PSYC 1315: Introduction to Psychology

Fall 2021

## Instructor Information

### Instructors

Sampoorna Nandi

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### Office Number

Psychology Department Office Number: LS 306

### Office Telephone Number

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### Email Address

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### Office Hours

*Nandi office hours:* Tuesday 11.00 am - 12 pm (LS 306) or by appointment (via Teams or in-person)

*Linhardt office hours:* Wednesday 9:00am-10am or by appointment (via Teams or in-person)

Office: TBD

## Course Information

### Section Information

2218-PSYC-1315-004

### Time and Place of Class Meetings

Tuesdays/Thursdays 9.30 -10.50 am in ARCH 204

**Majority On Campus:** The majority of course instruction, exams and projects delivered on-campus or at designated instructional sites, in-person.

This is an On Campus class is scheduled to meet on **Tuesdays/Thursdays from 9.30-10.50 a.m.** Students will be required to attend all class sessions on campus (unless otherwise noted in the syllabus or announced in Canvas) on all scheduled days/times throughout the semester.

**NOTE: In following the requirements by UTA to operate at 50% of classroom capacity till September 8th, 2021, the first two weeks of class will operate in hybrid format (one group will come into campus and the other will join the class live through Microsoft Teams).**

**\*During this time, wearing masks is not required but recommended for those attending the class in-person. Students are encouraged to practice social distancing and seat themselves at least one seat (if not a few seats) apart from one another.\***

### Description of Course Content

This course introduces students to the phenomena, principles, and theories of psychology. Psychologists study how biological, cognitive, social, and cultural factors interact to determine how we develop such a complex range of behaviours, emotions, and cognitions. Psychologists seek to understand why and how risk factors lead some individuals to suffer from psychological disorders, while others are resilient in the face of adversity. This course is designed to interest and meet the needs of both psychology majors and non-majors. This course satisfies the University of Texas at Arlington core curriculum requirement in social and behavioural sciences. As such, it contains core objectives in critical thinking, communication, empirical and quantitative reasoning, and social responsibility.

### Student Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, students should be able to:

* Be familiar with key psychological theories
* Understand the basic principles of psychological research
* Be aware of the various sub-disciplines in psychology
* Have a basic understanding when reading and evaluating psychology articles
* Understand how psychology can be applied to our everyday lives

In addition, as this course satisfies the University of Texas at Arlington core curriculum requirement in social and behavioural sciences, it contains core objectives and learning outcomes in the following:

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

**Assessment of Core Curriculum Objectives**

The Core Curriculum Objectives (critical thinking, communication, empirical and quantitative skills, and social responsibility) will be assessed as items in an end of year quiz to be explained by your course instructor*.* As with the Research Participation Requirement, completion of this assessment is required in order to fulfil Core Curriculum Objectives.

**Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:** Required Textbook:  
King, Laura (2017) The Science of Psychology: An Appreciative View, 5th Edition e-book with accompanying Connect Plus software.

* **Purchase Options:**

You can purchase a loose leaf copy of the textbook in Connect after registration. Connect comes with the eBooks, but if there are in students that prefer a physical book in addition to their eBook, they can purchase the loose leaf. For those students that purchase at the bookstore, they will be purchasing an access code which they use to access your Connect course when they go to register. So basically students have 2 purchasing choices: purchase directly in Connect, or purchase their access code at the bookstore to redeem in Connect.

The e-book and Connect Plus bundle can be purchased at the UTA bookstore. Using older additions of the textbook is not recommended since it can cause a lot of confusion. There is also the option of purchasing online access to Connect and the digital textbook directly from the Connect website, which may be cheaper. For those students that purchase at the bookstore, they will be purchasing an access code which they use to access your Connect course when they go to register.

In summary, there are 2 purchasing choices: purchase directly in Connect, or purchase an access code at the bookstore to redeem in Connect.

**Please use your UTA email address when you register for Connect. Connect provides a free two- week trial.** If you take advantage of the trial, be sure to use the same login when you purchase the access code. **You MUST have access to Connect in order to pass this course.** For those of you who will purchase the book at the UTA bookstore, you will be purchasing an access code which you will use to access your Connect course when you go to register.

### Scantrons:

Pick up a minimum of four (4) 882 E Scantron forms for exams, available at the bookstore and at the University Center. You must bring your Scantron forms (and your #2 pencils) to each scheduled exam. **Students who bring a scantron that is crumpled and bent to the point that it cannot be run will have five points deducted from their exam grade.**

### Canvas:

Canvas will be an important component throughout the semester. Your grades will be posted through Canvas, and supplemental resources will be provided. Make sure you have access to Canvas. Canvas support is available 24/7 by calling 1 (855) 597-3401 or visiting.

## DESCRIPTIONS OF MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS

### SmartBook 2.0 Assignments: 30% of Final Grade

SmartBook is an interactive text designed to help you review the material learned in each chapter. The SmartBook system continually adjusts to your level of content mastery. A link to each SmartBook assignment can be found on Canvas.

Each chapter on average will take approximately 45 to 60 minutes to complete. Scores are assigned based on the percentage of mastery for each assignment. There will be 17 SmartBook assignments, each assignment will be worth **12 points**. Only scores for your top 10 SmartBook assignments will count towards your final grade to total 120 points, the lowest seven scores will be dropped from your final grade.

The SmartBook Assignments can also be accessed on your iPhone or iPad and synced with Canvas:  
Go here to download the iPhone app\*: https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/learnsmart/id365879172?mt=8

### Exams: 50% of Final Grade

There will be FOUR (4) unit exams (50-questions each) and ONE (1) comprehensive final exam (75-questions each) taken in class. *Students can avoid taking the comprehensive final exam by making sure they take all four (4) unit exams and getting satisfactory grades on them.* However, if a student misses an exam, there are no make-up exams. The only thing a student can do to correct the missing exam grade will be to plan to take the final exam according to the final exam schedule provided by the University. Likewise, if a student gets a low score on a unit exam, they can take the final exam to replace the lowest exam grade.

**Attendance: 10% of Final Grade**

Regular attendance and participation will count towards your final grade. Students are expected to come to class having read the book chapter being taught on a specific day (check course schedule) and participate in in-class discussions held regarding that chapter. This is a fairly straightforward and easy path to earning points and hence you are strongly recommended to take advantage of it.

**Research Participation Requirement: 5% of Final Grade**

The Psychology Department *requires* that all students taking Introduction to Psychology complete a research requirement. This requirement consists of participating in experiments conducted by Department Faculty and their Research Assistants. The UT Arlington Human Research Review Committee approves these experiments. A typical 30-minute experiment is worth 0.5-credit. Hence, if you participate in two 30-minute studies or one 60-minute study, you meet your research participation requirements. In lieu of participating in experiments, you may choose to write reviews of current research articles. Each review is worth **1-credit.** You will not be graded on your performance in an experiment or on your reviews.

Note: The purpose of the requirement is to give you first-hand knowledge of psychological experimentation, but in my experience, participating in these research studies is a really fun way to learn about all the cool things psychologists do research on.

**For additional information about this requirement, please go to http://www.uta.edu/psychology and click on Research Participation (in the Links section) to receive a copy of the latest Psychology Pool Handout.** More details will be provided in an orientation session and in an information handout. Points are **not** added to the course grade for completion of the research participation requirement.

**Discussion Threads: 5% of Final Grade**

Throughout the semester students will be asked to participant in **five** Discussion Threads via Canvas. All students will be asked a question that coincides with the given lecture/unit topic and provokes critical thought about psychology. Once again, this is a very easy and fun way to learn and apply your class material and earn points towards your final grade. Please take advantage of this!

### Summary of Graded Work

| **Assignments** | **Percentage** | **Points** | **Totals** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SmartBook 2.0 Assignments | 30% | 12 points each (Drop lowest 7) | 120 points |
| Unit Exams (4) &  Comprehensive Final Exam | 50% | 100 points each  (Drop lowest exam grade) | 200 points |
| Attendance | 10% |  | 40 points |
| Research Participation | 5% |  | 20 points |
| Discussion Threads | 5% |  | 20 points |
| Total |  |  | 400 points |

### Note: *While the deadlines for the SmartBook Assignments are due at the end of the unit, it is highly encouraged that you complete each assignment with its respective chapter and week.*

### Final Grade

| Points | Percentages | Letter Grade |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 360 – 400 | 90-100% | A |
| 320 – 359 | 80-89.9% | B |
| 280 – 319 | 70-79.9% | C |
| 240 – 279 | 60-69.9% | D |
| Below 240 | 00-59.9% | F |

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester which Canvas facilitates and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels; see “Student Support Services,” below.

### Technology Requirements

Students will use Connect for the SmartBook 2.0 assignments. Students will also access Canvas to keep track of course progress and stay informed regarding news and events taking place in class.

Students will take four (4) Unit Exams in class on specified Exam Days and a Comprehensive Final Exam on the date given in the Final Exam Schedule published by the University. Students will need to bring a scantron (Form 883-E) and a number 2 pencil with an eraser to each exam. This means you will need a minimum of four (4) scantron forms to take all four exams in this class.

### Make-up Exams

There are four 50-question Unit Exams and a Comprehensive 75-question Final Exam (which will include all chapters). If a student is satisfied with their grade after completing the third exam, they can choose to not take the Final Exam. Alternatively, the student can decide to take the Final Exam to try for a higher grade. The lowest exam grade will be dropped at the end of the course. The remaining four exams will be added with the top 10 SmartBook 2.0 assignments scores.

**There are NO MAKE UP EXAMS**. If you miss an exam, regardless of the reason (illness, schedule conflict, etc.), you will need to plan to take the Comprehensive Final Exam to make up the grade on the missed exam. Likewise, if a student arrives late – after any student has turned in their completed scantron and left the room – on the day of an exam, they will not be allowed to take the exam. **Mark Exam Days in your calendar now to keep you prepared in advance for these possibilities.**

### Rules for Exam Days:

* Exams start at the beginning of class. Generally, students can use the first few minutes of class time to ask questions or do some last-minute studying.
* Do not write on the exams.
* Fill in your scantron form with your answers.
* Review every page of the exam to be sure you do not miss any questions simply because you didn’t answer them.
* Once an exam begins, you may not leave the classroom for any reason until you turn it in.
* Be sure to use the restroom facilities before the exam.
* There is no talking during an exam.
* An exam is closed once the first student turns in his/her exam.  This means that no one else will be allowed into the room to take that exam.
* The exam cannot then be re-scheduled.  You need to be sure to arrive on time to class on exam day, so you do not miss it.  Think of it like taking a trip by plane.  Your plane is scheduled to depart at a particular time.  If you miss your flight, will it come back for you? No.  It is gone.
* There are no make-up exams.  If you miss an exam, you will earn a zero for that exam.  You can take the final exam to make up the score for the missed exam.

### Classroom Protocol:

* No personal conversations with one another while the instructor is talking, holding a discussion or when another student has the floor.
* Unless you have an ADA provision, the instructor will not allow recording of any kind during class.
* Please silence your cell phones during class. These are very disruptive.
* Once class begins, please do not disrupt the class. If you need to leave the classroom and return for any reason, please do so quietly and respectfully to avoid interrupting the class. If the behavior becomes an issue, please discuss your circumstances with your instructor.
* Students are allowed to use laptops or other electronic devices during class for note-taking purposes. Please keep these devices muted to minimize disruption. If you need to plug your device into a wall outlet, please arrive early to get a seat near one.

### Expectations for Out-of-Class Study

Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 9 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

### Grade Grievances

Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current University Catalog (see [Undergraduate Grading Policies](http://catalog.uta.edu/academicregulations/grades/#undergraduatetext) for more information)

## Course Schedule

| Day | Date | Ch | Topic | Important Deadlines (11.59 pm) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| TH | 8/26 | - | Syllabus Discussion & Introduction |  |
| TU | 8/31 | 1 | Introduction to Psychology |  |
| TH | 9/2 | 3 | The Biological Basis of Behavior |  |
| TU | 9/7 | 2 | The Scientific Method |  |
| TH | 9/9 | 4 | Sensation and Perception |  |
| TU | 9/14 |  | Exam Review |  |
| TH | 9/16 |  | **UNIT 1 EXAM: Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4** | Unit 1 SmartBook Assignments Due |
| TU | 9/21 | 5 | States of Consciousness | Unit 1 Discussion Thread(s) |
| TH | 9/23 | 6 | Learning |  |
| TU | 9/28 | 7 | Memory |  |
| TH | 9/30 | 8 | Thinking, Intelligence, and Language |  |
| TU | 10/5 | 10 | Motivation and Emotion |  |
| TH | 10/7 |  | Exam Review |  |
| TU | 10/12 |  | **UNIT 2 EXAM: Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10** | Unit 2 SmartBook Assignments Due |
| TH | 10/14 | 9 | Human Development | Unit 2 Discussion Thread(s) |
| TU | 10/19 | 11 | Gender, Sex, and Sexuality |  |
| TH | 10/21 | 12 | Personality |  |
| TU | 10/26 | 13 | Social Psychology |  |
| TH | 10/28 | 13 | Social Psychology |  |
| TU | 11/2 |  | Exam Review |  |
| TH | 11/4 |  | **UNIT 3 EXAM: Chapters 9, 11, 12, and 13** | Unit 3 SmartBook Assignments Due |
| FRI | 11/5 |  | Last day to withdraw from the course with a “W” grade | Unit 3 Discussion Thread(s) |
| TU | 11/9 | 14 | Industrial-Organizational Psychology |  |
| TH | 11/11 | 14 | Industrial-Organizational Psychology |  |
| TU | 11/16 | 15 | Psychological Disorders |  |
| TH | 11/18 | 16 | Therapies |  |
| TU | 11/23 | 17 | Health Psychology |  |
| TH | 11/25 | H | **No Class** – Holiday |  |
| TU | 11/30 |  | Exam Review |  |
| TH | 12/2 |  | **UNIT 4 EXAM: Chapters 14, 15, 16, and 17** | Unit 4 SmartBook Assignments Due |
| TU | 12/7 |  | **No Class** – Exam Prep | Unit 4 Discussion Thread(s) |
| TH | 12/9 | 1-17 | Comprehensive FINAL EXAM |  |

Note: ***Instructors reserve the right to change or update the course schedule (topics covered, dates, etc.) and all students will be informed in advance of these changes.***

Final exam schedules will be posted at the following web site: <https://www.uta.edu/records/calendars/final-exams.php>  Please note that the final exam schedule is tentative. The final exam schedules could change approximately two weeks prior to final exam week.

## Institutional Information

UTA students are encouraged to review the below institutional policies and informational sections and reach out to the specific office with any questions. To view this institutional information, please visit the [Institutional Information](https://resources.uta.edu/provost/course-related-info/institutional-policies.php) page (https://resources.uta.edu/provost/course-related-info/institutional-policies.php) which includes the following policies among others:

* Drop Policy
* Disability Accommodations
* Title IX Policy
* Academic Integrity
* Student Feedback Survey
* Final Exam Schedule

## Additional Information

### Face Covering Policy

While the use of face coverings on campus is no longer mandatory, all students and instructional staff are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings while they are on campus. This is particularly true inside buildings and within classrooms and labs where social distancing is not possible due to limited space. If a student needs accommodations to ensure social distancing in the classroom due to being at high risk, they are encouraged to work directly with the Student Access and Resource Center to assist in these accommodations. If students need masks, they may obtain them at the Central Library, the E.H. Hereford University Center’s front desk or in their department.

### Attendance

At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator of student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, the most important days that students must attend are Exam Days. Class days will be spent discussing concepts and learning in groups. However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients “begin attendance in a course.” UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report must the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Canvas. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

### Emergency Exit Procedures

Should we experience an emergency event that requires evacuation of the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located outside LS 119 to the right or left of the class entrances. When exiting the building during an emergency, do not take an elevator but use the stairwells instead. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

Students are also encouraged to subscribe to the MavAlert system that will send information in case of an emergency to their cell phones or email accounts. Anyone can subscribe at [Emergency Communication System](https://www.uta.edu/uta/emergency.php).

### Academic Success Center

The Academic Success Center (ASC) includes a variety of resources and services to help you maximize your learning and succeed as a student at the University of Texas at Arlington. ASC services include supplemental instruction, peer-led team learning, tutoring, mentoring and TRIO SSS. Academic Success Center services are provided at no additional cost to UTA students. For additional information visit: [Academic Success Center](https://www.uta.edu/student-success/course-assistance). To request disability accommodations for tutoring, please complete this [form](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Q1vcXL7XqkyBc3KeOwpi2ccSjcIXpSJAqJFuDEhczLlUMVVHRVRIVlJJWDZJWlVYOUgxNjRPODdLVS4u).

**The** [**IDEAS Center**](https://www.uta.edu/ideas/) (https://www.uta.edu/ideas/) **(**2nd Floor of Central Library) offers **FREE** [tutoring](https://www.uta.edu/ideas/services/tutoring/index.php) and [mentoring](https://www.uta.edu/ideas/services/mentoring/index.php) to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. Students can drop in or check the schedule of available peer tutors at www.uta.edu/IDEAS, or call (817) 272-6593.

### The English Writing Center (411LIBR)

The Writing Center offers **FREE** tutoring in 15-, 30-, 45-, and 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Register and make appointments online at the [Writing Center](https://uta.mywconline.com/) (https://uta.mywconline.com). Classroom visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see [Writing Center: OWL](http://www.uta.edu/owl) for detailed information on all our programs and services.

The Library’s 2nd floor [Academic Plaza](http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza) (http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza) offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the [library’s hours](https://library.uta.edu/hours) of operation.

## Emergency Phone Numbers

Enter the UTA Police Department’s emergency phone number into your own mobile phone.] In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381

## Library Information

### Research or General Library Help

### Ask for Help

* [Academic Plaza Consultation Services](https://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza)(library.uta.edu/academic-plaza)
* [Ask Us](http://ask.uta.edu/)([ask.uta.edu/](http://ask.uta.edu/))
* [Research Coaches](https://library.uta.edu/subject-librarians) (<http://libguides.uta.edu/researchcoach>)

### Resources

* [Library Tutorials](https://library.uta.edu/how-to) ([library.uta.edu/how-to](http://library.uta.edu/how-to))
* [Subject and Course Research Guides](https://libguides.uta.edu/) ([libguides.uta.edu](http://libguides.uta.edu/))
* [Librarians by Subject](https://library.uta.edu/subject-librarians) (library.uta.edu/subject-librarians)
* [A to Z List of Library Databases](https://libguides.uta.edu/az.php) (libguides.uta.edu/az.php)
* [Course Reserves](file:///Users/sampoornanandi/Downloads/Course%20Reserves )(<https://uta.summon.serialssolutions.com/#!/course_reserves>)
* [Study Room Reservations](https://openroom.uta.edu/)(openroom.uta.edu/)