The first 2 pages cover the policies common to *all* sections of PSYC 2301, for *all* professors teaching the course.
Beginning on page 3, you will find information that is specific to Dr. Barr's PSYC 2301 class.

Common Course Syllabus, Revised August 2023

Department: Behavioral Sciences
Discipline: Psychology
Course Number: PSYC 2301
Course Title: General Psychology
Available Formats: Conventional, INET, ITV
Campuses: Levelland, Lubbock Downtown, Lubbock Center, Plainview, and Dual Credit Campuses
Course Description: Survey of the essential subject areas, major theories, and approaches to the scientific study of behavior and mental processes.
Prerequisites: TSI compliance in Reading
Credit: 3 **Lecture**: 3 **Lab**: 0
Textbook: Open Stax Psychology Text or Noba Project Psychology
Supplies: none unless specified in the specific instructor information
This course partially satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement: Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Component Area (080)

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

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)/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 thoughts 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.

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment:
Dr. Witte is the faculty member who is responsible for the assessment of the student learning outcomes. She will be sending a list of which SLOs will be assessed for each semester. There are 6 outcomes and these are rotated. Dr. Witte is also the person responsible to entry of the data into Weave for documentation.

Course Evaluation: See the instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in evaluating student performance. However, all courses will have multiple exams and a written assignment that is designated by the instructor.

Attendance Policy: Instructors' attendance policies will be consistent with the *SPC General Catalog* "Class Attendance" policies; specific instructor attendance policies are found in the later part of the syllabus.

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.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, examinations, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:
1. Submitting a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, or a mail order term paper mill;
2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing citation or references;
3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or
4. Missing in-text citations.

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:
1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet, apps) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment;
4. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage;
5. Taking an examination for another;
6. Altering grade records;
7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment;
8. Rewriting another student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's;
9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

Student Code of Conduct Policy: A successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others' behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning**.** Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is disrespectful or threatening will not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

Other Important SPC Policies: Students can find the Intellectual Exchange Statement, Disabilities Statement, Non-Discrimination Statement, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement, Care Team Contact, and Campus Concealed Carry Statement here: https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/.

Welcome to General Psychology ONLINE, with Dr. Barr. I'm excited to help you learn about the fascinating field of psychology!

Summer II 2025, online section PSYC 2301.151

HOW DO I CONTACT DR. BARR FOR HELP?

Email

The BEST way to contact me for help is email. Please send me an email at abarr@southplainscollege.edu. Please be aware that if you send me an email between Monday morning and noon on Friday, I will do my best to reply within 24 hours. However, if you send an email after noon on Friday or during the weekend, it may take a bit longer for me to reply.

Blackboard Messages

You may also send me a message or a request for help through Blackboard. Again, if you send me a message between Monday morning and noon on Friday, I will do my best to reply within 24 hours. However, if you send a message after noon on Friday or during the weekend, it may take a bit longer for me to reply.

Virtual Office Hours

If you would like to meet virtually via Blackboard Collaborate, please send me an email at least 24-hours ahead of your desired meeting time.

TIPS FOR USING SPC STUDENT EMAIL

Email (and Blackboard Message) Etiquette

For your success as a student, and as a professional, you need to learn email etiquette. All emails should include:
- A brief subject line that explains your reason for emailing (e.g., "Subject: Question about the syllabus"),
- Your full name, class and section (e.g., Alexis Rose, PSYC2301, sec. 151), and
- *The use of standard English skills* (e.g., correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar).

Here is a useful guide about emailing your professors: https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2015/04/16/advice-students-so-they-dont-sound-silly-emails-essay

YES! You have FREE access to SPC Email, MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint & One Drive!

South Plains College provides students with free access to an SPC Google email account, Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and One Drive. You can access your SPC email and these Microsoft apps by going to https://office.com and using the username and password provided in your SPC acceptance letter to sign in. You can also access SPC/Outlook email through MySPC. If needed, contact the **help desk** at helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu or (806)716-2600.

Because email is one of the main forms of communication in college, you should check your SPC email at least twice a week. Please use your official SPC Student email account (NOT your personal email account, e.g., yahoo) if you are contacting me about confidential matters (e.g., grades, registration in the course, etc.).

WHAT TECHNOLOGY & MATERIALS ARE REQUIRED FOR THIS COURSE?

Blackboard

All course content is found on Blackboard, and all of your coursework will be completed through Blackboard. Thus, you need a computer with internet access. You can access Blackboard at https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com. This address will

take you to the login page, where you type in your username and password. Once logged in, you will see a list of classes in which you are enrolled (including PSYC2301). Click on the class whose Blackboard page you want to enter.

Noba Project Textbook *and* Perusall Reading + Discussion App

The FREE textbook we will use is *Noba Textbook Series: Psychology*, R. Biswas-Diener & E. Diener (Eds), Champaign, IL: DEF Publishers. DOI: nobaproject.com. I have copied each assigned chapter into an app that you will use to complete the assignments. *To access the assigned and graded readings in the app*, you must 1) log onto Blackboard and click on PSYC2301 in your "Courses" list, then 2) click on the "Perusall" link that opens the reading app called Perusall (found in each Unit folder under the "Content" tab). Note: Perusall links are symbolized with a rocket ship icon: 🚀.

Perusall is a free app that automatically records and grades your work on reading + discussion assignments. Again, you will access the Perusall app by *first* logging onto Blackboard, and *second* clicking on Perusall links found in our course. *Do NOT log into Perusall from their homepage—if you do, your work will not sync into the Blackboard gradebook*. You can find detailed information about "How Perusall Works" in the "Start Here" module on Blackboard.

Access to a working computer with a reliable internet connection

Because your coursework is completed online, you must have regular access to a computer with the following characteristics:
- A modern operating system; class content is compatible with Mac OS and Windows 8 or later
- A modern web browser. It is recommended that students use Google Chrome to access Blackboard (and *required* for exams). Students have reported more problems using Internet Explorer, thus it is *not* recommended.
  - Link: download Google Chrome.
- A stable, reliable internet connection. High-speed internet (e.g., Cable, DSL, fiber) is the most reliable.
- In addition, the **Blackboard app for smartphones** can be used to access announcements, readings, videos, podcasts, quizzes, and grades on Blackboard.

HOW DO I PROGRESS THROUGH COURSE MATERIAL?

In Blackboard, the course information and material is organized in a "Start Here" folder, plus 5 weekly folders—one for each week of the summer session. First, you MUST read/complete/click on each item in the "Start Here" folder to unlock the Week 1 folder. Each of the weekly folders contains *learning material*—your Perusall reading + discussion assignments, and videos to watch, as well as *graded work*—Perusall assignments, a QUIZ, and an EXAM.   Once you have accessed and completed all the learning materials and graded work in a weekly folder, the next weekly folder will unlock.

REQUIRED COURSEWORK AND GRADES

Perusall Interactive Reading + Discussion Assignments

PURPOSE: Reading and discussing each chapter will introduce you to foundational topics in psychology. By actively discussing chapter topics with classmates, you will understand reading material better and be able to apply these topics to your life. Additionally, by completing these assignments, you will:
- acquire knowledge and improve recall of material that is key to successfully completing quizzes and exams,
- benefit from social interaction and connections with classmates (*this is the main interactive, social part of the class*),
- improve your reading, writing and discussion skills, helping you meet SPC's communication skills objective

TASK: Read and discuss the chapter with your classmates by the due date listed in the course schedule. Follow these steps:
- click on a Perusall link in Blackboard, which "launches" you into the Perusall app and into a specific chapter
- as you read, highlight SMALL sections of the text (not entire sentences or paragraphs). This will open a text box where you can type high-quality and relevant comments or questions for your classmates to read and reply to

- as you read, reply to and/or upvote (e.g., "like") the comments and questions posted by your classmates

GRADING CRITERIA:
- Each Perusall assignment is worth 5 points.
- Persuall points are based on:
  - o the quality of comments and questions you post (described in detail in the "Start Here" folder),
  - o the quantity (#) of your posts—aim to post 4-5 *high quality* comments/questions, but no more than 7-8,
  - o how much you reply to &/or upvote your classmates' posts,
  - o how much classmates reply to &/or upvote your posts,
  - o active time spent on the assignment, and
  - o reading and posting comments throughout the *entire* chapter
- There are 13 Perusall assignments total this semester
- Your 2 lowest Perusall assignment grades will be dropped
- The highest possible point total on your top 11 Perusall assignments X 5 points = 55 points (11% of your final grade)

Five Comprehension Quizzes

PURPOSE: These quizzes will help you test your memory for, and understanding of the learning material (e.g., readings and videos). In addition, the quizzes will enhance your test-taking abilities. Finally, the quizzes will prepare you for the exams which cover the same material and include *similar* questions.

TASK: Each week after you have completed your Perusall assignments and watched assigned videos, take the quiz before the due date listed in the course schedule.
- For each quiz, you have three attempts; your highest quiz attempt will count toward your grade.
- I strongly suggest that you **take all three attempts**, because the 15 questions on the quiz are *randomly drawn* from a set of 30-40 questions, so the questions for your first attempt will *not* be identical to the questions on your second or third attempt. Thus, the more attempts you take, the more questions you are exposed to, and you have a better idea of what the exam questions will cover.
- After the due date, **review** your quiz attempts to see the correct answers and ensure you understand the material.

GRADING CRITERIA:
- There are 5 weekly quizzes, each quiz contains 15 multiple choice questions and is worth 15 points.
- You get three attempts on each quiz, and your highest attempt counts as your grade for the quiz.
- Your lowest quiz grade (out of the 5 quizzes) will be dropped.
- The highest possible point total on your top 4 quizzes = 60 points (or 12% of your final grade).

Five Exams

PURPOSE: Each exam is a summary measure of your level of understanding and memory for the material covered in each week of the course. Because I want to measure your *personal* understanding of material, each exam is proctored using Honorlock and you are *not* allowed to search for answers on your computer or phone (you can find more details about Honorlock in the "Start Here" folder in Blackboard).

TASK: After you review your weekly quiz attempts, take the proctored exam by the due date listed in the course schedule.
- You get **one attempt** on exams, so make sure you are prepared by reviewing quiz attempts, readings and videos.
- During the exam, you are NOT allowed to search for answers online on your computer or phone.
- During the exam, you ARE allowed to use your notes and links to the readings (provided within Honorlock).

GRADING CRITERIA:
- There are five exams, each worth 100 points, containing 35-45 multiple choice questions.
- Your top 4 exam grades will count toward your final grade; your lowest exam grade will be dropped.
- Your top 4 exams are worth 400 points, or 77% of your final grade.

FINAL GRADE CALCULATION

Evaluation Method	Total possible points	% of Final Course Grade
Top 11 Perusall Assignments at 5 pts each	55 points	11%
Top 4 comprehension quizzes at 15 pts each	60 points	12%
Top 4 Exams at 100 pts each	400 points	77%
	Total possible points in class = 515	
Tentative Grading Scale for Final Course Grade (the point total might change based on the material we are able to cover which might affect the grading scale):	**90% or more of total possible points (463 points or more):**	**A**
	80-89% of total possible points (412 - 462 points):	**B**
	70-79% of total possible points (360 - 411 points):	**C**
	60-69% of total possible points (309 - 359 points):	**D**
	59% or less of total possible points (308 points or less):	**F**

Note: the grade scale above does not include extra credit points which can potentially raise your final grade

OTHER IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION:
Attendance, Drops, and Withdraws:

For online students, attendance is based on completion of graded work by the due date and logging into Blackboard. A student may be dropped from this course if any of the following occur:

1. The student has not logged into Blackboard for 5 consecutive days.

2. The student has not logged into Blackboard or completed any work by the 5th day of classes.

3. The student has too many incomplete assignments to pass the course.

If you are struggling, please reach out to discuss your grade average. Based on our conversation, you can decide whether to remain enrolled or withdraw from the course. Remember, I cannot interpret missing work or lack of logins as a request to drop. If you choose to withdraw from the course, you may do so by completing the "Student Drop Form" found at this link: https://www.southplainscollege.edu/admission-aid/apply/schedulechanges.php .

Perusall Expectations:

While differing opinions are welcome in Perusall discussions, I expect respectful communication among students and with me. Disagreement is acceptable as long as discussions remain polite, focusing on understanding each other's viewpoints rather than "winning" a debate. Also, do your best to ground discussions in the *science of psychology*, rather than personal opinions.

Late Work or Missing Work

Because I drop everyone's two lowest Perusall assignment grades, *Perusall assignments cannot be made up if missed*, regardless of the reason for missing the assignment. I drop the two lowest grades in case a student is too sick to complete an assignment or has an emergency that requires their time and attention

Because I drop everyone's lowest quiz grade and students get three attempts on each quiz, *quizzes cannot be made up if missed and are not accepted if submitted after the due date*. Please keep up with the class calendar.

Because I drop everyone's lowest exam grade, *exams cannot be made up if missed and will not be accepted if submitted after the due date*. Please keep up with the class calendar.

NOTE: The only computer issue that warrants a make-up is if the entire class is unable to access Blackboard at the time a Perusall assignment, quiz or exam is due. If this occurs, I will extend the due date for the entire class. Because other computer issues are not an excepted reason for a make-up, you should carefully read about how to prevent and deal with technology problems in the sections following this one.

TECHNOLOGY PROBLEMS AND HOW TO GET HELP:

Keep in mind that if a computer issue affects only you and not the entire class, it will not qualify for an extension on quizzes, Perusall assignments, or exams. To avoid unnecessary stress, it's wise to plan ahead and anticipate potential problems. By reviewing the solutions below, you can prepare a backup plan and be ready to tackle any issues that arise.

Technology Contingency (Backup) Plans

Problem(s)	Solution
"Argh! My internet is down!" "OMG! My computer is not working!" "Ugh! I'm out of town, and I don't have a computer [or access to the internet]."	- Free WiFi is available at many local businesses (Starbucks, McDonald's, Chick-fil-A, United Supermarkets) and in the buildings and parking lots of many schools, including SPC campuses. You can find more details on SPC WiFi resources [here](insert link). - Create a list of friends, family, classmates, or neighbors who may allow you to borrow their computer, WiFi, or printer if needed. - If you're an SPC student within driving distance, computer labs with computers, printers, and internet access are available at every campus: • SPC Downtown Campus: 1625 13th, Lubbock, First Floor • SPC Levelland Campus: Technology Building • SPC Lubbock Center: Room 109 and Room 138 • SPC Plainview Center: 1920 W. 24th St., Plainview, Texas - Public libraries in your area typically have computers available for public use. - If your computer breaks down, contact a local repair service (e.g., Best Buy, Office Depot) or consider buying an inexpensive computer from sites like Newegg, Amazon Marketplace, or eBay. For financial assistance in Levelland/Lubbock, check [West Texas financial assistance](insert link). You can also meet with SPC Health and Wellness staff for support (call 806-716-2529 for an appointment). - While traveling, check if your hotel has a computer lab for guests or if your host has a computer with internet access. If not, aim to complete your work before you leave.

By preparing in advance, you can confidently handle any technical difficulties that come your way!

Technical Support

For Blackboard issues, contact the SPC Tech Support staff at 806-716-2180, Mon-Fri, 8 am – 4 pm; or email blackboard@southplainscollege.edu or go to https://help.blackboard.com or call Blackboard Support at (800)424-9299.

For Perusall issues, follow this link to find answers to frequently asked questions: https://support.perusall.com/hc/en-us/categories/360002173133-Students, of contact Perusall Support at: https://support.perusall.com/hc/en-us/requests/new

For Honorlock issues, Honorlock support is available 24/7/365. If you encounter any issues, you may contact them through live chat at https://honorlock.com/support/ or within the exam itself.

For SPC email issues, contact the SPC help desk at (806)716-2600 or at helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu.

COURSE OUTLINE/CALENDAR FOR PSYC2301 ONLINE, Summer II 2025:

Summer II 2025 Online Dates	Learning Material; Perusall Assignments; Quizzes; and Exams	DUE DATES
Week 1: Mon 7/7 through Sun 7/13	***You must click on and read all items in the "Start Here" folder before the week 1 folder opens***. Then you may complete: • Perusall #1: History of Psychology and Psychological Perspectives • Videos: "History of Psych," "History vs. Freud" & "Psychological. Perspectives" • Perusall #2: Research Designs • Videos: "Correlation" & "Experiments" • Quiz #1 • Exam #1	**Perusall Readings/Discussion, and videos due by 11:59 pm on Fri 7/11** **Quiz #1 DUE by 11:59 pm on Sat 7/12** **Exam #1 DUE by 11:59 pm on Sun 7/13**
Week 2: Mon 7/14 through Sun 7/20	Week 2 learning material and assessments: • Perusall #3: The Healthy Life • Videos: "Five Factors of Resilience," "Effect of Stress on the Body," and "Coping with Stress" • Perusall #4: The Brain and Nervous System • Videos: "Structure of Neurons," "Synaptic Tans.," "How Drugs Affect the Brain," "Hippocampus," "Lobes, OH MY!" and "Treasure Hunt" • Perusall #5: States of Consciousness • "Why Do We Dream?" • Quiz #2 • Exam #2	**Perusall Readings/Discussion, and videos due by 11:59 pm on Fri 7/18** **Quiz #2 DUE by 11:59 pm on Sat 7/19** **Exam #2 DUE by 11:59 pm on Sun 7/20**
Week 3: Mon 7/21 through Sun 7/27	Week 3 learning material and assessments: • Perusall #6: Conditioning & Learning • Videos: "Classical Conditioning," "Taste Aversions," "Operant Conditioning," & "Observational Learning" • Perusall #7: Memory • "Misinformation Effect" & "Engrams" • Perusall #8: Personality Traits • "Brains vs Bias: Crash Course #24" • Quiz #3 • Exam #3	**Perusall Readings/Discussion, and videos due by 11:59 pm on Fri 7/25** **Quiz #3 DUE by 11:59 pm on Sat 7/26** **Exam #3 DUE by 11:59 pm on Sun 7/27**
Week 4: Mon 7/28 through Sun 8/3	Week 4 learning material and assessments: • Perusall #9: Persuasion • ACTIVITY: Spot The Troll! • Perusall #10: Conformity and Obedience • Video: "ABC Channel's Milgram Experiment Remake" • Perusall #11: Prejudice, Stereotyping, & Discrimination • Video: "How Racial Bias Works and How to Disrupt it" • Quiz #4 • Exam #4	**Perusall Readings/Discussion, and videos due by 11:59 pm on Fri 8/1** **Quiz #4 DUE by 11:59 pm on Sat 8/2** **Exam #4 DUE by 11:59 pm on Sun 8/3**
Week 5: Mon 8/4 through THUR 8/7 *This is SHORT week—Perusalls, Quiz & Exam must be completed by Thursday 8/7!*	Week 5 learning material and assessments: • Perusall #12: Mood Disorders *due by Thursday!* • Video: "Introduction to Disorders" • Perusall #13: Anxiety Disorders *due by Thursday!* • Videos: "Causes of Disorders," and "Unstuck" • Quiz #5 *due by Thursday!* • Exam #5 *due by Thursday!*	**Perusall Readings/Discussion, and videos due by 11:59 pm on THUR 8/7** **Quiz #5 DUE by 11:59 pm on THUR 8/7** **Exam #5 DUE by 11:59 pm on THUR 8/7**