



**LAMAR INSTITUTE  
OF TECHNOLOGY**

## General Psychology (PSYC 2301)-2A1

### **INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

Instructor: Andrew Garza  
Email: algarza@lit.edu  
Office Phone: 409-880-8642  
Office Location: TC-232  
Office Hours: MT 9:00-12:30; W 9:00-11:15; TR 9:50-12:30; F 9:00-11:15

### **CREDIT**

3 Semester Credit Hours (3 hours lecture, 0 hours lab)

### **MODE OF INSTRUCTION**

ONLINE

### **PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE:**

TSI Complete in Reading

### **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 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.

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS**

1. You will be required to have access to Hawkes Introduction to Psychology: the associated Mastery adaptive online study tool, which will include the textbook content in electronic form.
  - a. ISBN: 978-1-64277-149-7 Software + eBook
2. Optional Software + eBook + Textbook (paperback).
  - a. 978-1-64277-239-5

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students should log into the course each school day and check emails and announcements.

## DROP POLICY

If you wish to drop a course, you are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process by the specified drop date as listed on the [Academic Calendar](#). If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an “F” in the course.

## STUDENT EXPECTED TIME REQUIREMENT

For every hour in class (or unit of credit), students should expect to spend at least two to three hours per week studying and completing assignments. For a 3-credit-hour class, students should prepare to allocate approximately six to nine hours per week outside of class in a 16-week session OR approximately twelve to eighteen hours in an 8-week session. Online/Hybrid students should expect to spend at least as much time in this course as in the traditional, face-to-face class.

## COURSE CALENDAR

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (Due on this Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
Week 1	Orientation	Syllabus	
Week 2	Critical Thinking	CT Materials	CT Discussion 9/1/2023
Week 3	Psychological Science	Chapter 1 Hawkes	CT Discussion 9/8/2023 Hawkes Certify 9/11/2023 Core Assessment 9/11/2023
Week 4	Biopsychology	Chapter 2 Hawkes	CT Discussion 9/15/2023 Hawkes Certify 9/18/2023
Week 5	Consciousness	Chapter 3 Hawkes	CT Discussion 9/22/2023 Hawkes Certify 9/25/2023
Week 6	Sensation & Perception	Chapter 4 Hawkes	CT Discussion 9/29/2023 Hawkes Certify 10/2/2023
Week 7	Learning	Chapter 5 Hawkes	CT Discussion 10/6/2023 Hawkes Certify 10/9/2023
Week 8	Intelligence	Chapter 6 Hawkes	CT Discussion 10/13/2023 Hawkes Certify 10/16/2023
Week 9	Memory	Chapter 7 Hawkes	CT Discussion 10/20/2023 Hawkes Certify 10/23/2023
Week 10	Human Development	Chapter 8 Hawkes	CT Discussion 10/27/2023 Hawkes Certify 10/30/2023
Week11	Motivation & Emotion	Chapter 9 Hawkes	CT Discussion 11/3/2023 Hawkes Certify 11/6/2023
Week 12	Personality	Chapter 10 Hawkes	CT Discussion 11/10/2023 Hawkes Certify 11/13/2023
Week 13	Social Psychology	Chapter 11 Hawkes	CT Discussion 11/17/2023

			Hawkes Certify 11/20/2023
Week 15	Disorders	Chapter 14 Hawkes	CT Discussion 12/1/2023 Hawkes Certify 12/4/2023
Finals	Comprehensive Final		12/6/2023 @ 5:00 PM

### **COURSE EVALUATION**

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- Hawkes Chapter Assignments 40%
- Hawkes Chapter Tests 30%
- Weekly Chapter Critical Thinking Discussions 10%
- Core Assessment Project 10%
- Comprehensive Final Test 10%
- Total 100%

### **GRADING SCALE**

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
0-59	F

LIT does not use +/- grading scales

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Students found to be committing academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, or collusion) may receive disciplinary action. Students need to familiarize themselves with the institution's Academic Dishonesty Policy available in the Student Catalog & Handbook at <http://catalog.lit.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=80#academic-dishonesty>.

### **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc. can be online at <https://lit.edu/online-learning/online-learning-minimum-computer-requirements>. A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of online technology and resources.

### **DISABILITIES STATEMENT**

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. LIT provides reasonable accommodations as defined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, to students with a diagnosed disability. The Special Populations Office is located in the Eagles' Nest Room 129 and helps foster a supportive and inclusive educational environment by maintaining partnerships with faculty and staff, as well as promoting awareness among all members of the Lamar Institute of

Technology community. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409)-951-5708 or email [specialpopulations@lit.edu](mailto:specialpopulations@lit.edu). You may also visit the online resource at [Special Populations - Lamar Institute of Technology \(lit.edu\)](#).

### **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT**

It is the responsibility of all registered Lamar Institute of Technology students to access, read, understand and abide by all published policies, regulations, and procedures listed in the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook*. The *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* may be accessed at [www.lit.edu](http://www.lit.edu). Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.

### **STARFISH**

LIT utilizes an early alert system called Starfish. Throughout the semester, you may receive emails from Starfish regarding your course grades, attendance, or academic performance. Faculty members record student attendance, raise flags and kudos to express concern or give praise, and you can make an appointment with faculty and staff all through the Starfish home page. You can also login to Blackboard or MyLIT and click on the Starfish link to view academic alerts and detailed information. It is the responsibility of the student to pay attention to these emails and information in Starfish and consider taking the recommended actions. Starfish is used to help you be a successful student at LIT.

### **ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES/INFORMATION**

#### **RESPONSE TIMES**

The instructor will respond to email and voice mail communication within 24 hours or 48 hours on a weekend. Assignment grades will be published within 1 week of the assignment due date. The instructor will log on to the course and have online office hours periodically Monday through Friday; ways of contact during office hours are by phone or email

#### **WEEKLY HAWKES LEARNING ASSIGNMENTS:**

40% of your total grade

For each week there is an online Hawkes Learning assignment that will require you to stepwise go through three stages: learning, practice, then certify. This program is adaptive, and you can be persistent until you obtain 100% correct responses. Although there are 14 assignments, the grades are averaged with one final percentage synchronized from Hawkes Learning to Blackboard. The learning assignments have a 10% penalty per day of being late by being past the deadline.

#### **CHAPTER TESTS:**

30% of your total course grade

All tests are 25 questions with a 30-minute time limit. The tests cover only the material learned in the Hawkes Learning material for the respective weekly section and are not comprehensive in nature, although some material may overlap sections. Tests become available at a certain date and end at a certain date each week that corresponds to the material scheduled to

be covered. You cannot jump ahead and finish the course in a short amount of time outside of the weekly timed format. There is a 20% penalty applied to tests completed past the deadline. Deadlines are Mondays at 11:59 PM.

### **CHAPTER CRITICAL THINKING ANALYSIS DISCUSSIONS:**

10% total course grade

In week 1, students will post their first discussion board that gives some introduction of themselves, what psychology means to them, and what they expect to get out of the course.

Week 1 will give the student an opportunity to get accustomed to navigating in blackboard. You will be required to post to all of your classmates' posts in the first week, but only in the first week. It is encouraged that students take this opportunity to greet one another while maintaining a professional and collegial narrative. Also, in week 1 there will be a posting to the discussion board that will be your first critical thinking analysis on Chapter 1.

After completing all readings for each week's module post your initial critical thinking discussion to the discussion board where students are expected to submit one, (after week 9 a 500 word minimum) critical thinking analysis (the form is defined in the Resource section) that discusses all readings for the module, in one analysis for the chapter or chapters. Students will be expected to participate in the weekly threaded Discussion Board topics. The deadline for posting your discussion is each **Friday at 11:59 pm**. An important part of your weekly assignments will be to read and give feedback on 2 other students' papers, in addition to posting your own. Give feedback to different students each week. This will ensure that all students are getting feedback each week. Your feedback should fundamentally be focused on essential INTELLECTUAL STANDARDS (found in the Miniature Guide to Scientific Thinking) and should be constructive and respectful in nature. (Note that you are required to give feedback on two papers total per week, but feel free to give as much feedback as you have time for on other students' papers). A grading rubric is provided in the Resources\Critical Thinking Resources content on Blackboard.

### **CORE ASSESSMENT PROJECT:**

10% of total course grade

Students are required to submit a short project paper that will assess:

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

### **COMPREHENSIVE FINAL TEST**

10% of your total course grade

There will be a 100-question timed multiple choice test given as a final in this course. There will be a time limit of 100 minutes which averages one minute per question. The material tested will

be all material that was covered during the semester. The final is required and is not optional. It is recommended that periodic review of the material occurs throughout the semester to ensure retention of all material.

### **EXTRA CREDIT:**

There will be no extra credit offered in this course. Students should not request extra credit or other types of special treatment as doing so could result in a five-point deduction in the overall course grade. Time spent on an extra-credit assignment should have been spent on the material during the semester. Extra credit assignments are tantamount to failing a driving test and then requesting writing a driving essay in lieu.

### **MAKE-UP WORK**

There are late penalties of 10% per day past the deadline for the Hawkes mastery assignments. There are some makeup opportunities for tests once past the deadline that carry a 20% late penalty. No assignments are accepted via email, only the assignment submission box in Blackboard. All assignments will have 2 and only 2 submissions in the event of an upload failure or some other event that prevents a successful first submission.

Deadlines must be adhered to to successfully complete this course on time. Outside activities such as vacations, weddings, etc. are not excused due to the restricted time frame.

Get your work done early. I will not accept late work for any reason other than what is listed above. Unfortunately, some will test this policy and wait until one minute has passed from the deadline and then attempt to give me a myriad of excuses. I will not accept late work or more importantly, treat students differently. Early work is encouraged! Some of you will wait until late in the day something is due to complete items. That is fine but there is no instructor support. I consider this waiting until the last moment. Items are typically available the weekend before they are due for those of you that can only get work done on the weekend. I urge you not to wait.

It's important to mention that despite the policy of not allowing make-ups, our grading system is designed with some flexibility to accommodate unforeseen challenges. As a form of safety net, the course policy states that the lowest grade you receive on an assignment, essay, or test will be dropped when calculating your final grade. This system aims to support students who may have struggled with a particular assignment or faced unexpected obstacles during the semester.

### **INCOMPLETE**

Students opting to receive an Incomplete grade are still expected to have participated in class activities, assessments, and assignments throughout the semester with something unavoidable occurring that would physically prevent completion of the class past the final drop date

### **SYLLABUS EVOLUTION**

The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus as the need arises during the semester..