

# PSYC 1315-005: Introduction to Psychology

Fall 2023

## Instructor Information

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**Instructor(s)**

Melissa Izuagbe

**Office Number**

LS 506

**Office Telephone Number**

817-272-2281

**Email Address**

melissa.izuagbe@uta.edu

**Office Hours**

By appointment

## Course Information

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**Section Information**

PSYC 1315-005

**Time and Place of Class Meetings**

In-person Tuesdays/Thursdays

11 AM – 12:20 PM SEIR 298

**Description of Course Content**

The fundamental methods and content of scientific psychology. Concentration on the understanding of basic principles.

**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.

### Required Textbook

King, Laura (2023) The Science of Psychology: An Appreciative View (Custom Publishing)  
You should have access through canvas

### 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 **15 points**. **Only scores for your top 10 SmartBook assignments will count towards your final grade to total 150 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: 40% of Final Grade

**There are four 50-question Unit Exams and a Comprehensive 100-question Final Exam (which will include all chapters covered in class). Each exam is worth 50 points, including the final.** If a student is satisfied with their grade after completing the fourth 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.

**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. **Mark Exam Days in your calendar now to keep you prepared in advance for these possibilities.** If we have to reschedule an exam for whatever reason (weather, illness, behind on course material), I will allow for more days to complete it.

#### Rules for Exam Days:

- **Exams will be taken from home or in a quiet and secluded area on campus. This is an open book exam;** You will be expected to use your personal notes.
- Lockdown Browser will be required
- Once the exam begins, you may not leave your seat at any point. If that occurs due to unforeseen circumstances, please send me an email detailing what happened
- The exam cannot be re-scheduled. Be sure to begin the exam at (time due – duration of the exam) at the latest. This means that if the exam is due at 13:00 and it is 90 minutes long, you would need to begin no later than 11:30.

#### Attendance: 20% 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.

#### Quizzes: 10% of Final Grade

There will be 5 in class quizzes. The last quiz for the course will be the core curriculum quiz. All PSYC 1315 students must complete the Core Curriculum Quiz by the end of the semester

### 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. . 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 will be awarded 1 of the 6 credits required.

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/>). You may also choose to attend departmental colloquia or complete article quizzes. **A handout detailing this requirement and important deadlines will be provided.** 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.

**FAILURE TO COMPLETE THE REQUIREMENT WILL RESULT IN AN INCOMPLETE FOR THE CLASS. You will then need to complete your requirement (all 6 hours, regardless of what you may have completed this semester) during the next semester or the Incomplete will turn into an "F."**

### 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. You will need a webcam for the exams (do not worry about an external webcam if you have one built-in).

### Grading Information

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#### Grading

Assignments	Percentage	Points	Totals
SmartBook 2.0 Assignments	30%	15 points each (10)	150 points
Unit Exams (4) & Comprehensive Final Exam (lowest dropped)	40%	50 points each (4)	200 points
Attendance	20%	10 points each (10)	100 points
Quizzes	10%	10 points each (5)	50 points
Total			500 points

Percentages	Letter Grade
90-100%	A
80-89.9%	B
70-79.9%	C

60-69.9%	D
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).

- **Note:** Do not necessarily rely on percentages and letter grades provided in Canvas.
  - Those are largely out of my control and may not reflect all calculations.
  - Your grade is based on the grading scheme above.
  - You are responsible for keeping track of your grades

### 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 here <https://www.uta.edu/academics/schools-colleges/science/departments/psychology/degree-programs/undergraduate/undergraduate-resources/student-grievance-form>.

### Course Schedule

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*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 – Melissa Izuagbe*

Date	Chapter	Topic	Important Deadlines (11:59 PM)
08/22		<b>Syllabus Discussion &amp; Introduction</b>	
08/24	1	Introduction to Psychology	
08/29	2	Scientific Method	
08/31	3	The Biological Basis of Behavior	
09/05	3	The Biological Basis of Behavior	Research pool opens
09/06		Census Day	Withdrawing before then does not impact your transcript
09/07	4	Sensation and Perception	
09/12	4	Sensation and Perception	

Date	Chapter	Topic	Important Deadlines (11:59 PM)
09/14		<b>UNIT 1 EXAM: Chapters 1, 2, 3,4</b>	Unit 1 SmartBook Assignments Due
09/19	5	States of Consciousness	
09/21	5	States of Consciousness	
09/26	6	Learning	
09/28	7	Memory	
10/03	7	Memory	
10/05	8	Thinking, Intelligence, and Language	
10/10	10	Motivation and Emotion	
10/12		Catch up day	
10/17		<b>UNIT 2 EXAM: Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8,10</b>	Unit 2 SmartBook Assignments Due
10/19	9	Human Development	
10/24	9	Human Development	
10/26	11	Gender, Sex, and Sexuality	
10/27		Last day to withdraw from the course with a "W" on your transcript	Submit requests in MyMav prior to 4:00pm
10/31	12	Personality	
11/02	12	Personality	
11/07	13	Social Psychology	
11/09		<b>UNIT 3 EXAM: Chapters 9,11,12,13</b>	Unit 3 SmartBook Assignments Due
11/14	14	Industrial psychology	
11/16	15	Psychological Disorders	
11/21	16	Therapies	
11/23		No Class	Thanksgiving
11/28	17	Health Psychology	
11/30		<b>UNIT 4 EXAM: Chapters 14, 15,16,17</b>	Unit 4 SmartBook Assignments Due
12/05		Last Day of Class	Study day (No Class)
12/07		<b>Comprehensive FINAL EXAM</b>	Due 11:59 PM

## **Institutional Information**

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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**

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### **Face Covering Policy**

*Face coverings are not mandatory; all students and instructional staff are welcome to wear face coverings while they are on campus or in the classroom.*

### **Attendance**

Attending class sessions is a critical predictor and indicator of student success. The University of Texas at Arlington does not recognize a single attendance policy but encourages faculty to establish class-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I will take attendance on 5 random days.

The U.S. Department of Education requires that UT Arlington have a mechanism in place to verify Federal Student Aid recipients' attendance in courses. UT Arlington instructors are expected to report the last date of attendance when submitting students' final course grades; specifically, when a student earns a course grade of F, instructors must report the last date a student attended their class. For on-campus classes, last date of attendance can be based on attendance rosters or on academic engagements—a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or Canvas-based activity. Online or distance education courses require regular and substantive online interaction and participation. Students must participate in online course activities in Canvas to demonstrate attendance; logging into an online class is not sufficient by itself to demonstrate attendance. The last date of attendance is reported to the U.S. 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 on the ground floor. 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.

### **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) (<https://www.uta.edu/student-success/course-assistance>). To request disability accommodations for tutoring, please complete this [tutoring request form](https://www.uta.edu/student-success/course-assistance/tutoring/request) (<https://www.uta.edu/student-success/course-assistance/tutoring/request>).

The **IDEAS Center** (<https://www.uta.edu/ideas/>) (2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://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>). 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 2<sup>nd</sup> floor 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.

### **Librarian to Contact**

Each academic unit has access to Librarians by Academic Subject (<http://www.uta.edu/library/help/subject-librarians.php>) that can assist students with research projects, tutorials on plagiarism and citation references as well as support with databases and course reserves.

## **Emergency Phone Numbers**

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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**

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### **Research or General Library Help**

Ask for Help

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

Resources

- Library Tutorials ([library.uta.edu/how-to](http://library.uta.edu/how-to))
- Subject and Course Research Guides ([libguides.uta.edu](http://libguides.uta.edu))
- Librarians by Subject ([library.uta.edu/subject-librarians](http://library.uta.edu/subject-librarians))
- A to Z List of Library Databases ([libguides.uta.edu/az.php](http://libguides.uta.edu/az.php))
- Course Reserves ([https://uta.summon.serialssolutions.com/#!/course\\_reserves](https://uta.summon.serialssolutions.com/#!/course_reserves))
- Study Room Reservations ([openroom.uta.edu/](http://openroom.uta.edu/))