PSYC 2301 – Introduction to Psychology

Course Syllabus: **Fall 2018**

"Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide responsible, exemplary learning opportunities."

Instructor: Wendy Mills, MA
Email: wmills@ntcc.edu

Since this is an online class, I prefer students to contact me via email**.**

I will answer all student emails within 24 hours, with the exceptions of weekends and holiday

This class meets from August 27th through December 3rd, 2018.

The information contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in the Blackboard course site. Students are expected to be aware of any additional course policies presented by the instructor during the course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

General Psychology is a survey of the major psychological topics, theories and approaches to the scientific study of behavior and mental processes.

COURSE GOAL

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the field of psychology. In the process, students will begin to think critically and evaluate research and behaviors they encounter every day.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES (Institutionally Mandated)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Identify various research methods and their characteristics used in the scientific study of psychology.
2. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology.
3. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology.
4. Use terminology unique to the study of psychology.
5. Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation.
6. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior.

TEXTBOOK

Kalat, J.W. (2017). Introduction to Psychology, 11th edition. Cengage Learning.
ISBN 978-1-337-12746-2

This textbook is required for this course.

You must also have a copy of the current edition of the textbook BEFORE THE CLASS BEGINS.

For your convenience and lower price, the bookstore has the loose-leaf edition available bundled with MindTap which is required. MindTap is a useful tool and is required as part of your grade in Blackboard. Grades will be taken on specific assignments in MindTap for each chapter.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

In order to be successful in this course, students need to possess minimum technical skills such as the ability to send email, to attach documents to email, submit files through Blackboard, open and save attachments, type documents using a word processing application, and be familiar with web browsers.

1. You must have access to the Internet and email on a daily basis. If you do not have reliable and consistent internet access at home, at work, or in a public location, then you will need to withdraw from the course. Please check your Blackboard email and discussion board every day.

2. All assignments that are submitted MUST be in .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf format. Formats other than this will NOT be accepted. Please submit your assignments through the Blackboard learning modules. Please do not submit assignments to my NTCC email address.

3. MindTap has additional technology requirements, which can be found in the Technology Help link.

4. Videos are often utilized in this course, which will require speakers or earbuds/headphones and a graphics card.

5. Access to a printer is highly recommended for printing out important course documents.

Computer/Blackboard Access

If you have not had the portal set up on your computer, you may want to get your computer "campus ready" by visiting a technical assistant in MS 103. You will need to see him for internet access anywhere on campus and how to access the portal.

From the portal, click on the Blackboard link and then click on the course number for your class. You will access this with your first initial of your first name and your full last name and the last 3 digits of your social security number. No spaces. Example: jsmith378. Your password will be your birth date using 8 digits. Example: 04031979. If you have problems accessing your class, contact Austin Baker in MS 103 computer lab on campus or phone 903-434-8279 or 8280. You may also email him atabaker@ntcc.edu

Blackboard Tutorials

Blackboard tutorials are provided on the Blackboard home page or on the menu bar of the home page of the course. Once logged in, you can click on the Help button to find answers to your Blackboard questions. Knowing how to navigate through the course will aid in your success this semester.

GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You must check your course calendar and know when assignments are due and submit them on time.

The course will be divided into 4 modules. You will have chapter quizzes and activities for each chapter. Pace yourself and make sure you are able to meet the deadline assigned to each module.

You will also have three major writing assignments (experimental design, research analysis project, and Hospitality House paper). The due dates for these assignments are on your course calendar. This is an important part of your grade.

When discussions are assigned, you must read all discussion posts from all students as assigned. You will be required to respond to at least two students within each discussion.

If you have any questions regarding class assignments or about material from the book, you are to post the questions on the discussion board in Blackboard. However, if you have a personal question, please email me at wmills@ntcc.edu rather than use the discussion board.

Active class participation is expected. You should plan to log on every day. Class activities will include exercises and hands-on activities designed to increase your understanding of the material. Please be active in all discussion boards. Answer questions that your classmates have posted. Help each other.

COMMUNICATION

I do not have an office on campus. That means that all of our communication will take place through email. Please email: wmills@ntcc.edu for the fastest response time.

I will return emails within a 24-hour period except weekends or holidays. I will return emails sent over the weekend on Monday. If you are working on a homework assignment or an exam on Saturday or Sunday and have problems, please email me but know that I might not check it and respond back until Monday morning. For this reason, I highly suggest that you not wait until Sunday night to finish exams and papers that are due the next day.

Use the discussion board areas for questions and conversation. Use private email for information you do not wish to share with everyone. Check in frequently and respond to general conversations. Private e-mail should be used only when you want to converse with someone privately. Group e-mail is seen by all and you will be asked to post information, ideas, opinions, and questions publicly.

You may also use the chat room for study groups. Just post in the discussion board that you want to have a study group with your classmates. Arrange a day and time for you to all meet there and discuss the material.

You may also contact the secretary for the M/S building at 903-434-8292 and she can usually get in touch with me.

GRADING

Grades will be computed as follows:

Exams (4) = 30%
Chapter Learning Activities & Assignments= 30%
Experimental Design Project = 10%
Research Analysis Project = 10%
Hospitality House Paper/Visit Project = 10%

SLO quizzesm(2) = 10%

The grading scale below will be used to determine your final grade.

Percentage	Grade
100% -90%	= A
89% -80%	= B
79% -70%	= C
69% -60%	= D
BELOW 59%	= F

All assignments must be turned in on time, and there will be no make-up or late grades for class participation. Your grades will be posted on Blackboard in "My Grades".

Extra credit is not provided in the course. If you are not making the grade that you hoped for, please talk to me and I will try to give you ideas that may help bring up your grade. I will not, however, provide any additional assignments that you could complete to bring up your grade.

Students may access their course grade at any time through “My Grades” in the Tools menu.

GRADE REVIEW POLICY

After completing an exam or a chapter quiz, your grade will show up automatically in your Blackboard Grade Book. Check immediately. If your grade does not show up, please email me ASAP, as there is a problem.

For written assignments, I will grade all written work within 1 week of the stated deadline. I will then post grades to the Blackboard grade book. Once grades have been posted, I will send out a class-wide email letting you know to check your grades. Once I have sent the email, students have 48 hours to review the grade and dispute the grade in any manner. Once the 48 hour review period has expired, I will no longer address any questions pertaining to that specific assignment.

ASSIGNMENT DEADLINES

All assignments and their deadlines are listed on the Blackboard course site. Log on to the course, and click the button entitled CLASS CALENDAR.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Chapter Learning Activities and Assignments: Your chapter assignments may consist of hands -on activities, assignments, MindTap, discussions and/or quizzes designed to increase your understanding of the material. They can be found for each week in the “Modules" on the home page, then click on the current chapter for that week, then "Learning Activities and Assignments". These assignments must be completed and received by 11:59pm on their respective deadline. All chapter assignments and discussions must be completed and submitted on time. Points WILL NOT be given for late chapter discussions. You will earn a zero for these discussions submitted past 11:59pm on the stated deadline.

These Learning Activities and Assignments should be submitted using Blackboard. Please do not email them to your instructor using NTCC email unless you are having difficulty accessing Blackboard.

When a discussion question has been assigned, you must post your own answer in the Discussion Board feature on Blackboard. It should be well-written, in paragraph format just like a short essay. Use correct spelling and grammar. In addition to posting your own answer, you must also reply to at least two different classmates. In your reply, you might tell them whether you agree or disagree

with them and why, ask them questions about what they said, answer a question that they asked, debate them, challenge them, etc. Simply saying that you agree doesn't count. Just please remember to be respectful in your comments – NO bashing allowed! Make sure you go back after you have posted your response to read your classmates' comments so you don't miss anything. I encourage you to take the discussion questions seriously. They are not "busy work"; it is the best attempt at creating a traditional classroom environment where we would all be interacting with each other. Your grade will also be based on the quality and quantity of your responses and replies.

This is the rubric for how discussions will be graded:
100 points – for posting your own answer plus responding to at least 2 classmates
66 points – for posting your own answer plus responding to one classmate
33 points – for posting your own answer but not responding to any classmates
0 points –for not completing the discussion

Your participation is even more important in an online course than in a traditional on-campus class. ***Active class participation is expected.***

Quizzes
There will be three types of quizzes in this class: 1)mandatory SLO quizzes that everyone MUST take, 2) chapter quizzes which are required, and 3) optional study quizzes that you may either take or not take.

There will be two mandatory SLO quizzes. Every student in this class must take them. Both quizzes will have 30 multiple choice items and be worth 100 points each. The first quiz will be given at the beginning of the semester and will cover material from chapter 2. The second quiz will be given at the end of the semester and be comprehensive and cover the entire course. You may take each quiz only one time. You can find the dates of these quizzes on your course calendar. They are listed as "SLO Quiz #1" and "SLO Quiz #2".

For each chapter, you will find an optional study quiz. These quizzes are provided to help you test your understanding of the material. You may take each quiz as many times as you would like to. The grades that you make on the optional study quizzes does not count toward your final grade.

Exams:
There will be 4 exams. All exams will be 100 multiple-choice questions and will each count 100 points. They will all be taken online. ***Exam questions will come from the textbook and the online chapter objectives that are in Blackboard***. You will have 1 hour and 20 minutes for each exam. You MAY NOT use your textbook, notes, or any additional resources for exams. You are asked to be honest and allow this testing to be based on your knowledge just as if you were in a classroom situation taking an exam.

Major Projects
There are 3 major projects in this course.

Experimental Design:
You will answer questions about a journal article you will read. Additional information and the worksheet you must complete for a grade are found in the "Major Projects" on our Blackboard home page. The due date for this assignment can be found on your course calendar. This assignment will be graded using a rubric, which can be found in the link for this assignment.

Research Analysis Project:
This assignment will require you to read a scholarly journal article, summarize the article, conduct survey research of your own, analyze your data, and then write up your results into an APA formatted paper. Additional information about this assignment can be found in the "Major Projects" on our Blackboard home page. The due date for this assignment can be found on your course calendar. This assignment will be graded using a rubric, which can be found in the link for this assignment.

Hospitality House Visit and Paper:
You will visit the Hospitality House in Mt. Pleasant, Texas, at a specified time. You will write a reaction paper after your visit. Additional information is found in the "Major Projects" link on our Blackboard home page. You will find the dates for the required visit and due dates for the written paper on your course calendar. Students living more than 100 miles from Mt. Pleasant will need to discuss with me an alternative assignment regarding mental illness. This needs to be discussed with me within 1 week of the beginning of the course. If you are under 18 years of age, you will need to get a parental consent form in order for you to attend. This consent form is found in the link for this assignment.
Please contact me about this at least 1 week before our scheduled tour. This assignment will be graded using a rubric, which can be found in the link for this assignment.

OFFICIAL POLICIES

Withdrawals
Anyone who desires to withdraw from the class must formally withdraw from the class in the Registrar's office by the withdrawal deadline (found in the college calendar). Otherwise a failing grade will be given if you simply stop attending class. A student who officially withdraws from a course after the twelfth class day but within the first twelve weeks of a regular semester, after the seventh class day but within the first 8 weeks of the summer semester, or after the fourth class day but within the first four weeks of a 5-week summer term will receive a grade of "W" in the course. Students may not withdraw from school or drop classes after this time and receive the grade of "W." Requests for withdrawal must be made in person, in a written and signed request sent by mail or by FAX, or by email using the student's Northeast email account only. Emails will not be accepted from other email accounts. Withdrawals will not be accepted by telephone.

Academic Ethics
The college expects all students to engage in academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuit. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. Refer to the student handbook for more information on this subject.

Honesty Statement
Students are expected to complete all coursework in an honest manner, using their intellects and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor***. NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty policy stated in the Student Handbook. A ZERO WILL BE GIVEN FOR ANY WORK THAT IS PLAGIARIZED. A ZERO WILL ALSO BE GIVEN FOR COLLUSION AND COPYING OF ANOTHER'S WORK.***

ADA Statement
It is the policy of Northeast Texas Community College to provide reasonable accommodations for

qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to arrange an appointment with a College counselor to obtain a Request for Accommodations form. For more information, please refer to the Northeast Texas Community College Catalog or Student Handbook.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

Tobacco Use Policy (Smoking)

The College District prohibits the use of any type of tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes, on College District grounds and in College District buildings, facilities, and vehicles in order to provide students, employees, and visitors a safe and healthy environment. This prohibition shall also apply to spaces leased by the College District. The use of tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes, shall be permitted in designated areas and private vehicles parked on College District property provided any residue is retained within the vehicle.

FINAL REMINDERS

Please remember: all assignments are always due by 11:59pm on their respective deadline. the regardless of holidays or time off. Items are considered late if they are not received by 11:59pm on the stated deadline. I take the time very seriously, so turning things in even a few minutes past 11:59pm will be considered late. The experimental design, research analysis paper, and Hospitality House paper will not be accepted late. No weekly chapter discussions will be accepted late, therefore you will earn a zero for those items submitted late. Keep in mind that computers often malfunction and email and the internet often go down, so I encourage you not to wait until the last minute to submit your work or complete your exams. ***Computer troubles will not be accepted as an excuse for late work.***

SERVICE LEARNING CLASS

You may also choose to sign up for a Service Learning class listed as PSYC 2389. A major focus in this course is to help you understand the science of how behavior, mental processes, and socialization develop in a person's life. By taking part in a project that is centralized in a community setting, you will be able to develop insights that you cannot get just by reading a textbook or listening to lectures. Other students who have taken advantage of this opportunity have reported back that the experiences were well worth the time and effort and that their cultural and civic pride was heightened. Likewise, many students have made career decisions based on their experiences in the community. Many of you are going into one of the helping professions and a Service Learning class will increase the importance of knowing that we need to give back to the community above and beyond college, employment, membership in civic and social organizations, and so on. Contact John Coleman, the

Coordinator of Service-Learning, jcoleman@ntcc.edu for more information about community sites and classes.

CORE COMPETENCY PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Through the core curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world; develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world; and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning.

Courses in the foundation area of social and behavioral sciences focus on the application of empirical and scientific methods that contribute to the understanding of what makes us human. Courses involve the exploration of behavior and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, and events, examining their impact on the individual, society, and culture.

Core Competency Objectives for the social and behavioral sciences:

Critical thinking:

CT1: Students will demonstrate the ability to 1) analyze complex issues, 2) synthesize information, and 3) evaluate the logic, validity, and relevance of data.
CT2: Students will demonstrate the ability to 1) make informed decision, 2) arrive at reasoned conclusions, 3) solve challenging problems, and 4) use knowledge and understanding in order to generate and explore new questions.

Communication Skills:

CS1: Students will effectively develop, interpret and express ideas through written communication.
CS2: Students will effectively develop, interpret and express ideas through oral communication within a specific timeline.
CS3: Students will effectively develop, interpret and express ideas using visual communications components.

Empirical and Quantitative Skills:

EQS1: Students will manipulate numerical data or observable facts by organizing and converting relevant information into mathematical or empirical forms (e.g. equations, graphs, diagrams, tables, or words).
EQS2: Students will analyze numerical data or observable facts by processing information with correct calculations, explicit notations, and appropriate technology.
EQS3: Students will draw informed conclusions from numerical data or observable facts that are accurate, complete, and relevant to the investigation.

Social Responsibility:

SR1: Students will demonstrate understanding of intercultural competence.
SR2: Students will demonstrate knowledge of civic responsibility.
SR3: Students will demonstrate the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

WAYS TO BE A CRITICAL READER / THINKER

Critical thinking will also be stressed in this class. Critical thinking includes:

*Define the problem

*Avoiding emotional reasoning (“If I feel this way, it must be true!”)

*Considering other interpretations

*Tolerating uncertainty

*Question – Be skeptical. Don't believe everything you hear or read. Ask questions: be willing to wonder

*Know the source of information (not just name, find out about source). Examine the evidence.

*Avoiding over simplification. Question over-simplification – (ex. Easy steps to get rich quick or lose 10 lbs. overnight).

*Consider the way information was acquired (Experimental method, guess, common sense, ivory tower contemplation, etc.).

*Remember: Correlation or relationship of variables does not mean causation.

*Don't infer –use objective observation only –DO NOT ASSUME.

*Don't make generalizations quickly –get more information.

*Analyze assumptions and biases in research.