

**South Plains College**  
**Common Course Syllabus: PSYC 2301, Sections 006, 008, 009**  
**Spring 2023**

**Department:** Behavioral Sciences

**Discipline:** Psychology

**Course Number:** PSYC 2301

**Course Title:** **General Psychology**

**Available Formats:** Campus Lecture, Online

**Campuses:** Levelland, Reese, 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:** **OpenStax Psychology Text** or Noba 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-** to include effective written, oral and visual communication.
- **Critical thinking skills-** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- **Empirical and Quantitative skills-** to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
- **Social Responsibility-** to include the demonstrated 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:**

1. Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
2. Identify various research methods and their characteristics used in the scientific study of psychology.
3. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thoughts that shaped the field of psychology. 4. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology
5. Use terminology unique to the study of psychology.
6. Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation.
7. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior.

**Student Learning Outcomes Assessment:** Dr. Alicia Barr 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. Barr is also the person responsible to entry of the data into Task Stream 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/Engagement Policy:**

*Students are expected to engage in class each week in order to be successful in a course. "Engagement" includes learning activities such as attending class, submitting weekly assignments, completing make-up work, etc. Due to South Plains College attendance policies, any student who fails to engage in three consecutive weeks during the semester or fails to attempt a minimum of two major grades may be asked to withdraw or "drop" from the course.*

*Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, may also be asked to drop the course. 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. See instructor's Course Information Sheet for additions to the attendance policy.*

**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. Turning in 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 proper documentation;
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:** Any 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 deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

**South Plains College policies concerning** diversity, disabilities, non-discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations, and Campus Concealed Carry Statements can be found here: [Syllabus Statements \(southplainscollege.edu\)](https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabus-statements).

**Withdrawal Policy:** The last day to withdraw/drop with a grade of "W" is April 27. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from this course. Otherwise, students will be assigned their earned letter grade at the end of the course. Course averages will be available through Blackboard and guidance will be provided throughout the term to help students decide whether they need to drop the class or not. For more information regarding drops/withdrawals, please visit:

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/admissionaid/apply/schedulechanges.php>.

*Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus and policies, as well as notify students of any changes, at any point during the semester.*

## Instructor's Course Information: Dr. Diane Wittie

### Course Information: PSYC 2301, General Psychology - Spring 2023

Sec. 006 – T/TH, 9:30 AM – 10:45 AM, ADM 150

Sec. 008 – T/TH 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM, ADM 150

Sec. 009 – T/TH 2:30 PM – 3:45 PM, ADM 150

Sec. 155 - Online

Course Website: Blackboard (southplainscollege.blackboard.com)

Email Address: dwittie@southplainscollege.edu

**Blackboard:** This is a conventional (face-to-face) course and will be conducted completely in person. Course assignments will be submitted in Blackboard and during class time. You may use my email to contact me outside of class time.

**Office Hours:** M/W, 1-4 PM; T, 11 AM – 12:00 PM; F, 10-11 AM, Levelland campus, AD119

**Instructor Office Phone:** 806-716-2468 (This number calls directly to my office however it is better to contact me by email. If you do leave a voice message, make sure to state your FULL name and the name of the **course/section** you are in.)

**Course Structure:** This course is delivered as a conventional face-to-face (F2F) modality. Students are expected to attend each class session. All deadlines are listed on the Course Schedule below, as well as in Blackboard.

### Instructor's Course Policies:

**General Expectations/Policies for Students:** *I would like to welcome each of you to an environment of community, pride, courtesy, and utmost respect; we are all here to work cooperatively and to learn together. I am honored to have you in my class this semester and want to thank you in advance for the time and hard work that you will put into this learning experience.*

*One of the keys to being successful in college is to **communicate with your instructor**. Feel free to email me if I can help you be successful in this course. I wish you the very best this semester and hope that the grade you achieve will reflect the effort you put into it. Please make every attempt to keep up with all assignments. This includes keeping up with the fast-pace of this course by completing all assignments, exams and papers/projects on time.*

*If you miss a class meeting for any reason, YOU are responsible for all material covered, for announcements made in your absence, and for acquiring any materials that may have been distributed in class. I do NOT give out my notes so you will need to get those from another student. There are no recordings of class lectures for this course.*

**Attendance & Administrative Drop Policy:** Attendance will be taken during each class meeting. Students will be responsible for material presented and discussed in class. Due to South Plains College attendance policies, any student who fails to attend 5 classes during the semester or fails to attempt a minimum of two major grades may be asked to withdraw or “drop” from the course. Essentially, to be counted present means that you need to be **mentally and physically present** in the classroom (or in the online environment).

Due to Financial Aid and South Plains College requirements for participation/attendance, a student who fails to turn in 5 assignments during the semester may be dropped with a grade of "X" from the course. Assignments in this context refer to the chapter assignments as well as application assignments, exams, essays, projects, and discussions.

**Technology Policy:** Blackboard (<http://southplainscollege.blackboard.com>) is the learning management system used to take exams and submit assignments. It is essential that you have reliable access to the Internet, appropriate devices/software, and a working knowledge of Blackboard. You should always have a backup plan in place should you encounter computer or internet problems. There are open computer labs available to all enrolled SPC students on all campuses. It is also the student's responsibility to have the required computer skills to complete this course. Should you encounter technical difficulties contact your instructor immediately as well as **SPC technical support at [blackboard@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:blackboard@southplainscollege.edu)** or call (806) 894-9611, ext. 2180. Be sure to include your full name, course number, section number and a number where you can be reached when contacting technical support. Not knowing how something works or having personal computer or Internet difficulties will not suffice as an excuse for missed deadlines and will not constitute extensions or do-overs.

**Disruptive Behaviors:** Do your best to be respectful of others and their right to learn in a peaceful environment. "Failure to comply with lawful directions of a classroom teacher relative to maintaining good order is considered **misconduct** on the part of the student. Repeated violations of disrupting a class will result in the student **being dropped** from the course." (See Student Guide)

- *Be a Respectful Classmate:* Avoid creating distractions, talking out of turn, talking with classmates during lecture (or socializing in the chat), wandering in and out of class, chronically showing up late, chronically leaving early, or improper use of technology, such as phones. These behaviors are disruptive to your fellow classmates and are therefore subject to the same consequences listed in the Disruptive Behavior policy above.
- *Use Electronic Devices Appropriately:* Phones must be silenced and **put away** during in-person attendance. Devices used for note-taking are permitted, but should be used responsibly and must **not create distractions for you or others**.
- *Be on time to class:* Do your best to manage your time well and be on time to class. If you are tardy, please enter as quietly as possible and take a seat as close to the door as you can get. Being late to class is disruptive to your fellow classmates and is therefore subject to the same consequences listed in the Disruptive Behavior policy above.

**Communication:** You are expected to frequently check your SPC email and any announcements made in Blackboard Announcements. Your instructor will check SPC email each business day and will respond to communication within 1 business day.

**Student Conduct:** In conjunction with the policy stated in the Common Course Syllabus, one must uphold proper and respectful communication with the instructor and fellow classmates at all times. All interactions will remain civil. Repeated violations of this policy may result in the student being dropped from the course.

**Written Work:** All written work should be presented using the conventions of Standard Written English. South Plains College requires all students to become proficient in "academic English," a form of English that is typically used in academic, professional, and business contexts. While slang, regional idioms, and informal kinds of self-expression are appropriate in some contexts, they are out of place in academic writing. This will relate to all written work done in the course including discussions and assignments.

**Late work: Late work is not accepted for full credit in this course.** However, the instructor reserves the right to consider the submission of late work on a case-by-case basis. Reading quizzes and Assignments may be submitted late for a maximum of half credit. You will need approval from your instructor and may need to provide documentation. Late assignments constitute those which have been initially submitted incorrectly, in a

format other than Microsoft Word, or are submitted at any time after the deadline on the date it is scheduled. After contacting the instructor, *upon approval*, a new due date will be given for either the original assignment or an alternative assignment of equal value. If the student fails to meet the revised due date, then a zero (0) for the assignment will be given.

**Extra Credit Activities:** There will be one extra credit assignment (worth 5 points) available in Blackboard.

**Academic Integrity:** In addition to the Plagiarism and Cheating policy in the Common Course Syllabus, it should be understood that students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism will earn a zero on the work in question for the first offense and will be dropped from the course with an ‘F’ should a second offense occur. Any amount of dishonesty is subject to these consequences, whether a lot or a little; this can include but is not limited to one copied sentence in an essay, a missing or incorrect citation, an entire paper copied from someone/somewhere else, one plagiarized idea or post on a discussion board, one copied exam item or an exam, other coursework completed by someone other than yourself, or dishonestly using Internet searches and sites to complete your work. You have also committed academic dishonesty when sharing course content, assignments, items, or answers. This includes sharing course content with classmates or future students as well as sharing or posting course content on websites such as Quizlet, Course Hero, or similar “study applications.” The information and assignments in this course are proprietary and are not yours to share. For further information and examples please see the Catalog, Student Guide, or refer to [www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org)

**Artificial Intelligence (AI) Resources:** There are now websites that will generate semi-unique material that somewhat resembles original material. Since the technology is available to create this content, technology is also available to detect this content. Such content is considered to be plagiarism and will receive a grade of zero. Incidents of this nature will be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.

**Grading Policy & Method of Evaluation:** All grades and feedback on coursework will be posted in Blackboard. You will find these posted in the My Grades area of our Blackboard course.

It is possible to earn up to **730** points in this course. Your grade will be determined by a cumulative point total based on the following grades:

|  | <b>Amount to be Completed:</b> | <b>Total <u>Points</u> Possible:</b> | <b>Points Earned by you this Semester:</b> |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Getting to Know You Quiz and Introductory Video</b> (on Blackboard)   | 2 @ 5 points each              | <b>10</b>                            |  |
| <b>Activities</b> (i.e. Discussions, Reflections, etc.) Some F2F, some on Blackboard.  | 5 @ 20 points each             | <b>100</b>                           |  |
| <b>Application Assignments</b> (on Blackboard)   | 3 at 50 points each            | <b>150</b>                           |  |
| <b>Exams</b> (non-cumulative); If a student misses an exam, they are allowed to take a <i>cumulative final exam</i> in place of the one they missed.) All exams are administered F2F in the classroom. | 4 @ 100 points each            | <b>400</b>                           |  |
| <b>Reading Quizzes</b>   | 14 @ 5 points each             | <b>70</b>                            |  |
| <b>Total</b>   | 25 total                       | <b>730</b>                           |  |

At the end of the session, all points earned by you this session will be added up. Your Point Total will determine your final letter grade by using the following scale/point ranges:

A= 657 – 730 points

B= 584 – 656 points

C= 511 – 583 points

D= 438 – 510 points F=

0 – 437 points

**Getting to Know You Quiz and Introductory Video (10 points):** To familiarize yourself with the course website and to help me get to know you, please complete the “Getting to Know You” quiz and upload your Introductory Video to Blackboard before **midnight this Sunday (Jan. 22)**. You will find the Quiz and Download Link for the Introductory Video in the Week 1 Learning Module of Blackboard.

**Application Assignments (150 points):** You will complete 3 Application Assignments (50 points each) throughout the semester applying course concepts related to the field of psychology. The purpose of these assignments is for you to demonstrate your knowledge of course concepts while analyzing and applying these concepts to your own thinking processes and behaviors. Application Assignments are submitted in Blackboard. See the course schedule below for due dates.

**Activities (100 points):** There will be 5 Activities (discussions, reflections, etc.) throughout the semester during class time. Make sure you will be well prepared for these activities by reading the assigned course readings and viewing the supplemental material/resources to ensure your success on these activities.

**Quizzes (70 points):** There will be 14 quizzes (each worth 5 points) at the beginning of each chapter. Each quiz will have 5 multiple-choice or true/false questions covering the content of each chapter. Make sure you have read over the chapters before coming to class. These quizzes will be given the first 5 minutes of class and will be used as to account for your attendance.

**Exams (400 points):** There will be 4 non-cumulative exams during the semester covering material presented in the textbook and in Blackboard. Exams will include 50 multiple-choice, true-false, and short answer/essay questions. **All exams are given F-2-F (during class time)**. See the course schedule on the following page for dates and times for the exams. **If you arrive late to an exam and any of your classmates have already finished the exam and left the room, you will not be permitted to take the exam.**

1. **Special Requirements:** If you miss an exam, you cannot make it up, but there will be an optional *cumulative final exam* available which can be used to replace the score for the exam you missed. If you miss more than two exams, you will be asked to drop the class.

## Course Calendar: PSYC 2301, Sections 006 (T/TH), Spring 2023

### General Psychology

*The instructor reserves the right to change the course outline as needed and will inform students of any changes.*

| DATE   | Topics, Assignments, Quizzes, Exams:   | DUE DATES  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Wk. 1</b><br>Jan. 17-20   | 1/17: Introduction to Course<br>1/19: Intro. to Chapter 1 "Introduction to Psychology"<br>→ <b>"Getting to Know You" Quiz Due</b><br>→ <b>Introductory Video Due</b>                                   | <b>Due by <u>midnight</u>, Sun., Jan. 22</b><br><b>Due by <u>midnight</u>, Sun., Jan. 22</b> |
| <b>Wk. 2</b><br>Jan. 23-27   | 1/24: Chapter 1 "Introduction to Psychology" <b>Quiz 1</b><br>1/26: Chapter 2 "Psychological Research"<br><b>Quiz 2</b><br><b>Activity 1</b>   |  |
| <b>Wk. 3</b><br>Jan. 30 – Feb. 3                                     | 1/31: Chapter 2 "Psychological Research"<br>→ <b>Application Assignment 1: "Research in Psychology" Due</b><br>2/2: Chapter 3 "Biopsychology" <b>Quiz 3</b><br><b>Activity 2</b>                       | <b>Due by <u>midnight</u>, Sun., Feb. 5</b>  |
| <b>Wk. 4</b><br>Feb. 6 - 10  | 2/7: Chapter 3 "Biopsychology"<br>2/9: <b>Exam 1</b>   |  |
| <b>Wk. 5</b><br>Feb. 13 - 17   | 2/14: Chapter 4 "States of Consciousness" <b>Quiz 4</b><br>2/16: Chapter 4 "States of Consciousness"<br>→ <b>Application Assignment 2: "Sleep" Due</b>   | <b>Due by <u>midnight</u> Sun., Feb. 19</b>  |
| <b>Wk. 6</b><br>Feb. 20 - 24   | 2/21: Chapter 6: "Learning" <b>Quiz 5</b><br>2/23: Chapter 6: "Learning"   |  |
| <b>Wk. 7</b><br>Feb. 27 – Mar. 3                                     | 2/28: Chapter 7 "Thinking and Intelligence" <b>Quiz 6</b><br>3/2: Chapter 7 "Thinking and Intelligence"  |  |
| <b>Wk. 8</b><br>Mar. 6 - 10  | 3/7: Chapter 8 "Memory" <b>Quiz 7</b><br><b>Activity 3</b><br>3/9: Chapter 8 "Memory"  |  |
| <b>Wk. 9</b><br>March 13 - 19  | <b>SPRING BREAK</b>  |  |
| <b>Wk.10</b><br>Mar. 20 - 24   | 3/21: <b>Exam 2</b><br>3/23: Chapter 9 "Lifespan Development" <b>Quiz 8</b>  |  |
| <b>Wk. 11</b><br>Mar. 27 - 31  | 3/28: Chapter 10 "Emotion and Motivation" <b>Quiz 9</b><br>3/28: Chapter 10 "Emotion and Motivation"<br><b>Activity 4</b>  |  |
| <b>Wk. 12</b><br>Apr. 3 – 6<br><small>(Apr. 7 – SPC Holiday)</small> | 4/4: Chapter 11 "Personality" <b>Quiz 10</b><br>4/6: Chapter 11 "Personality"  |  |
| <b>Wk. 13</b><br>Apr. 10 - 14  | 4/11: <b>Exam 3</b><br>4/13: Chapter 12 "Social Psychology" <b>Quiz 11</b>   |  |
| <b>Wk. 14</b><br>Apr. 17 - 21  | 4/18: Chapter 12 "Social Psychology"<br>4/20: Chapter 14 "Stress, Lifestyle, and Health" <b>Quiz 12</b>  |  |
| <b>Wk. 15</b><br>Apr. 24 - 28  | 4/25: Chapter 14 "Stress, Lifestyle, and Health"<br><b>Activity 5</b><br>4/27: Chapter 15 "Psychological Disorders" <b>Quiz 13</b><br>→ <b>Application Assignment 3: Stress &amp; Personality" Due</b> | <b>Due by <u>midnight</u>, Sun., Apr. 30</b>   |
| <b>Wk. 16</b><br>May 1 - 5   | 5/2: Chapter 15 "Psychological Disorders"<br>5/4: Chapter 16 "Therapy & Treatment" <b>Quiz 14</b>  |  |
| <b>Wk. 17</b><br><del>May 11</del><br><b>Finals Week</b>             | <b>5/11: Exam 4</b><br><b>8:00 – 10:00 AM (in the same classroom where we have been meeting)</b>   |  |

*Note: To prepare for each week, it is in your best interest to read the assigned chapters on your own. Take detailed notes on these chapters and use any other materials provided. Even on days when nothing is due, you should be reading, studying, viewing supplemental materials, reviewing, or rereading. You are strongly encouraged to develop a system for keeping up with these deadlines. This might include printing out this document and hanging in your home. Other options include writing deadlines in your own planner or calendar, adding reminders in your phone or on other devices, or adding reminders/deadlines to the Blackboard calendar on your own.*