

# General Psychology, PSYC 2301, Common Course Syllabus, Spring 2019

**Department:** Behavioral Sciences

**Discipline:** Psychology

**Course Number:** PSYC 2301

**Course Title:** General Psychology

**Prerequisites:** TSI reading compliance for INET

**Available Formats:** Conventional, INET, ITV

**Campuses:** Levelland, Reese, Lubbock, Plainview, INET

**Credit:** 3 **Lecture:** 3 **Lab:** 0

*Does this course satisfy a core curriculum requirement? Yes – Behavioral or Social Science*

**Course Specific Instructions:** For Internet classes, go to Blackboard. For face-to-face classes, each instructor will attach his/her course specific instructions.

**Textbook:** At instructor's discretion you will use **one** of the following open source textbooks:

OpenStax College, *Psychology*. OpenStax College. December 2014) **OR** R. Biswas-Diener & E. Diener (Eds), *Noba Textbook Series: Psychology*. Champaign, IL: DEF Publishers. DOI: nobaproject.com. (SEE PAGE 3 OF THE SYLLABUS FOR MORE INFORMATION)

**Course Description:** General Psychology is a survey of the major psychological topics, theories and approaches to the scientific study of behavior and mental processes.

**Course Purpose:** To acquaint students with the diverse field of psychology including major theoretical concepts. In addition, introduce methods of research used and how it contributes to the body of knowledge in psychology, promotion of critical thinking, generation of new ideas, and consideration of alternate explanations when evaluating information.

**Course Requirements:** To maximize the potential to complete this course, students should attend all class meetings and/or login to internet courses at least twice weekly. In addition, satisfactorily complete all homework assignments and examinations on time, and satisfactorily complete all other projects or papers as assigned in the course instructions.

**Course Evaluation:** See instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in evaluating student performance.

**Student Learning Outcomes/Competencies:** Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Identify various research methods and their characteristics used in the scientific study of psychology.
2. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology.
3. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology.
4. Use terminology unique to the study of psychology.
5. Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation.
6. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior. CIP # 42.0101.51 25

**Core Objectives addressed:**

- **Communication skills-** includes effective written, oral and visual communication.
- **Critical thinking skills-** includes creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- **Empirical and Quantitative skills-** to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
- **Social Responsibility-** to include demonstrated intercultural knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities.

**Attendance Policy:** Students are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in a course. The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined in the course syllabus. When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor may permit the student to make up work missed. It is the student's responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period of time as determined by the instructor. Students are officially enrolled in all courses for which they pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Should a student, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, absences will be attributed to the student from the first class meeting. Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. A student who does not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of "X" or "F" as determined by the instructor.

Instructors are responsible for clearly stating their administrative drop policy in the course syllabus, and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of that policy.

It is the student's responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through MySPC using his or her student online account. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated, the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.

**Student Conduct:** A high standard of conduct is expected of all students. Students are subject to federal, state and local laws, as well as South Plains College rules and regulations. Any student who fails to perform according to expected standards may be asked to withdraw. Failure to comply with lawful direction of a classroom teacher relative to maintaining good order is considered misconduct on the part of the student. Repeated violations of disrupting a class may result in the student being dropped from that course (See Catalog/Student Guide for full policy).

**Diversity & Equal Rights:** South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. All students are entitled to equal rights under the affirmative action and equal opportunity laws. Students are also protected against unjust or biased academic evaluation, but at the same time, they are responsible for maintaining standards of academic performance established for each course in which they are enrolled (See Catalog/Student Guide for full definitions and policies). The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President of Student Affairs.

**ADA Statement:** Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland Student Health & Wellness Center 806-716-2529; Reese Center (Building 8) and Lubbock Center, 806-716-4675; or Plainview Center Main Office, 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

**Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement:** If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, Under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To activate accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Director of Health and Wellness. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact Chris Straface, Director of Health and Wellness at 806-716-2362 or email [cstraface@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:cstraface@southplainscollege.edu) for assistance.

**Academic Integrity:** The attempt of any student to present as his or her own any work which he or she has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders that offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension. This policy applies to all forms of cheating and plagiarism. See Instructor's Course Information for additions to the academic integrity policy.

**Campus Carry Policy:** The 84th Texas legislature passed Senate Bill 11, commonly known as the "campus carry" bill went into effect on August 1, 2017. Individuals holding a licensed to carry (LTC) or concealed handgun license (CHL) holders will have the legal right to carry a concealed handgun onto community college campuses; however, they **cannot** openly carry the handgun. South Plains College's detailed policy required by Senate Bill 11 can be found at this link: [Policy HHC - Concealed Carry of Handgun \(Campus Carry\)](#).

What Concealed Carry Allows:

- The law permits only licensed to carry (LTC) holders or concealed handgun license (CHL) holders to carry concealed handguns on campuses.
- Allows an institution to adopt rules or regulations that prohibit license holders from carrying concealed handguns on certain areas of campus, in a building or portion of a building as long as the rules and regulations do not have the effect of generally prohibiting a license holder from carrying a concealed handgun on campus. Effective notice must be provided with respect to any place where handguns may not be carried.

What Concealed Carry Does Not Allow:

- The law does **not** allow "open carry" on college campuses. Open carry means the intentional display of a handgun, including the carry of a partially or wholly visible handgun stored in a shoulder or belt holster.
- The law does not allow the carry of rifles or shotguns on college campuses.

# Dr. Barr's Course Specific Instructions and Requirements for PSYC 2301, Spring 2019

Sec. 012 MW 9:30-10:45 am; Sec. 013 MW 11 -12:15 pm; Sec. 018 TR 8-9:15 am; Sec. 019 TR 9:30-10:45; and Sec. 020 TR 11 -12:15 pm

## Dr. Barr's CONTACT INFORMATION:

**Office:** Reese Campus, Building 4, Room 405F **Office Hours:** Mon, Tue, Wed. & Thur. 1:00-3:00, *and* by appointment.

**Email & phone:** [abarr@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:abarr@southplainscollege.edu) , (806) 716- 4641.

**Student email:** SPC has given ALL students an email address. Please check your email **regularly** for messages from your professors, and please send all of your email messages to me *from* your student email account. To access your email log in to SPC Portal **1)** <https://portal.southplainscollege.edu> **2)** enter your username and password, (your **username** is your first initial, followed by your full last name, followed by the last four digits of your Student ID # (all lowercase, all one word, no spaces). For example, Jane Smith with the Student ID number 111-22-3456 has the username *jsmith3456*. Your **password** is your first initial capitalized, followed by the first four letters of your last name, lowercase, followed a dollar sign, \$, followed by the last four digits of your social security # OR your six digit birthday, mmddyyy) then **3)** scroll down and click on (Unread) Messages on the bottom right. If you encounter any problems, contact the help desk immediately at (806)716-2600 and/or [helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu).

## COURSE INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS:

**Textbook:** *Noba Textbook Series: Psychology*, R. Biswas-Diener & E. Diener (Eds), Champaign, IL: DEF Publishers. DOI: nobaproject.com. You may access a free, online version of this textbook at: <http://noba.to/tfke7qy2>, or you may purchase a print copy of this textbook for less than \$20 at: <http://www.lulu.com/shop/noba-project/general-psychology-barr/paperback/product-23484016.html> , or you may access the free PDF version of the textbook on Blackboard.

**Attendance, Borderline Grades and Drop Policy:** *You must come to class with your game face on to do well.* Why? Any topic we discuss in class is fair game on exams whether or not it is covered in the textbook. You will be counted absent if you are not *physically* present OR *mentally* present (e.g., sleeping, on your phone, etc.). At the end of the semester, if a student has a borderline grade (e.g., 69.2% or 89.3%, etc.), I use the student's attendance record to determine the student's final grade. If a student has missed no more than 2 classes, they will get the higher grade. Otherwise, they will get the lower grade. **There are no excused absences—you are simply allowed up to 6 absences before you run the risk of being dropped.** If a student misses more than 6 classes during the semester, I consider that excessive absences and he/she may be dropped. Thus, if you have an emergency that interferes with attendance, notify me ASAP to determine how to keep up with the class, or whether you will be dropped or need to withdraw.

**Late Arrivals:** Please arrive on time! At the start of class I typically take roll, pass out handouts, make announcements, and have students complete a retrieval practice to show their preparation for class. *Students who arrive late miss important events, and will not be able to make up the retrieval practice.* Late students should speak with me at the end of class to make sure they are marked as present.

**Note Taking:** I encourage you to take organized, thorough notes, using the method you prefer. To help, I will provide chapter outlines and definitions for each chapter that can be used as note-taking guides (on Blackboard). In addition, you may use a tape recorder to help you take notes, however I do not allow students to take notes on their laptops, tablets or phones because research finds this to be an ineffective learning tool. I also encourage and will teach you about "retrieval taking," which is a different way to take notes. See the counselors in building 8 for additional help regarding notes.

**Blackboard and Class Materials:** You are required to regularly access class materials using Blackboard. Thus, you need a reliable, internet-ready computer so you can retrieve these materials. If you do not have a personal computer or printer, you may use the **computer labs on campus**. These labs are located in building 2 (room 207), building 4 (between rooms 450 and 451), and building 8 (room 827 and the library). There is also a lab at the Lubbock Center, 39<sup>th</sup> and Ave. Q (room 109) available to SPC students with an ID. Students are allowed to print 60 pages per week on campus printers. This is monitored via the Paper Cut system which resets every Sunday.

To access Blackboard, go to <https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com/> , or go to the SPC portal <http://portal.southplainscollege.edu/> and click on the *Blackboard Learn* link in the "Get Me There Quick" section. Enter your username and password. **If you have technical problems using Blackboard**, contact technical support at 806-716-2180, Mon-Fri 8am-4pm; or email [blackboard@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:blackboard@southplainscollege.edu) or go to <https://help.blackboard.com>

**EVALUATION/COURSE GRADE:** Final course grades will be based on the following:

**Short Written Assignments:** Students will complete FOUR short written assignments. Each assignment is designed to enhance your understanding of psychological concepts, as well as your critical thinking skills, communication skills and empirical/science skills. I expect students' written assignments to be typed in 10-12 point font and double-spaced. The amount of writing (when double spaced) will be approximately 1-1 ½ pages long. Each written assignment is worth 15 points, and all four assignments together are worth 11.5% of students' final grade. Written assignments that are turned in late will lose 1.5 points for each day after the due date (in addition to any points lost due to content or grammar errors). Please be aware that there are writing centers on every campus, where students can receive help on any written assignment. On the Reese campus, the writing center is in Building 3, room 307E. At the Lubbock Campus (39<sup>th</sup> and Ave. Q), the writing center is in the "Learning Center." On the Levelland campus the writing center is in the English and Communication Building, room CME 112.

**In-Class Retrieval Practice:** Researchers have found that retrieval information from memory without "outside help" is one of the most effective ways to enhance your memory for newly learned information. Thus, during the first few minutes of almost every class I will ask students to recall topics, concepts, definitions, etc. from our previous class, *without the help of notes or a textbook*. So I encourage you to review your most recent notes before each class. Moreover, if you miss a class, you need to get notes from a classmate ASAP, and review those notes before the next class. Each in-class retrieval practice is low stakes—worth 3 points each (3=perfect, 2.5= very good, 2=acceptable, 1.5=needs improvement, 1=numerous lapses in memory, 0=incomplete/absent), however, there will be twenty retrieval practices total, and all together they will amount to 11.5% of your final grade. In-class retrieval practice cannot be made up if you are absent.

**Exams:** There will be four exams and they will take place every 3-4 weeks. The fourth exam is the final exam, and it will take place during final exam week. Each of the exams consists of approximately 40 multiple choice questions. All four exams will count toward your final grade and will amount to 77% of your final grade.

- *Students may complete an exam AUTOPSY and then RE-TAKE one of the first three exams. Step 1: students are required to visit my office and complete an "exam and preparation autopsy," in which they honestly analyze their preparation for the exam and the questions missed on the exam. The autopsy for exam 1 must be completed by Tues Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>; the autopsy for exam 2 must be complete by Tues. Mar. 5<sup>th</sup>; and the autopsy for exam 3 must be complete by Fri. May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Step 2: students will retake the exam on which they performed an autopsy during the last week of classes, Apr. 29<sup>th</sup>- May 3<sup>rd</sup>, or during final exam week (see table below for retake times during final exam week).*
- If a student misses an exam, he/she is required to schedule and complete a make-up exam within one week (7 calendar days) of the original exam date. If a student is unable to complete a make-up exam within one week, they will forfeit the retake option (see above) and instead make up the missed exam during final exam week. If a student does not complete a make-up exam according to the stated policy, the exam grade will be a zero.

Grading Method and Important Details				
Method	Due Dates/Exam Dates	% of final grade	Total possible points	Points earned
In-Class Retrieval Practice	Daily	11.5%	(20 at 3 pts each) 60	
Short Witten Assignments	To be announced	11.5%	(4 at 15 pts each) 60	
Exam 1	Tues. Feb. 12 <sup>th</sup> ; Wed. Feb. 13 <sup>th</sup>	19.2%	100	
Exam 2	Tues. Mar. 5 <sup>th</sup> ; Wed. Mar. 6 <sup>th</sup>	19.2%	100	
Exam 3	Wed. Apr. 10 <sup>th</sup> ; Thur. Apr. 11 <sup>th</sup>	19.2%	100	
Final Exam	Sec. 013—Mon. May 6 <sup>th</sup> , 10:15 am Sec. 018—Tue. May 7 <sup>th</sup> , 8:00 am Sec. 020—Tue. May 7 <sup>th</sup> , 10:15 am Sec. 012—Wed. May 8 <sup>th</sup> , 8:00 am Sec. 019—Thur. May 9 <sup>th</sup> , 8:00 am	19.2%	100	
			Total pts in class=520	

To calculate your grade on a 100-point scale, add up the points you have earned at that time in the semester, divide by the total possible points you could have earned at that time in the semester, and then multiply by 100. (A = 90-100%; B = 80-89%; C = 70-79%; D= 60-69%; F = 59% or less)

To calculate you final grade on a 100-point scale, add up all the points you earned over the entire semester, divide by 520, and then multiply by 100. (A = 90-100%; B = 80-89%; C = 70-79%; D= 60-69%; F = 59% or less)

To calculate your final grade, add up all the points you earned over the entire semester, and then compare your points to the table below.

<b>Grading Scale for Final Course Grades:</b>	90% or more of total possible points: 466-520=A
	80-89% of total possible points: 414-465 =B
	70-79% of total possible points: 362-413 =C
	60-69% of total possible points: 310-361 =D
	59% or less of total possible points: 309 or less=F

**COURSE OUTLINE:**

- Weeks 1-4: Thinking like a Psychological Scientist, Research Design, and Biopsychology, followed by EXAM 1.
- Weeks 5-9: States of Consciousness, Learning, followed by EXAM 2.
- Weeks 9-13: Memory, Personality, and Social Psychology, followed by EXAM 3.
- Weeks 13-15: Psychological Disorders and Therapy, followed by the FINAL EXAM.

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday                                     | January 21 <sup>st</sup>                 |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> class day (non-attending students will be dropped) | January 30 <sup>th</sup>                 |
| Spring Break!   | March 11 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> |
| Easter Holiday  | April 22 <sup>nd</sup>                   |
| Last day to drop/withdraw from a class                              | April 26 <sup>th</sup>                   |
| Final exam week (no classes—exams only!)                            | May 6 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup>    |

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**Gather contact information from 4 classmates (phone &/or email) in the event that you need to contact someone for help studying, questions about class, etc. Also, I encourage you all to form study groups to help you discuss concepts and prepare for exams.**

	Classmate's name	Phone	Email
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____

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# General Psychology Contract

Complete and return to Dr. Barr on or before our fourth day of classes

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the entire syllabus for Dr. Barr's PSYC 2301 class. I understand the policies described in the syllabus and agree to abide by these policies.

I understand I may be dropped if I miss more than \_\_\_\_ PSYC 2301 classes.

I understand that I should be prepared to complete retrieval practice at the beginning of class each day, this cannot be made up if absent, and that this work is worth \_\_\_\_ % of my final grade.

I understand that the four short written assignments are worth \_\_\_\_% of my final grade, and that I can go to the writing center for feedback and help prior to turning in my papers.

I want to work for a letter grade of \_\_\_\_ in this class.

I am willing to spend \_\_\_\_ hours per week reading, studying and/or preparing for *this* class.

The best study *locations* for me include \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Based on my weekly schedule, the best study, reading and review *times* for me include (list exact days of the week and times) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Describe your backup plans in the event that the computer you usually use, &/or your internet, is not working:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Section (circle one):

MW 9:30-10:45, section 012

TR 8-9:15, section 018

MW 11-12:15 pm, section 013

TR 9:30-10:45, section 019

TR 11-12:15 pm, section 020