

PSYC 1315: Introduction to Psychology

Fall 2021

Instructor Information

Instructor:

Rachel Baldrige, M.S.

Email Address:

rachel.baldrige@uta.edu

Faculty Profile:

[My Faculty Profile](#)

Office Hours:

Meetings via Teams by appointment only.

Course Information

Section Information:

PSYC 1315-008

Time and Place of Class Meetings:

Online - Asynchronous

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 behaviors, 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 behavioral 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 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.

Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:

Required Textbook:

King, Laura (2020) The Science of Psychology: An Appreciative View, 5th Edition e-book with accompanying Connect Plus software. ISBN: 9781265746971

The e-book and Connect Plus bundle can be purchased at the UTA bookstore. **Connect provides a free two-week trial. You MUST have access to Connect in order to pass this course.**

When registering for Connect for the first time, you must log in to Connect through Canvas to sync up your Connect and Canvas gradebooks. If students fail to sync their accounts, they will not have their Connect grades show up in Canvas, and they will have 10 points deducted from their overall grade.

Connect's Proctorio

In order to ensure academic integrity, Unit Exams will be proctored using Connect's proctoring system, Proctorio. Please see Proctorio system requirements. An updated version of Chrome is required, as well as a webcam and reliable internet access. **Students should download the Proctorio Chrome extension at the beginning of the semester.** There is a Proctorio trial assignment that students can use to ensure they are set up correctly before beginning an exam.

Canvas

As an online course, Canvas will be integral throughout the semester for access to your grades, Connect Plus resources and assignments among other things. Make sure you have access to Canvas. Canvas support is available 24/7 by calling 1 (855) 597-3401 or visiting <https://community.canvaslms.com/community/answers/guides/>.

Teams

The use of Microsoft Teams will be optional. We will have a first day of class meeting via Microsoft Teams where I will go over the syllabus and answer any questions students may have. Teams may also be used for extra credit opportunities and office hours.

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:

SmartBook Assignments:

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 and will include between 50 - 75 questions. Scores are assigned based on the percentage of mastery for each assignment. Each SmartBook module will be worth 10 points.

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>

***All work completed on the iPhone/ iPad app WILL sync with Canvas; however, you MUST check in via computer once per chapter to get the mobile work to sync.**

Chapter Assignments:

To supplement the PowerPoints and SmartBook assignments, a Chapter Assignment will be assigned for each chapter. These are meant to engage the students in the content through articles, activities, and videos. **In order to earn credit for these assignments, students need to answer all questions in 3-5 complete sentences. Answers with grammar, spelling and/or punctuation errors will not receive credit.** Students will only have one attempt for these assignments, and will have 45 minutes to complete them. Therefore, do not begin a Chapter Assignment unless you intend to complete it. The Chapter Assignments are worth 10 points each for a total of 170 points.

Chapter Quizzes:

There are 17 chapter quizzes that are worth 15 points each. The quizzes can be accessed on the Connect Plus site via Canvas. These quizzes are meant to help with better comprehension and application. For this reason, you may use your textbook to answer questions, and you will have two attempts with the highest score being recorded. **I will not give you one of your attempts back due to technical issues** (poor wifi connection, dead battery on your computer, etc) so please make sure that nothing is going to interfere with completing your quiz. The quizzes have a time limit of 25 minutes. **If you start a quiz and do not finish, Connect Plus will automatically submit your attempt so please be sure to not begin a quiz unless you have the time to finish it.**

Exams:

There will be three Unit Exams (50 multiple choice questions) and a comprehensive Final Exam (100 multiple choice questions). Each exam is worth 100 points each.

Unit exams will have a time limit of 60 minutes, while the final exam will have a time limit of 110 minutes. As with quizzes, please make sure to allot yourself adequate time to complete the exams. **Connect Plus will automatically submit your exam if you fail to finish the exam so make sure you have enough time to complete the exam and that you will not have technical issues that interfere.**

Other Requirements

Research Participation Requirement:

The Psychology Department *requires* that all students taking Introduction to Psychology complete a 6-credit 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. The purpose of the requirement is to give you first-hand knowledge of psychological experimentation. 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.

FAILURE TO COMPLETE THE REQUIREMENT WILL RESULT IN AN INCOMPLETE FOR THE CLASS. You will then need to complete your requirement during the next semester or the incomplete will turn into an "F."

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.

Grading Information

Assignments	Points	Totals
SmartBook Assignments	17 @ 10 points each	170 points
Chapter Assignments	17 @ 10 points each	170 points
Chapter Quizzes	17 @ 15 points each	255 points
Unit Exams	3 @ 100 points each	300 points
Final Exam	1 @ 100 points each	100 points

Summary of Graded Work

Total Points Possible: 995 points

Grading Scale

Points	Percentages	Letter Grade
895 - 995	90-100%	A
796 - 894	80-89%	B
696 - 795	70-79%	C
597 - 695	60-69%	D
Below 597	0-59%	F

Grading Policies

The instructor reserves the right to include additional assignments, tests and/or unannounced quizzes, increasing the number of total possible points.

Should there be any discrepancy between the letter grade that is automatically calculated by Canvas and the syllabus grading scale, the syllabus grading scale will be used to determine your final letter grade

Do not e-mail me to ask for more points so that you can get the grade that you want. If you want a specific grade, then you need to put in the effort necessary to obtain said grade. I do not round up to the next letter grade so pay close attention to the cut-off for each letter grade.

Late Assignments/Exams

Because all coursework is available from the course start date, all deadlines are final, no exceptions, regardless of the circumstances. Students who do not submit work or an exam by the indicated deadline will automatically receive a zero.

Course Schedule

Unit 1: Chapters 1 – 5

Chapter 1 – What is Psychology?

- SmartBook
- Chapter Assignment
- Quiz

Chapter 2 – Psychology's Scientific Method

- SmartBook
- Chapter Assignment
- Quiz

Chapter 3 – Biological Foundations of Behavior

- SmartBook
- Chapter Assignment
- Quiz

Chapter 4 – Sensation & Perception

- SmartBook
- Chapter Assignment
- Quiz

Chapter 5 – States of Consciousness

- SmartBook
- Chapter Assignment
- Quiz

Unit 1 Exam – Chapters 1 – 5

Unit 1 Optional Deadline for Five Points Extra Credit: Thursday, September 9th at 5pm

- In order to earn extra credit, all SmartBook, Chapter Assignments, Chapter Quizzes and the Unit 1 Exam must be completed.

Unit 1 Final Deadline is Thursday, September 16th at 5pm

- All SmartBook Assignments, Chapter Assignments and Chapter Quizzes for Chapters 1 – 5, along with the Unit 1 Exam must be submitted. Late work will not be accepted, no exceptions.

Unit 2: Chapters 6 – 9

Chapter 6 – Learning

- SmartBook
- Chapter Assignment
- Quiz

Chapter 7 – Memory

- SmartBook
- Chapter Assignment
- Quiz

Chapter 8 – Thinking, Intelligence, and Language

- SmartBook
- Chapter Assignment
- Quiz

Chapter 9 – Human Development

- SmartBook
- Chapter Assignment
- Quiz

Unit 2 Exam – Chapters 6 – 9

Unit 2 OPTIONAL Deadline for Five Points Extra Credit: Thursday, October 7th at 5pm

- In order to earn extra credit, all SmartBook, Chapter Assignments, Chapter Quizzes and the Unit 2 Exam must be completed.

Unit 2 Final Deadline is Thursday, October 14th at 5pm

- All SmartBook Assignments, Chapter Assignments and Chapter Quizzes for Chapters 6 – 9, along with the Unit 2 Exam must be submitted. Late work will not be accepted, no exceptions.

UNIT 3: Chapters 10 – 13

Chapter 10 – Motivation & Emotion

- SmartBook
- Chapter Assignment
- Quiz

Chapter 11 – Gender, Sex, and Sexuality

- SmartBook
- Chapter Assignment
- Quiz

Chapter 12 – Personality

- SmartBook
- Chapter Assignment
- Quiz

Chapter 13 – Social Psychology

- SmartBook
- Chapter Assignment
- Quiz

Unit 3 Exam – Chapters 10 – 13

Unit 3 Optional Deadline for Five Points Extra Credit: Thursday, November 4th at 5pm

- In order to earn extra credit, all SmartBook, Chapter Assignments, Chapter Quizzes and the Unit 3 Exam must be completed.

Unit 3 Final Deadline is Thursday, November 11th at 5pm

- All SmartBook Assignments, Chapter Assignments and Chapter Quizzes for Chapters 10 – 13, along with the Unit 3 Exam must be submitted. Late work will not be accepted, no exceptions.

UNIT 4: Chapters 14 – 17

Chapter 14 – Industrial & Organizational Psychology

- SmartBook
- Chapter Assignment
- Quiz

Chapter 15 – Psychological Disorders

- SmartBook
- Chapter Assignment
- Quiz

Chapter 16 – Therapies

- SmartBook
- Chapter Assignment
- Quiz

Chapter 17 – Health Psychology

- SmartBook
- Chapter Assignment
- Quiz

Unit 4 Optional Deadline for Five Points Extra Credit: Thursday, December 2nd at 5pm

- In order to earn extra credit, all SmartBook, Chapter Assignments, and the Chapter Quizzes must be submitted.

Unit 4 Final Deadline is Thursday, December 9th at 5pm

- All SmartBook Assignments, Chapter Assignments and Chapter Quizzes for Chapters 14 – 17 must be submitted. Late work will not be accepted, no exceptions.

FINAL EXAM – Chapters 1 – 17

The Final Exam Deadline is WEDNESDAY, December 15th at 5pm

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. – Rachel Baldrige, M.S.

Institution 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](http://www.uta.edu/provost/administrative-forms/course-syllabus/index.php) page (<http://www.uta.edu/provost/administrative-forms/course-syllabus/index.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 in 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 online section, I have structured this course in a manner that facilitates your participation. Your progress with online reading assignments and quizzes will be monitored and tracked, similar to physical attendance in a traditional class setting.

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 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.

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](#). To request disability accommodations for tutoring, please complete this [form](#).