

PSYC 1315: Introduction to Psychology

Summer 2024

Instructor Information

Instructor

Nicholas A. Smith, Ph.D.

Office Number

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Faculty Profile

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Office Hours

Meetings via Teams by appointment – please e-mail me at nicholas.smith@uta.edu

Course Information

Section Information

PSYC 1315-700

Time and Place of Class Meetings

Online – Asynchronous

This course is designed to be offered completely asynchronous. Because we are learning remotely, how and when you learn is up to you and your needs. My goal is to provide materials that you can use to familiarize yourself with the course content. You will need to engage **weekly** with the material to do well in the course. As such, you will need access to the internet with a device that is compatible with Canvas.

Description of Course Content

The fundamental methods and content of scientific psychology. Concentration on the understanding of basic principles. Introduction to psychology is a course with wide-ranging topics, covering material such as intelligence, motivation, personality, mental health, therapy, and more. The course will present basic psychological concepts with an emphasis on real-world applications. Students will be assessed on their comprehension of the various psychological models presented in this course. 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

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

Spielman, R. M. et al. (2024) Psychology, 2nd Edition e-book. ISBN: 9781265792015

This is a freely accessible Open Educational Resource. Each chapter is linked in the associated module. If you would prefer a free .pdf of the text or a physical copy you can purchase, you can find those in the links below. You can also purchase a physical text from our bookstore.

[Free PDF E-Book from the Publisher](#)

[OPTIONAL Physical Textbook to Purchase](#)

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations

Syllabus Quiz – During the first week of the course, you should complete the Pre-Course module and Syllabus Quiz which covers important details of the course. This quiz is worth up to 8% points and can be attempted as many times as you prefer. The highest score will be recorded in the gradebook.

Module Quizzes – you will be required to complete 8 quizzes at up to 4% points each = total of 32% points. Although each quiz is not worth that many points individually, note that these quizzes make up 32% of your final grade. It is important to attempt each quiz along the way!

You will have **2** attempts to complete each module quiz and the highest score will be recorded in the gradebook.

Discussion Boards – You will complete 8 discussion board posts located in (one post per week). You will earn up to 5% points of your final grade for each initial post, making up a total of 40% of your final grade. Replies to your peers are optional.

Learning & Behavior Assignment – You will complete an assignment applying learning principles to change a behavior, located in Canvas based on an activity that will be completed over the course of **10 days**. This should be started during **Module 3** and completed by the end of **Module 6**. All instructions are provided in Canvas for this assignment. This assignment is worth up to 10% of your final grade.

Engagement Self-Assessment – at the end of the semester, you will complete an engagement self-assessment worth up to 5% of your final grade. To do so, you will provide a score between 0-5 along with an approximately 125-250 word narrative of your justification for your score by providing your strengths and weaknesses. If you believe your participation is good, you will name one or two things you could do to show mastery. If you believe your participation needed improvement, you will describe some of the hurdles you face during the class. Be sure to address both strengths and weaknesses. Then, you will reflect on your experiences in our class and describe in what ways you believe you may have grown or changed along with what you think were some of your most important take-aways from our course.

Core Curriculum Quiz – at the end of the semester, you will be required to take a comprehensive quiz worth up to 5 points that tests your knowledge of the contents of the course.

Technology Requirements

In order to be successful in this course, you will be required to access Canvas for assignments and quizzes. Students can access a tutorial regarding Canvas by clicking on the “Get Started” box in the Canvas Homepage.

All quizzes, assignments, announcements, grades, and supplemental materials are posted in Canvas at <https://uta.instructure.com>. Students need to check Canvas every week to ensure they stay up to date on course requirements, materials, and announcements. For anyone not experienced in Canvas, use this link to complete online orientation before class begins: <https://uta.instructure.com/courses/17157>.

A few Notes and Tips for Class

UTA estimates a minimum of 3 hours of average expected student commitment of effort per week per credit hour over a long semester. As such, the time commitment for this accelerated 8-week 3-credit-hour course could be **beyond 9 hours** of work per week. For a full-time student (12 credit hours), the minimum average expected student commitment of effort per week is a minimum of 36 hours of work per week (essentially a full-time job).

Be kind to yourself for your physical and mental health. Make sure you’re getting enough sleep, eating well, setting aside some personal time, and do not hesitate to ask for help when you need it!

Grading Information

Grading

Assignments	Points	Totals
Syllabus Quiz	Up to 8 points	8% points
Quizzes	8 @ 4 points each	32% points
Learning & Behavior Assignment	1 @ 10 points	10% points
Discussion Boards	8 @ 5 points each	40% points
Core Curriculum Quiz	Up to 5 points	5% points
Engagement Self-Assessment	Up to 5 points	5% points

TOTAL: 100 points

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 following grading scale:**

Final Grade

Points	Letter Grade
89.5-100	A
79.5-89.4	B
69.5-79.4	C
59.5-69.4	D
<59.5	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) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels; see “Student Support Services” below.

Make-up Quizzes/Assignments

Each deliverable through Module 7 is due Sunday, 11:59 PM at the end of the week it is posted. Module 8 ends on Friday, 11:59 PM, which is the last day of our class.

To enhance your class experience and to support a more accessible learning environment, I will be using a **flexible** assignments and grading policy. For this policy, you will have free no questions asked extensions **1 WEEK** beyond the deadline in **Modules 1-7** to turn in any work you would like scored. As our class ends at the end of Module 8, you will have until **SUNDAY 14 JULY** by 11:59 PM to turn in any work you would like scored for Module 8. Canvas will stop accepting work at these times and no further extensions will be allowed beyond this time.

Grade Grievances

In attempting to resolve any student grievances regarding grades, it is the student's obligation first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the individual with whom the grievance originated. 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.

The dean of the college or school in which a student is enrolled, or the Executive Director of University College if the student has not declared a major, has jurisdiction over the student's program of study, degree requirements and all other academic matters including grievances. However, students taking a course in a college or school other than the one in which they are primarily registered are subject to the dean of the college or school in which the course is offered concerning the course and academic grievances regarding the course.

Information regarding grievances for matters other than grades is available in the [Student Rights](#) section of the catalog.

You may also click on the following link for additional assistance with the grievance process: <https://www.uta.edu/academics/schools-colleges/science/departments/psychology/degree-programs/graduate/graduate-resources/student-grievance-form>

For student complaints, see [Student Complaints](#).

UTA Resources

Below is a running list of resources available to all UTA students on campus. Please feel free to message me if you know of any other useful UTA-affiliated resources so that I can add to this list.

UTA Student Services: <https://www.uta.edu/student-life/services>

UTA Emergency Assistance Fund: <https://www.uta.edu/student-affairs/dos/advocacy/emergency-assistance>

UTA Emergency Housing: <https://www.uta.edu/student-affairs/dos/advocacy/emergency-housing>

Maverick Pantry: <https://www.uta.edu/student-affairs/dos/advocacy/maverick-pantry>

UTA Writing Center: <https://www.uta.edu/owl/>

UTA Division of Student Success: <https://www.uta.edu/student-success>

UTA Tutoring: <https://www.uta.edu/student-success/course-assistance/tutoring>

UTA Military and Veteran Services Resources: <https://www.uta.edu/student-affairs/veterans/resources>

UTA Career Development Center: <https://uta.joinhandshake.com/login>

UTA Counseling and Psychological Services: <https://www.uta.edu/student-affairs/caps>

UTA Health Services: <https://www.uta.edu/student-affairs/health-services>

UTA Title IX Resources: <https://www.uta.edu/eos-title-ix/title-ix/resources>

UTA Crisis Supports: <https://www.uta.edu/student-affairs/caps/crisis>

UTA Relationship Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention (Confidential Advocates): <https://www.uta.edu/student-affairs/rvsp/confidential-advocate>

Course Schedule

Module	Topics	Assignments
Pre-Course 20 May – 26 May	Course Introduction OPTIONAL: Introduction to Psychology	Syllabus Quiz
1 20 May – 26 May	Psychological Research Biopsychology	Module 1 Quiz Module 1 Discussion Board
2 27 May – 2 Jun	States of Consciousness Sensation & Perception	Module 2 Quiz Module 2 Discussion Board
3 3 Jun – 9 Jun	Learning Thinking and Intelligence	Module 3 Quiz Module 3 Discussion Board Begin Learning & Behavior Assignment

4 10 Jun – 16 Jun	Memory Lifespan Development	Module 4 Quiz Module 4 Discussion Board
5 17 Jun – 23 Jun	Emotion and Motivation Gender, Sex, and Sexuality	Module 5 Quiz Module 5 Discussion Board
6 24 Jun – 30 Jun	Personality Social Psychology	Module 6 Quiz Module 6 Discussion Board Complete Learning & Behavior Assignment
7 1 Jul – 7 Jul	Industrial-Organizational Psychology Stress, Lifestyle, and Health	Module 7 Quiz Module 7 Discussion Board
8 8 Jul – 12 Jul	Psychological Disorders Therapy and Treatment	Module 8 Quiz Module 8 Discussion Board Engagement Self-Assessment Core Curriculum Quiz

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. –Nicholas A. Smith

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

Additional Information

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

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. As the instructor of this section, you are being graded on your attendance (see "Grading Information"). 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 must note 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.

Distance education courses require regular and substantive online interaction and participation. Students must participate in online course activities to demonstrate attendance; logging into an online class is not sufficient by itself to demonstrate attendance.

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](#).

The [IDEAS Center](https://www.uta.edu/ideas/) (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.

Academic Integrity

As described on UTA’s [Academic Integrity](#) page, “The University of Texas at Arlington strives to uphold and support standards of personal honesty and integrity for all students consistent with the goals of a community of scholars and students seeking knowledge and responsibility. The Office of Community Standards promotes academic integrity and enforces these standards in accordance with the policies outlined in the HOP. Alleged academic integrity violations may be reported to the Office of Community Standards.”

UTA’s Scholastic Dishonesty Policy

“Scholastic Dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion on an examination or an assignment being offered for credit. Each student is accountable for work submitted for credit, including group projects;

Cheating on an examination or an assignment includes:

- copying the work of another, allowing someone to copy, engaging in written, oral or any other means of communication with another, or giving aid to or seeking aid from another when not permitted by the instructor.
 - using material during an examination or when completing an assignment that is not authorized by the person giving the examination or making the work assignment, including, but not limited to, electronic or digital devices such as calculators, cell phones, camera phones, scanner pens, personal digital assistants, or flash drives, etc.;
 - taking or attempting to take an examination for another, or allowing another to take or attempt to take an examination for a student;
 - using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means, the whole or any part of an examination or work assignment that is not provided for your use by your instructor;
 - resubmission of work which has previously been submitted for course credit at any educational institution, unless prior approval is received from both faculty;
 - any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such an act;
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Plagiarism means the unacknowledged incorporation of the work of another in work that is offered for credit;

Collusion means the unauthorized collaboration with another in preparing work that is offered for credit.”

Here, UTA’s Office of Community Standards developed this [Online Student Resources Guide](#)

UTA’s Library also developed this tutorial on Acknowledging Sources:

<https://library.uta.edu/plagiarism/#:~:text=Avoiding%20plagiarism%20is%20easy.,information%20you%20are%20referring%20to>

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/)