

General Psychology (PSYC 2301)



Credit: 3 semester credit hours (3 hours lecture)

Prerequisite/Co-requisite: Passing the reading portion of COMPASS or other accepted testing instrument.

Course Description

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

Required Textbook and Materials

Gazzaniga, M. S., & Heatherton, T. F., D. Halpern (2011).
Psychological science (4th ed.). New York: Norton.
ISBN 978-0-393-91157-2

Objectives

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

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.

Core Objectives

1. Critical Thinking Skills: To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
2. Communication Skills: To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
3. Empirical and Quantitative Skills: To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
4. Social Responsibility: To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Course Outline

Approved 10/2010

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Course Syllabi

- A. Class Introduction & Chapter 1 Introduction to Psychological Science
 - a. Development of Scientific Foundations of Psychology
 - b. The Application Psychological Science
- B. Chapter 2 Research Methodology
 - a. Explaining Scientific Inquiry
 - b. The Types of Studies in Psychological Research
- C. Chapter 3 Biology and Behavior
 - a. Genetic Basis of Psychological Science
 - b. Basic Brain Structures and Their Functions
- D. Chapter 4 Sensation & Perception
 - a. Explanation of the way We Sense Our Worlds
 - b. The Basic Perceptual Processes
- E. Chapter 5 Consciousness
 - a. Understanding How Is the Conscious Mind Experienced
 - b. Understanding Altered Consciousness
- F. Chapter 6 Learning
 - a. The Development of Learning Behavioral Study
 - b. Understanding the Biological Basis of Learning
- G. Chapter 7 Attention & Memory
 - a. How Attention Determines What Is Remembered
 - b. The Brain Processes Are Involved in Memory
- H. Chapter 8 Thinking & Intelligence
 - a. How the Mind Represents Information
 - b. How We Understand Intelligence
- I. Chapter 9 Human Development
 - a. Understanding What Shapes a Child
 - b. Understanding What Brings Meaning to Adulthood
- J. Chapter 10 Motivation and Emotion
 - a. Understanding How Motivation Activate, Direct, and Sustain Behavior
 - b. Understanding How People Experience Emotions
- K. Chapter 11 Health and Well-Being
 - a. How Psychosocial Factors Affect Health
 - b. How a Positive Attitude Keeps Us Healthy
- L. Chapter 12 Social Psychology
 - a. How Attitudes Guide Behavior
 - b. How Others Influence Us
- M. Chapter 13 Personality
 - a. Understanding How Psychologists Have Studied Personality
 - b. How Personality is Assessed, and What It Predicts
- N. Chapter 14 Disorders of Mind & Body
 - a. How Mental Disorders Are Conceptualized and Classified
 - b. Explaining if Personality Disorders are Truly Mental Disorders
- O. Chapter 15 Treating Disorders of Mind & Body
 - a. How Mental Disorders Treated
 - b. The Most Effective Treatments

Grade Scale

89 - 100	A
79 – 88%	B
69 – 78%	C

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59 – 68%	D
0 – 58%	F

Course Evaluation

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

1. Exam 1	20%	
2. Exam 2	20%	
3. Exam 3	20%	
4. Exam 4	20%	
5. Exam 5 (Final)	20%	
6. Pop Quizzes	20%	

Lowest Grade Dropped. A missed exam can count as a dropped grade. The final is mandatory must be taken.

Course Requirements

1. Students will participate in class discussions.
2. Students will complete reading assignments.
3. Students will take daily quizzes.
4. 5 Major Tests. The final test is mandatory.
5. Missing 2 tests results in an automatic “F” for the course.

Course Policies

1. No food, drinks, or use of tobacco products in class.
2. Beepers, telephones, headphones, and any other electronic devices must be turned off while in class.
3. **Students are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process.** Students who stop coming to class and fail to drop the course will earn an ‘F’ in the course.
4. Belligerent, abusive, profane, threatening, and /or inappropriate behavior on the part of students is a violation of the LIT 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 disciplinary process.
5. Attendance will be monitored. 5 or more unexcused absences will result in an automatic letter grade reduction.
6. Failure to be able to contribute to the class discussion when called on can result in point reduction.
7. Grading errors must be brought to the attention of the instructor. Posted grades will remain fixed after 10 days of initial posting.

Disabilities Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. Among other things, these statutes require that all students with

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documented disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodations for their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409) 880-1737 or visit the office in Student Services, Cecil Beeson Building.

Course Schedule

Week of	Topic	Reference
Week 1	Class Introduction Introduction to Psychological Science	
Week 2	Research Methodology	
Week 3	Genetic & Biological Foundations	
Week 4	The Brain & Consciousness	
Week 5	Sensation & Perception	
Week 6	Learning & Reward	
Week 7	Memory	
Week 8	Thinking & Intelligence	
Week 9	Motivation	
Week 10	Emotions & Health	
Week 11	Human Development	
Week 12	Social Psychology	
Week 13	Personality	
Week 14	Disorders of Mind and Body	
Week 15	Treating Disorders of Mind & Body	
Week 16	<i>Given on the date and time specified by the</i>	
Final Exam	<i>official exam schedule.</i>	

Contact information: Varies by instructor.