

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

Introduction to Psychology

Instructor: Scott L. Coleman, Ph.D.

Office: 415 Life Science

Office Hours: MW 11 – 12:00 noon Teams, face-to-face, or by appointment

Phone: Psychology Department (817) 272-2281; Office (817) 272-0345

Mailbox: Psychology Department, Box 19528

Email: Send electronic mail regarding this course via Canvas

Weblinks: **Psychology Department** <http://www.uta.edu/psychology/>

Class uta.instructure.com

SONA <http://uta.sona-systems.com/>

Teaching Assistant: To Be Announced

Course Description and Information

Section Information

1315-005 PSYC Introduction to Psychology (3-0) 3 hours credit

Place and Time of Class Meetings

Location University Hall room 108. Time TTH, 11-12:20 p.m. Note: Video recordings of lectures will be posted to Canvas for student convenience.

Course Description

1315. Introduction to Psychology (3-0) 3 hours credit. The course is a general survey of the various areas of psychology and is intended to provide a scientific basis for understanding thoughts, emotions, and behavior. The course is designed to interest and meet the needs of both majors and non- majors. This course satisfies the University of Texas at Arlington core curriculum requirement in social and behavioral sciences. As such, it contains core objectives in critical thinking, communication, empirical and quantitative reasoning, and social responsibility.

Required Electronic Textbook

“The Science of Psychology” by Laura A. King, 4th edition. Please note: Students should only purchase the Connect Code which will give access to the electronic version and required Learn Smart course assignments. A print version of the textbook is available for a nominal fee if a student wishes to have a hard copy. Information on registering for Connect will be presented in class.

Course Objectives

The material will cover research, theories, and applications of a wide range of psychological concepts, and will be designed to translate into and assess competencies in scientific and critical thinking, communication, empirical and quantitative reasoning, and social responsibility.

Student Learning Outcomes

Instructional goals are directed toward enabling students to recognize and recall basic facts and understand major concepts and terminology in all fields of psychology. Exams will focus the instructional goals listed above.

Upon completion of this course, students will:

- 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 behavioral 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 reasoning, and social responsibility) will be assessed as items in a regularly scheduled exam, to

be explained by your course instructor. As with the Research Participation Requirement, completion of this assessment is required, in order to fulfill Core Curriculum objectives.

Special Course Requirements

LearnSmart Assignments

LearnSmart is an interactive learning system designed to help you review the material learned in each chapter. The LearnSmart system continually adjusts to your level of content mastery. Each assignment will appear in a content folder found in Canvas corresponding to the exam it appears in. All LearnSmart assignments in each content folder **MUST** be completed by Midnight prior to the exam it corresponds with. The specific due date and time is also shown on the corresponding folder in Canvas. Each chapter assignment will take approximately 45 minutes to 75 minutes to complete and will include between 60-100 questions. Scores are assigned based on the percentage of mastery for each assignment. The LearnSmart assignments will be worth a total of 100 points or the same value of a single exam. Additional instruction on the Learn Smart assignment will be provided in lecture. Scoring of the LearnSmart assignments may require the student to follow specific instructions in order to receive credit in Canvas. Please note: It is the student's responsibility to properly "sync" grades from LearnSmart to Canvas.

Research Participation Requirement

The Psychology Department requires that all students taking Introduction to Psychology complete a 6-credit research requirement. You will be able to complete this requirement by participating in on site or online research conducted by department faculty and their research assistants. As an alternative to participating in research, you may choose to write reviews of approved research articles. Completing this assignment will be done via **Sona** (<http://uta.sona-systems.com/>). A departmental handout detailing this requirement and important deadlines can be found at www.uta.edu/psychology at the **research participation information link**. Questions pertaining to this assignment can be sent to psycpool@uta.edu. Points are **not** added to the course grade for completion of the research participation requirement.

Grading Information

Examinations

There will be three regular exams and a comprehensive final exam given online using Canvas. Responsus and Monitor lockdown browser will be required for the exam (See Canvas for information about use lockdown browser). Exams will be available between 8 am to 8 pm on the date of the exam (see course outline at the end of the syllabus). The exams will cover lectures, videos and assigned textbook readings. Each regular exam will contain approximately 50 multiple choice questions and the comprehensive final exam will consist of approximately 80 questions. The final exam will have approximately 20 questions from new material, 40 questions from the core curriculum material, and 20 questions based on previous exams.

Grading

Each exam will be worth 100 points. The lowest exam score (including final) will be dropped for the calculation of overall course grade. Thus the course grade will be based the 3 highest exam grades and completion of online LearnSmart assignments, plus extra credit points that apply for a total of 400 points. The grade for each exam will be based on the % correct of the exam questions. The minimum per cent points for a letter grade are (A=90, B= 80, C=70, D= 60. F= below 60. All exams, including the final exam, are of equal weight. Please note: Exams **will not** be curved.

Missed Exams

A single “make-up” exam session for missed exams will be held on **Thursday December 9, 2021**. A request for taking a make-up exam must be made in writing. **Note: the “make-up exam” is not a “do-over” exam for poor performance on a previously taken exam.**

Grade Grievance Policy

Students wishing to submit a grievance concerning the grade received in this course should follow the procedures outlined in the undergraduate catalog.

Drop Policy

Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

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

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit

<http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

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 an accommodation 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 Policy

Attendance is a critical indicator of student success and is strongly encouraged. Therefore, class attendance will be taken on 10 occasions during the semester. Being present on 7 or more of these days will earn a full 5% extra-credit or 20 points. Being absent on more than 3 days will earn 0%, or 0 points. Please note: **Attendance is taken at the end of lecture via Canvas quiz.** In addition, 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.

Student Success Programs

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include [tutoring by appointment](#), [drop-in tutoring](#), [etutoring](#), [supplemental instruction](#), [mentoring](#) (time management, study skills, etc.), [success coaching](#), [TRIO Student Support Services](#), and [student success workshops](#). For additional information, please email resources@uta.edu, or view the [Maverick Resources](#) website.

The IDEAS Center (<https://www.uta.edu/ideas/>) (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers **FREE tutoring** and **mentoring** 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.

Emergency Response

Emergency Phone Number

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

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. 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 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](#).

Course Outline

(Note: As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. – Dr. Coleman)

Chapter Reading Assignments for Exam 1

Chapter 1 What is Psychology?

Chapter 2 Psychology's Scientific Method

Chapter 3 Biological Foundation of Behavior

Chapter 9 Human Development

Exam 1: Thursday, September 23 (online)

Chapter Reading Assignments for Exam 2

Chapter 5 States of Consciousness

Chapter 6 Learning

Chapter 8 Thinking, Intelligence and Language

Chapter 10 Motivation and Emotion

Exam 2: Thursday, October 21 (online)

Chapter Reading Assignments for Exam 3

Chapter 12 Personality

Chapter 13 Social Psychology

Chapter 15 Psychological Disorders

Exam 3: Tuesday, November 20 (online)

Reading Assignments for Final Exam

Chapter 16 Therapy

FINAL EXAM: Friday, December 9 (online)

The Final exam is comprehensive with questions related to course material (lectures, text, videos, etc.) found in chapter 16 (Therapy) and to all previously assigned chapters course material.
