are to turn off all electronic communication devices and music players (cell phones, laptops, tablets, pagers, MP3 players, etc.) during class time. **Students may not wear headphones, send text messages etc. during class time.** Backpacks and purses must be placed on the floor and phones tucked away in them and **not out on the desks.** Cell phones cannot be used as a calculator! **Infraction of this rule can result in class dismissal for the day which counts as an absence and a zero on classwork.**

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Every Lamar student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the student handbook. The University policy on academic honesty includes provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials; misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work; malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials; malicious/ intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services; and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the university's established procedures. (My interpretation: **Don't cheat**)

RESEARCH CREDITS

Research credits are required. We don't know the final required number until a couple of weeks into the semester and will be announced in class and stipulated on Sona-Systems. You may earn these credits by participating in research projects being conducted by faculty and students in the psychology department **OR** by evaluating and summarizing research articles from a psychological research journal (i.e., NOT *Psychology Today* and similar magazines). Written instructions for setting up a research account and completing and documenting your research credits will be provided, as will instructions for completing research reports. **The deadline for receiving research reports and for completing research projects is DECEMBER 4th. If not received by this date an "I" will be assigned as the grade for the semester.**

Completion of research credits is a requirement for completion of this course. You will not receive credit for the course until you complete and document research credits by the appropriate deadline. If you complete credits by the following semester, the "I" will be changed to reflect your course grade minus 1 letter grade. If you do not earn the research credits by the end of the next semester, the "I" will automatically become an F for the course. Research reports that are not in appropriate form, or not from an appropriate journal will not receive credit. Research reports that are plagiarized will not receive credit and will be penalized accordingly.

DISRUPTION OF CAMPUS LIFE STATEMENT

It is the purpose of the institution to provide a campus environment that encourages academic accomplishment, personal growth, and a spirit of understanding and cooperation. An important part of maintaining such an environment is the commitment to protect the health and safety of every member of the campus community. Belligerent, abusive, profane, threatening, and/or inappropriate behavior on the part of students is a violation of the Lamar University Student Conduct Regulations. Students who are found guilty of such misconduct may be subject to immediate dismissal from the institution. In addition, these violations of state law may also be subject to criminal action beyond the University disciplinary process.

DRESS CODE

NO SUNGLASSES, prescription or otherwise will be worn in class.

DISABILITY STATEMENT

This course complies with all accommodations prescribed by the Lamar University Office of Services for Students with Disabilities. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the instructor has been informed of all prescribed accommodations.

WITHDRAWAL DATES

To withdraw from the class, you must **DROP** the course according to University procedures (not coming to class is NOT the same as dropping it). The last day to drop or withdraw from this class with full refund is **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**. The last day to drop or withdraw from this class without academic penalty even if failing is **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH**. *Students who withdraw after THIS DATE will receive a Q only if currently passing the course (D or higher average)*. The last day to drop or withdraw with penalty is **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND**. All students enrolled in the class based on the

Registrar's records after **THIS DATE** will receive a final grade (A, B, C, D, or F) and cannot receive a Q from the instructor.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Emergency Preparedness

As we begin this semester, I want to take a few minutes and discuss emergency preparedness. Lamar is a very safe campus and there is a low probability that a serious incident will occur here. However, we want to emphasize our emergency procedures for evacuation and shelter in place incidents. Our preparedness will be critical IF an unexpected event occurs!

Instructions for specific emergencies, such as severe weather, chemical release, active shooter, or fire can be found at: <http://www.lamar.edu/about-lu/administration/risk-management/index.html>

Here are some simple things you should do in the event an emergency occurs during our class.

- Always follow the directions of the instructor or emergency personnel
- If told to evacuate, do so immediately.
- If told to shelter-in-place, find a room, in the center of the building with few windows, on the lowest level of the building.
- If told to lockdown, lock and barricade the door if possible. Turn off the lights and wait for police to arrive.

Violence/Active Shooter (CADD):

- **CALL** - 8-3-1-1 from a campus phone (880-8311 from a cell phone). Note: Calling 9-1-1 from either a campus phone or cell phone will contact Beaumont City Police Dispatch rather than University Police.
- **AVOID**- If possible, self-evacuate to a safe area outside the building. Follow directions of police officers.
- **DENY**- Barricade the door with desks, chairs, bookcases or any other items. Move to a place inside the room where you are not visible. Turn off the lights and remain quiet. Remain there until told by police it is safe.
- **DEFEND**- Use chairs, desks, cell phones or whatever is immediately available to distract and/or defend yourself and others from attack.

Campus Closure (academic continuity plan):

In the event of campus closure and evacuation due to a hurricane or other disaster, this course will continue in an online format until campus reopens. After four days of closure (for evacuation and relocation), please login to course Psy 2301-05 on Blackboard for class instructions. Lamar will communicate through Blackboard, your email address, and the university webpage (www.Lamar.edu). These efforts will allow you to complete the course and semester on time.

2301-05 TTH COURSE SCHEDULE

We will cover the text in classroom lectures/discussion/demonstrations according to the schedule below. You are responsible for all material presented in class (we will cover non-text material on many days) and in the text (regardless of whether we cover it in class). In this course, we will focus on psychology research—the scientific study of human behavior—and how that research applies to the real world.

Chapter exams will be given each week; consult the schedule below. The exams will consist of multiple-choice questions from the chapters covered.

Month	Dates	Chapter	Topic
August	29	Class introduction	Critical Thinking
	29, 31	Chapter 1	Introduction to Psychological Science
September	5, 7	Chapter 11	Health and Well-Being
	12, 14	Chapter 10	Emotion and Motivation
▶▶ September 13: last day to drop with full refund ◀◀			
	19, 21	Chapter 2	Research Methodology
	26, 28	Chapter 3	Biology and Behavior
▶▶ September 29: last day to drop without academic penalty ◀◀			
October	3, 5	Chapter 5	Sensation and Perception
	10, 12	Chapter 4	Consciousness
	17, 19	Chapter 6	Learning
	24, 26	Chapter 7	Memory
November	31, 2	Chapter 8	Thinking and Intelligence
▶▶ November 3: last day to withdraw with academic penalty ◀◀			
	7, 9	Chapter 9	Human Development
	14, 16	Chapter 12	Social Psychology
	21	Chapter 13	Personality
	28, 30	Chapter 14	Psychological Disorders
December	5	Chapter 15	Treating Disorders
▶▶ December 12: Course Logic Paper Final ◀◀			