Welcome to the Online Psychology. During registration, you enrolled in the PSY 133: General Psychology course at SFA. In preparation for this course I am sending you the following information. You can find the course at https://d2l.sfasu.edu/. The course will be available soon.

Please review the following information and if you have any questions do not hesitate to drop me a note. If you have not already visited the SFA Online site at http://sfaonline.sfasu.edu/, please do so to explore online learning and support at SFA.

**Does this course fit you?**

Let me address something immediately in this letter. This course requires MUCH MORE work for everyone (you and me) than a traditional course. It is NOT easier (usually students consider it more challenging than a traditional course).

Below answer Yes or NO to the following questions to see if this course is a good course for you.

- ✓ You will be able **spend 2 – 3 times the amount of time you would in a traditional course** to earn the same grade.
- ✓ You are a **self-directed** and **focused learner**.
- ✓ You can adhere to **absolute deadlines**.
- ✓ You **enjoy reading** much printed material.
- ✓ You are **technologically sophisticated**.
- ✓ You have **consistent access to a reliable computer equipped with audio, a microphone, and video camera**.
- ✓ You have **consistent, fast, and reliable internet access**.
- ✓ You are VERY **comfortable and familiar with D2L and its tools**.

I want you to have a positive learning experience in the course, so if you were NOT able to answer **immediately and enthusiastically YES** to EVERY question, and you cannot commit the time you need to the course, **all would be better served if you sought out a course that better fit your background**. Finally, I would not recommend this course as your FIRST online course.

If you decide this course fits you the first thing you will need to do is to access the information in the course site and review the **Syllabus** and complete the **Syllabus Quiz** to earn the prerequisite grade to access information across the course site.
The final examination in the course will be electronically proctored. The University no longer covers the cost of the exam so you will need to be prepared to pay for the cost (generally less than $20 if you sign up in advance – additional information will be provided later in the semester). The university uses ProctorU to electronically proctor exams. Assuming your equipment and internet speed meet the required guidelines for doing so, you are able to take the final exam on your own computer at your preferred location. You can find out more about the equipment requirements and test your equipment and connection speed.

If your computer and equipment DO NOT meet the guidelines, please 1) identify a computer that does and plan on using it to take the final or 2) reconsider your decision to enroll in this course. There are no alternatives to the proctored final exam. SFA (not me) has chosen ProctorU as the vendor we must use.

**Course Related Information**

Appended are my *Top 10 Strategies* for doing well in the course. Also available in the course site is a preliminary copy of the syllabus and a *Fellow Student Advice Guide*. I would encourage you to review all of these documents THOROUGHLY and if you have any questions, do not hesitate to send me an email in the course site. Remember this is a preliminary syllabus, the official one will be posted in the course site and any updates will be made in the calendar in the course site. The final version will likely be very similar to the tentative one.

**Textbook**

You will also need to purchase the textbook for the course. I have provided electronic copies of the chapters in the course site so you will have time to secure a copy of the textbook. I think your best bet is to secure a copy online at one of the major sites or from one of my former students. As there are now both a 9th - 11th editions of the text, don’t spend too much on your copy of the 8th edition. At the Amazon.com site I see used copies starting around $5.

Finally, there is a free, but limited, version of the textbook at http://books.google.com/books?id=FXGhqSeZ81EC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false
Just so you know what the text looks like here are images of the 8th -11th editions. If you have questions about the text, please email me in the course site.

I do NOT recommend purchasing a different version of the text (newer or older). If you do purchase a different edition, there will be differences and the differences may be substantive which could affect your grade.

If you are not sure what your SFA username is, please contact SFA ONLINE at 936-468-1919. They will be able to help you out.

There will be no required on campus meetings during the session. Everything, including the final, will be online.

"See you" online.
Mark
Top 10 Strategies

Here are my basics of doing well in the course.

1. **Keep track of deadlines.** Refer to the calendar (the official dates) and syllabus.

2. **Log in frequently.** I'd recommend every day, but I know this may not be possible for everyone. Logging in every day will translate to a little work on several days instead of a lot of work on a couple of days. You can even do work off-line Saturday-Sunday.

3. **Process the new information** since you last logged in. Read the new email, discussion postings, and calendar changes. Then look for any new content in the chapter we are discussing.

4. **Preview the chapter** both at the course website and in the textbook.

5. **Read the chapter in the textbook.** You will want to take notes for subsequent studying. Take a PRACTICE quiz over the chapter as a baseline measure of your understanding of the information. How did you do? If not so well, go back to the chapter in the text and see where the information is that you missed and why you missed it. Then go back and take the tutorial again.

6. **Repeat #5 for all of the sub-sections.**

7. **Read the professor's Powerpoint slides and Comments for the chapter.** You will not be able to complete (or even see!) the activities (i.e., quiz and discussion) for the week until the Comments are read. Head to the discussion section to see what the topics are and based on your newly acquired knowledge respond to the post to demonstrate your understanding of the topics. Also, **read ALL of the other discussion posts** since they may contain relevant information. Sometimes it is painfully obvious based on a person's response that they have not read other students' postings.

8. **Try another PRACTICE quiz ASAP.** How did you do on this one? Are you ready to take the REAL quiz? There is no limit on the number of practice quizzes you can take, so please take as many as you need to feel comfortable with the material.

9. **Take the REAL Quiz before the deadline.** Don't wait until the very last moment to take the quiz. This will cause lots of stress and anxiety and it may affect your performance.

10. **Visit the SFA Online site.** The staff at SFA Online can be of assistance with any problems you might be having with D2L. They cannot provide assistance with the content of the course.