PSYC 2301: General Psychology  
Section 011  
Stephen F. Austin State University  
Spring 2024

Professor:  
Dr. Dusty Jenkins  
Department of Psychology  
Office: 215C McKibben Education Building  
Email: JenkinsDD1@sfasu.edu  
Office Phone: 936-468-1432

Professor’s office hours:  
Wednesdays 2:30pm-4:30pm  
Fridays 11:00am-noon; 1:00pm-3:00pm

Graduate Teaching Assistant:  
Taylor Boyett

Course Format:  
The class is a face-to-face class. Neither lectures nor exams will not be conducted in an online or a livestream manner (unless due to changes associated with unforeseen circumstances).

Class Times & Location:  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30pm-4:45pm; McKibben Building room 258

Course Textbook:  

Course Description:  
Survey of fundamental principles of behavior including physiological, perceptual, developmental, learning, motivational, cognitive, social, historical, and methodological perspectives.

Program Learning Outcome:  
This is a general education core curriculum course and no specific program learning outcomes for this major are addressed in this course.

Student Learning Outcomes:  
By the end of this course, students should be able to...  
identify and describe the different areas within the field of psychology  
identify different research methods utilized in the field of psychology  
identify the strengths and weaknesses of the various research methods employed by psychologists  
discuss the major theoretical viewpoints in psychology  
describe the diverse array of historical, social, cultural, cognitive, emotional, and biological factors that influence behaviors  
discuss how major psychological principles, theories, and findings relate to everyday life and real-world problems
**General Education Core Curriculum**

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six core learning objectives: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. SFA is committed to the improvement of its general education core curriculum by regular assessment of student performance on these six objectives.

By enrolling in **General Psychology**, you are also enrolling in a Core Curriculum Course that fulfills the **Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills**, and **Social Responsibility** requirement.

The chart below indicates: (a) The core objectives that are required to be taught in this course per the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), (b) How the required core objectives will be addressed.

**Core Curriculum Objective Table**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>How the Core Objective Will be Addressed.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Skills</td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.</td>
<td>Class discussions and/or course assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
<td>Class discussions and/or course assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Empirical and Quantitative Skills</td>
<td>To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.</td>
<td>Course assignment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Responsibility</td>
<td>To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.</td>
<td>Class discussions and/or course assignment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Course Policies and Expectations**

*Sensitive Topics:*
Sometimes this class covers sensitive topics. If you wish to speak to a counselor, please see below (under Student Wellness and Well-Being) for some potential resources.

*Note about Communication:*
Any information that you share with the professor, intentionally or unintentionally, may be reiterated to other university professionals as necessary (e.g., threats to self or others, certain instances of assault, poor class attendance or academic performance, etc.).

*Recording Lectures:*
Students are not permitted to record class lectures or to take photos in class unless a student has a documented need to do so as indicated by the Office of Disability Services. Failure to follow this policy or the above policy could result in removal from the class.

*Computer Use during Class:*
Computers are allowed during class but only for the sole purpose of taking notes.

*Student Wellness and Well-Being*
SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

*On-campus Resources:*
**The Dean of Students Office** (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

**SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic** Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041

**The Health and Wellness Hub** “The Hub”
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.
To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:

- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education

www.sfasu.edu/thehub
936.468.4008
thehub@sfasu.edu
**Crisis Resources:**
- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- johCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

**Attending and Missing Class:**
Regular class attendance is expected. Dr. Jenkins does not provide copies of the PowerPoints for students. Therefore, your regular class attendance is imperative. If you are unable to attend class for any reason, you will need to get the notes and any class announcements from a classmate. You are held accountable for keeping up with all class information and announcements whether present in class or not. Thus, you may want to get to know some of your classmates and possibly exchange contact information. SFA’s attendance policy can be viewed here: [https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/policies/6.7.pdf](https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/policies/6.7.pdf).

**Institution Absences (HOP 04-110)**

An Institutional Absence may be granted to a student who participates as a representative of the University in academic (including research), extra- or cocurricular, or athletic activities. Students will be excused for institutional purposes from otherwise required academic activity only when a valid Institutional Absence is approved by the appropriate administrative unit or official and the documentation of approval is provided to the faculty member at least five (5) days in advance.

Institutional absences will not be approved for keystone events, defined as: a special or unique assignment, test, project, experience, or other academic exercise identified by the Faculty member as critical for successful completion of standards of the class and unable to be missed. These events must be identified on the syllabus at the beginning of the semester and communicated to the students. Events added to the syllabus at a later date will not qualify for Keystone Event status. Keystone Events where the date/time is changed will no longer be considered a Keystone Event. Students should make themselves aware of any Keystone Events identified in the syllabus to ensure there are no conflicts.

For keystone events where the assignment dates vary, it is incumbent upon the students to work with their faculty member to not select a conflicting date.

More information on Institutional Absences, including how to apply, can be found at [https://www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents/student-resources/institutional-absences](https://www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents/student-resources/institutional-absences).

**Email Communication:**
Students are expected to check their SFA email account at least once per business day (that is, Monday-Fridays, excluding holidays). Students will be held accountable for any announcements or class updates sent to their SFA email address regardless of whether student chooses to check their official SFA email. Furthermore, if students send an email to Dr. Jenkins, they should give her at least one full business day to respond before emailing her again. Please only use your SFA email account to send emails to Dr. Jenkins (as opposed to D2L email or a personal email address).

**Make-up Exams:**
Missing an exam should only be considered as an option if absolutely necessary. If you know ahead of time that you need to miss a regularly scheduled exam for an unavoidable reason, please arrange with Dr. Jenkins to take the exam ahead of the regularly scheduled class period. In other circumstances, you will need to provide documentation to excuse your absence (such as a doctor’s note); or, if needed, you will be allowed to reschedule one exam without documentation (such as accidentally missing a test).
However, in all instances, you must schedule, provide documentation, and take the make-up exam by 5pm one week after the scheduled exam date; failure to do so by this deadline will result in a grade of zero on the exam.

Late Assignments:
R-points and the Alternative Assignments deadlines are announced well in advance and will NOT be accepted late for any reason. However, for any other class assignments, you have one week from the due date announced in class to make up or turn in any missed assignments (by 5pm on the deadline). After that, late assignments will NOT be accepted.

Tardiness:
Coming late to class is disrupting to students as well as to the professor. If instances occasionally arise when you are running late for class, it is better to arrive late than to not attend at all. However, if habitual tardiness proves to be a problem for you, then you will receive a formal warning, and subsequent instances of arriving late to class may result in a deduction of points from your final grade in the course.

Academic Integrity
The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

Civility in the Classroom:
You are expected to maintain a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Disruptive, distracting, or disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. Classroom behavior should not interfere with
the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity policy for more information).

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (5.5)**
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the coursework because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to [https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf](https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf).

**Students with Disabilities**
To obtain disability-related accommodations, alternate formats, and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).

**Disputes about Course Grades:**
In the event of a grade dispute, it is the student’s responsibility to prove that a grade has been calculated incorrectly. Hence, you should always review your graded work, and contact Dr. Jenkins immediately if you think something has been graded incorrectly. Please refer to university policy: [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/final-course-grade-appeals-by-students-6.3.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/final-course-grade-appeals-by-students-6.3.pdf)
Assignments

**Syllabus quiz:** There will be an open note syllabus quiz on the third day of class. The syllabus quiz is intended to make sure that students have read and understand the course syllabus and the expectations that go along with it. The syllabus quiz is required before continuing in class.

**Research Participation (R-points) OR Alternative Assignment Points:**
Students in general psychology courses are expected to earn 10 research points (R-Points) by participating in psychological studies or completing a comparable alternative assignment. **Students may complete R-points, alternative assignment points, or a combination of both to meet this class requirement.**

**R-Points:**
The purpose of this requirement is to allow students the opportunity to participate in and learn about real research to help them better understand theories and principles described in class. Students should sign up for an account and to participate in studies through the Department of Psychology’s SONA Software (http://sfasu.sona-systems.com). Participants earn 1 R-point for every 30 minutes of participation.

Some important notes about research participation:
1. There are two deadlines for R-points. You must complete at least one of your R-points by the first R-point deadline. You must complete the remaining R-points by the final R-points deadline.
2. You may select from online studies and/or in-person (also called lab) studies (typically in the McKibben Building).
3. It is essential that you sign up only for studies for which you are eligible (if it says ‘psychology majors only’ but you are a physics major, you are NOT eligible). There are a variety of studies from which to choose. Pick ones that you are interested in and that fit your schedule.
4. It is not acceptable to miss class due to participation in a study.
5. If you sign up for a study, you are expected to attend that study. If you’d like to cancel, please do so online as far in advance as possible.

**Alternative Assignment Points:**
Students who have an objection to participating in psychological research or who will not turn 18 before the end of the semester may opt to complete an alternative assignment to fulfill their R-point requirement. The alternative assignments will be announced in class and/or posted on D2L. Alternative assignments will typically involve watching videos related to the field of psychology and writing a short summary paper. The same deadlines apply to the alternative assignments, meaning at least one has to be completed by the first deadline.

**Exams:** You will have five exams. The exams are not cumulative in nature. Exams will typically be in multiple choice format. Anything discussed in class or assigned as reading or viewing material is likely to show up on the exam. You need Scantron form 882-E for the exams. You will have the entire class time to take the exam. Please note that **breaks during the exam are not permitted; if you leave the classroom, you will not be able to resume taking the test.**

**Class activity/activities:** Students will also earn points through class assignment(s). The class activity/activities might include in-class assignment(s) and/or take-home writing assignment(s). If you must miss a class, it is your responsibility to **check with a peer** to see if you missed an assignment and to make sure you get it completed and submitted to the professor in time.
Asynchronous Minutes:
This class requires 150 minutes of asynchronous minutes. Direction for asynchronous instructional minutes will be announced during the semester.

Extra Credit:
This class does not have extra credit. Please make sure to keep up with your assignments throughout the semester.

Point Values (300 total possible points)

10 points  Syllabus quiz
10 points  Mid-semester R-points/Alternative assignment deadline
30 points  R-points/Alternative Assignments: 10 at 3 points each
50 points  Class activities
200 points  Exams: 5 at 40 points each

Grade Distribution:
A = 269 points or above
B = 239 to 268 points
C = 209 to 238 points
D = 179 to 208 points
F = 0 to 178 points

Note: Final grades are firm! This means that Dr. Jenkins will not move your final letter grade up to the next letter grade if you did not earn enough points for that letter grade. Please do not even ask. You may view your grades throughout the semester by logging onto your D2L account.
Tentative Class Schedule

Any necessary changes will be announced in class, or via official SFA communication routes (e.g., email, text, D2L).

Course Contact Hours and Study Hours

PSYC 2301 “General Psychology” (3 credits) is designed to introduce students to the field of psychology by covering psychological concepts and principles typically including physiological, perceptual, developmental, learning, motivational, cognitive, social, historical, and methodological perspectives. The course typically meets 150 minutes a week in two 75-minute segments for 14 weeks, has 150 asynchronous instructional minutes, and also meets for a 2-hour final examination period. Students typically have significant weekly reading assignments, writing assignments, voluntary research participation, are expected to take regular tests, and a final examination. These activities average at a minimum 6 hours of work each week to prepare outside of classroom hours.

Core curriculum objectives may be assessed at any point throughout the semester. Course assignments are likely to occur near the end of the first half of the semester, and sometime during the second half of the semester.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Course Topics and Quiz/Exams/Due Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/18 – 2/6</td>
<td>Chapters 1 (The Science of Psychology) and 4 (Consciousness)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Syllabus Quiz on Thurs 1/25</td>
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<td>Exam 1 on Tues 2/6</td>
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<td>2/8 – 2/27</td>
<td>Chapters 2 (Biological Foundations of Behavior), 5 (Learning), 6 (Memory), and 7</td>
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<td>(Thinking, Language, &amp; Intelligence)</td>
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<td>Exam 2 on Tue 2/27</td>
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<td>2/29 – 3/26</td>
<td>Chapters 8 (Motivation and Emotion) and 9 (Human Development)</td>
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<td>Midsemester R-point/Alternate Assignment Deadline on Thurs 3/7</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Exam 3 on Tues 3/26</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/2 – 4/18</td>
<td>Chapters 9 (continued), 10 (Psychology and Health), 11 (Personality), 12 (Social Psychology)</td>
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<td>Exam 4 on Thurs 4/18</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/23 – 5/9</td>
<td>Chapters 12 (continued), 13 (Psychological Disorders), and 14 (Methods of Therapy)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Last day to complete R-points or Alternate Assignments on Tues 4/30</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Final) Exam 5 on Thurs 5/9 from 1:00-3:00pm</td>
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