

## Syllabus

Fall 2021

### THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

#### Course Title: PSYC 1315 Introduction to Psychology

**Professor:** Dr. Perry Fuchs

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**Office:** Room 313 Life Sciences (LS), UT Arlington, Box 19528, Arlington, TX 76019

**Office Phone:** (817) 272-2281

**Office hours:** Online

**Time and Place of Class Meetings:** Online go to <https://www.uta.edu/uta/> and click on the “Canvas” link.

#### Required Texts and Materials:

WileyPLUS Learning Space or Huffman, K., and Dowdell, K. Psychology in Action (12th ed.). NJ: Wiley.

You have the following options:

1. Select WileyPLUS Learning Space from within Canvas to purchase instant access. A two-week trial is also available. Instant access is the best value for accessing the required reading and study tools. **It does include the full eTextbook with embedded videos and study tools like Orion adaptive practice.**
2. Purchase a package of the textbook and WPLS access (ISBN 9781119033189) or the textbook or code (9781119000594 / 9781118993552) at the bookstore.

Access to WileyPLUS Learning Space is strongly encouraged over the textbook alone. While you will not be graded on items in WPLS, your overall grade will benefit and your learning experience will be richer. Learn more here, and **remember to log in via elearn/Canvas.**

<https://youtu.be/BBTUcOBRDp4?list=PLxIUeu1L1IFa-R0txLkTAm4OK90W2ZrB4>

#### Course Description:

An introduction to the areas of psychology including historical and contemporary theories and data. Application of basic knowledge to every day life and better self understanding are a focus of the course. The biological, social and cultural influences on the mind and behavior will be presented. 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.

### **Course Objectives:**

Students will be able to distinguish scientific psychological research from pseudopsychology. Knowledge of basic phenomena of psychology such as learning, cognition, development, social and personality traits, abnormal behavior and psychotherapeutical treatments, perception, memory, emotion and motivation, and health will be understood, and theories relevant to these phenomena will be applied to them. 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:**

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 “core assessment” quiz that will be scheduled at the end of the course. The completion of this assessment is required, in order to fulfill Core Curriculum objectives.

### **ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT GENERAL INFORMATION**

**THIS COURSE IS PRESENTED IN CANVAS, WHICH IS, OF COURSE, A SOFTWARE PACKAGE. LIKE MANY SOFTWARE PACKAGES THERE ARE DEFAULT OPERATIONS PERFORMED BY THE SOFTWARE THAT MAY BE CHANGED BY THE OPERATOR OF THE PACKAGE. IN THE CASE OF THIS CLASS THE MOST IMPORTANT PROPERTIES OF THE SOFTWARE, CANVAS, ARE HOW**

**QUIZZES ARE PROGRAMMED. EACH QUIZ IS SCHEDULED FOR 30 MINUTES, MAXIMUM. ONCE YOU START TAKING A QUIZ YOU MAY NOT STOP AND START AGAIN. CANVAS WILL ASSUME THAT ANY TERMINATION FOR ANY REASON MEANS YOU ARE SUBMITTING THE QUIZ, AS IS. SO BE SURE YOUR COMPUTER IS IN GOOD CONDITION, AND NOTHING WILL INTERFERE WITH IT'S FUNCTIONING AS YOU TAKE THE QUIZ.**

**IN ORDER TO PROVIDE SOME FLEXIBILITY IN SCHEDULING YOUR TIME, THE QUIZZES WILL BE POSTED TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE DUE DATE (EXCEPT THE FIRST TWO QUIZZES). SOME ADVICE: DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO TAKE A QUIZ. CANVAS RECORDS THE DATE AND TIME OF ALL INTERACTIONS YOU HAVE ON IT, SO WE KNOW EXACTLY WHEN YOU DID OR DIDN'T DO SOMETHING ON THE SYSTEM.**

**THE DISCUSSION POSTINGS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE COURSE, ACCOUNTING FOR JUST LESS THAN 15% OF THE FINAL GRADE. THE PRIMARY GRADING WILL BE FOR YOUR ORIGINAL POSTING OF YOUR DISCUSSION ANSWER. WE ENCOURAGE INTERACTION BETWEEN STUDENTS AND HOPE YOU WILL DO SO.**

### **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 section, I expect that you will meet assignment deadlines and logon to Canvas on a regular basis to cover course content. I will not take attendance and will allow you to cover course content at your own discretion within the guidelines of the course schedule. 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 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.

### **Assignments and Grade Calculation:**

(Detailed assignment guidelines follow later in the syllabus)

Points Possible = 365

Quizzes over lecture, chapter, and videos: 280 points (14 chapters X 20 points each)

Capstone Quiz: 43 points

Posting of online discussions: 42 points (14 chapters X 3 point each)

**Grading Scale:**

90% and above: A

80 – 89%: B

70 – 79%: C

60 – 69%: D

Below 60%: F

Final grade = total points earned/365 possible points

Schedule of lessons and assignments: You are required to complete all quizzes and discussions by the due dates. All due dates are 11:59 PM on the Friday of the current week of the course. All quizzes and discussion postings will be due on Friday at 11:59 pm. The next assignments will be available on Saturday at 12:00 am and will be available two weeks in advance of the due date. Students should expect to receive feedback on the discussion postings within 7 days after the due date.

**Course Schedule:**

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| <b>Week 1</b> (Aug 16 – Aug 20): Chapters 1 and 2             | Due: Friday, Aug 20, 2021  |
| <b>Week 2</b> (Aug 16 – Aug 27): Chapters 3 and 4             | Due: Friday, Aug 27, 2021  |
| <b>Week 3</b> (Aug 21 – Sept 3): Chapters 6 and 7             | Due: Friday, Sept 3, 2021  |
| <b>Week 4</b> (Aug 28 – Sept 10): Chapter 8                   | Due: Friday, Sept 10, 2021 |
| <b>Week 5</b> (Sept 4 – Sept 17): Chapters 9 and 10           | Due: Friday, Sept 17, 2021 |
| <b>Week 6</b> (Sept 11 – Sept 24): Chapters 12 and 13         | Due: Friday, Sept 24, 2021 |
| <b>Week 7</b> (Sept 18 – Oct 1): Chapters 14 and 15           | Due: Friday, Oct 1, 2021   |
| <b>Week 8</b> (Sept 25 – Oct 8): Chapter 16 and Capstone Quiz | Due: Friday, Oct 8, 2021   |

**\*\*\*All quizzes and discussion assessments are due at 11:59 P.M. CST\*\*\***

**Librarian to contact:** Andy Herzog ([amherzog@uta.edu](mailto:amherzog@uta.edu))

**The Writing Center:**

The Writing Center, Room 411 in the Central Library, will assist you with any writing assignment while you are a student at UT-Arlington. You may check the Writing Center's hours of operation at <http://www.uta.edu/owl/> You may schedule appointments online by following directions available at the site above or by calling (817) 272-2601, or by visiting the Writing Center. If you come to the Writing Center without an appointment, you will be helped on a first-come, first-served basis as tutors become available. Writing Center tutors are carefully chosen and trained, and they can assist you with any aspect of your writing, from understanding an assignment to revising an early draft to polishing a final draft. However, the Writing Center is not an editing service; tutors will not correct your grammar or rewrite your assignment for you, but they will help you learn to solve your grammatical and

organizational problems. I encourage each of you to use the Writing Center.

### **Title IX Policy:**

The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. *For information regarding Title IX, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX) or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or [jmhood@uta.edu](mailto:jmhood@uta.edu).*

### **Academic Integrity:**

Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act:**

UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of **a letter certified** by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

**The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD)** [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability).

**Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS):**

[www.uta.edu/caps/](http://www.uta.edu/caps/) or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

**Student Support Services Available:**

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, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals to resources for any reason, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline by calling 817-272-6107 sending a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or visiting [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**Non-Discrimination Policy:**

*The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit [uta.edu/eos](http://uta.edu/eos).*

**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://www.uta.edu/ses/fao>).

**Electronic Communication Policy:**

UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**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/>

### **Student Feedback Survey:**

At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory will be asked to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS) about the course and how it was taught. Instructions on how to access the SFS system will be sent directly to students through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback data is required by state law; student participation in the SFS program is voluntary.

### **Final Review Week:**

A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

### **Mandatory Face Covering Policy:**

All students and instructional staff are required to wear facial coverings while they are on campus, inside buildings and classrooms. Students that fail to comply with the facial covering requirement will be asked to leave the class session. 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. Students who refuse to wear a facial covering in class will be asked to leave the session by the instructor, and, if the student refuses to leave, they may be reported to UTA's Office of Student Conduct.