

PSYC 1315: Introduction to Psychology

Fall 2023 – Section 006

Instructor Information

Instructor(s)

Tiffany Aguirre

Office Number

LS 504

Office Telephone Number

N/A

Email Address

Tiffany.aguirre@mavs.uta.edu

Office Hours

2 pm – 3pm Tuesdays

Course Information

Section Information

PSYC 1315 Sec 006

Time and Place of Class Meetings

Class will meet in UH 115 every Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30 pm to 1:50 pm.

Description of Course Content

The course will also 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.

Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials

King, L. (2020). *The Science of Psychology: An Appreciative View*, 5th Ed. Boston, MA: Cengage Learning. ISBN: 978-1260500523

You do not need special access codes/cards.

This course will be using the eBook, *The Science of Psychology: An Appreciative View*, 5th Ed., with an online program from McGraw-Hill called Connect. The link to the ebook and Connect will be available in Canvas. You may also purchase a loose-leaf copy of the textbook from McGraw-Hill if you would like to have a physical copy of the text.

Research Participation Requirement (VERY IMPORTANT!)

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 also be found at <http://uta.sona-systems.com/>. 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.

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations

- a) Assignments: There will be nine (9) homework assignments. These will be in the form of questions based off of the readings of each chapter. Each assignment is worth ten (10) points. There is not a time limit, but you can only submit each assignment one time. The lowest grade will be dropped. Assignments will be due on Fridays, on their respective dates, at 11:59 pm.

- b) There will be four exams with 50 multiple choice questions each which are not cumulative (they will each primarily cover information presented since the previous exam). Each exam is worth 100 points. **They will be available from 12:30 PM to 11:59 PM in Canvas on their respective dates, and you will have 90 minutes to complete each of them.** Please note that any student with accommodations by university policy must inform me of those accommodations a minimum of five days before the scheduled exam. The lowest exam grade will be dropped.

- c) The final exam will be cumulative, which will include everything that has been learned throughout the course of the semester. It will consist of 50 questions and be worth 100 points. However, the final exam will be optional, as the lowest exam grade will be dropped. Details of when the final exam will take place will be announced later.

Technology Requirements

Canvas will be an important resource throughout the semester, so you will need to be proficient in the use of Canvas to perform well. Your assignments, grades, and supplemental readings will be posted through Canvas. Make sure you have access to Canvas. Canvas support is available 24/7 by calling 1-855-597-3401 or by clicking on the “?” icon on your Canvas Dashboard. Additionally, you will need to download Microsoft Teams to your computer. Finally, your computer must have internet access, a word processor, and PowerPoint.

Grading Information

Grading

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

430 – 480 points 90% to 100% = A

382 – 429 points 80% to 89% = B

334 – 381 points 70% to 79% = C

286 – 333 points 60% to 69% = D

< 285 points <60% = F

Assignments	Points
Assignments (8)	80
Exams (4)	400
Final Exam (optional)	100*
Total Possible Points	480

If, at any time, your performance drops below satisfactory levels, see “Student Support Services,” below for potential remedies.

Late work: Assignments are closed on the day they are due. It is your responsibility to make sure you have enough time to complete and turn in the assignment. Everyone gets ONE opportunity to turn in an assignment late or after the due date. After that, any other assignment not submitted before the deadline will result in a ZERO.

Make-up Exams:

No make-up opportunities for exams will be given unless documentation is received for a University-approved absence and arrangements are made with me *prior* to your absence. Requests to make-up exams for any other reason that does not fall under university excused absences such as a serious medical emergency or other extenuating circumstances will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis after documentation is received and are at the discretion of faculty approval. You must make-up missed exams within 5 working days. Students who miss a class meeting(s) for any reason or miss portions of classes due to tardiness or early departure will **still be held accountable for all of the material that is covered** during those sessions, including materials presented in lecture that are not in the book. If you miss a class, find a classmate (or two) with whom you can share resources. **Please do not email me to ask what materials you missed in class.** Material covered in class is your responsibility.

Make up exams will be given only if you notify the instructor in advance of the scheduled time of the exam, and only if 1) you were seriously ill and have verifiable documentation from a physician or 2) you have an urgent family affair (e.g., funeral) Make-up exams must be completed no later than 3 days after the scheduled exam. Requests to make-up work for any other reason will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis after documentation is received and are at the discretion of faculty approval.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The UTA Office of Community Standards recognizes at least three forms of academic dishonesty (note that others exist as well). These are cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. The commitment of any act of academic dishonesty, even once, will result in a report to the Office of Community Standards for official review

The definition of *cheating* is rather complex, and can be found at the following link: <https://www.uta.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/academic-integrity>

Plagiarism is defined as “the unacknowledged incorporation of the work of another in work that is offered for credit”. UTA scans written assignments for plagiarism using a computer program that instantly provides the instructor with 1) the degree of overlap between your work and any other document on the internet, including work turned in by other students in your class even for the same assignment (so don’t copy each other’s work) and 2) the exact sources from which the overlap has occurred. The take-home message is that if you plagiarize, I will instantly and easily discover it. Every student in this course **MUST** complete the UTA plagiarism tutorial offered at the following link by midnight on 1/24/2021, and I will receive notification once you have completed it: <https://library.uta.edu/plagiarism/>

Collusion is defined as “the unauthorized collaboration with another in preparing work that is offered for credit”. In other words, unless something is a group project, you cannot work on it with anyone else, including classmates and/or acquaintances outside of UTA. You may however utilize The English Writing Center, The Student Success Program, and The IDEAS Center for help without my permission.

Further details about UTA’s academic dishonesty policies can be found here: <https://www.uta.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/academic-integrity>

Extra credit:

There will be no opportunities for extra credit in this course. Subject to change.

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 nine hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

Course Schedule

“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. –Tiffany Aguirre”

Week	Lecture	Reading	Assignment
Week 1			
Aug 22	(T) Syllabus Day		
Aug 24	(Th) What is Psychology?	Ch. 1	
Week 2	(T) Psychology's Scientific Method	Ch. 2	Assignment 1 (Ch. 1& 2) DUE Sep 1
Aug 29			
Aug 31	(Th) Biological Foundations of Behavior	Ch. 3	
Week 3	(T) Biological Foundations of Behavior (cont)	Ch. 3	
Sep 5			
Sep 7	(Th) Sensation and Perception	Ch. 4	
Week 4			Assignment 2 (Ch. 3 & 4) DUE Sep 15
Sep 12	(T) Sensation and Perception (cont)	Ch. 4	
Sep 14	(Th) Exam Review 1		
Week 5			
Sep 19	(T) Exam 1		
Sep 21	(Th) Learning	Ch. 6	
Week 6			Assignment 3 (Ch. 6) DUE Sep 29
Sep 26	(T) Learning (cont)	Ch. 6	
Sep 28	(Th) Memory	Ch. 7	
Week 7			Assignment 4 (Ch. 7 & 9) DUE Oct 6
Oct 3	(T) Memory (cont)	Ch. 7	
Oct 5	(Th) Human Development	Ch. 9	
Week 8			Assignment 5 (Ch. 10) DUE Oct 13
Oct 10	(T) Motivation and Emotion	Ch. 10	
Oct 12	(Th) Exam Review 2		
Week 9			
Oct 17	(T) Exam 2		
Oct 19	(Th) Personality	Ch. 12	

Week 10 Oct 24 Oct 26	(T) Social Psychology (Th) Social Psychology	Ch 13	Assignment 6 (Ch.12 & 13) DUE Oct 27
Week 11 Oct 31 Nov 2	(T) I/O Psychology (Th)Exam 3 Review	Ch 14	Assignment 7 (Ch. 14) DUE Nov 3
Week 12 Nov 7 Nov 9	(T) Exam 3 (Th) Psychological Disorders	Ch 15	
Week 13 Nov 14 Nov 16	(T) Psychological Disorders (cont) (Th) Therapies	Ch 15 Ch 16	Assignment 8 (Ch.15 & 16) DUE Nov 17
Week 14 Nov 21 Nov 23	(T) Health Psychology Thanksgiving!	Ch 17	
Week 15 Nov 28 Nov 30	(T) Exam 4 Review (Th) Exam 4		Assignment 9 (Ch. 17) DUE Dec 1
Week 16 Dec 5	Final Exam Review		
FINAL EXAM TBD	Comprehensive Exam (optional)		

(T) Tuesdays, (Th) Thursdays

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](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

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. Attendance will be taken through ECHO360 via a question. 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 mark 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 Grievance Form

The Department of Psychology is dedicated to resolving student issues in a fair and equitable manner, consistent with course policies, as well as the policies of the Department and the University. If the issue is related to a grievance about a course, you must first attempt to resolve the issue with your instructor. A grievance form should not be completed until the issue has first been discussed with the instructor and a serious effort has been made to resolve it. Individual course instructors retain primary responsibility for assigning grades. The instructor's judgment is final unless compelling evidence shows preferential treatment or procedural irregularities. If students wish to appeal, their request must be submitted in writing—on an appeal form available in departmental or program offices—to the department chair or program director. The student has one calendar year from the date the grade is assigned to initiate the grievance. The normal academic channels are department chair or program director and then academic dean. However, before considering a grievance, the department chair or program director will refer the issue to a departmental or program committee of faculty. If the student does not find the committee's decision acceptable, the student may appeal to the academic dean. The decision of the dean is final. Information specific to the procedures to be followed in each academic unit is available in the office of the academic dean. <https://www.uta.edu/academics/schools-colleges/science/departments/psychology/degree-programs/graduate/graduate-resources/student-grievance-form>

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.

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](#) 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](#) of operation.

Librarian to Contact

Each academic unit has access to [Librarians by Academic Subject](#) 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

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

Resources

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

#####