



**Name: Karyn Skaar**  
**Email address:kskaar@ntcc.edu**  
**Office: Humanities 128A**  
**Psychology 2301**  
**Introduction to Psychology**  
**Fall 2018**

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Welcome to Introduction to Psychology! This course provides an overview of the major areas in the field of psychology. As a survey course, we will cover many diverse areas within the field. The following areas will be emphasized: major models in psychology, major principles of memory applicable to learning psychology, research methods used in psychology, social psychology, the organization of the human brain and the biological bases of behavior, principles of learning, major theories of personality development, stress and its effects on health, intelligence, lifespan development, and psychological disorders. Upon completion of the course, you should be able to identify the major theories, terminology, principles, processes, and methods in the above areas.

## **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK/COURSE WEBSITES:**

Kalat, J.W. (2017). *Introduction to Psychology, 11<sup>th</sup> edition. With MindTap* Cengage Learning.  
**ISBN 978-1-337-57251-4** 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 as a portion of homework grades.

Your grades will be recorded in Blackboard. You will also find handouts and assignments posted there.

## **CONDUCT OF COURSE:**

Please complete the assigned reading and MindTap quiz **BEFORE** that Chapter is covered in class. Expect to read everything more than once! It is a good idea to take the practice quizzes in your text.

**Class attendance is required.** If you miss a class, you will be responsible for information covered/discussed that day. The instructor will not repeat the lecture. Most classes will include exercises and activities designed to increase your understanding of the material.

**NEW: For Security reasons the class doors will be locked when attendance is taken.**

Use of electronics in class is restricted to taking notes or working on psychology related websites if asked. You may be asked to use your cell phones during class or your computers.

Students may use audio and/or video recording devices to record lectures or portions thereof providing that they get permission from me. Materials recorded may only be used by the student to aid in the completion of requirements for the course. Content recorded remains the property of NTCC and may not be duplicated for distribution and may not be sold to another party or uploaded to the internet.

Anyone who wishes to withdraw from class must take the responsibility to formally drop with the Registrar; otherwise a failing grade will be given if you just stop attending. You should consult with me about your grade before withdrawing. I reserve the right to drop you from class due to excessive absences (3) prior to the drop date. At any time you are concerned about your grade, please talk with me.

Plan to participate in class and be interested in the subject matter. It is always a good idea to smile and have a positive attitude in class. Come to class prepared and ready to be an active learner. Earning the grade and learning should go hand-in-hand. Thinking deeply and relating information to experiences in life are really the best way to proceed in this course.

**If the professor is late to class, you should check with the building secretary and wait 15 minutes before leaving.**

### **EVALUATION:**

You will be required to complete **MindTap assignments** for each chapter we cover prior to class. These homework assignments will be worth 30% of your total grade. MindTap is an outside of class assignment that is accessed through Blackboard. Assignments cannot be completed after the deadline expires. Dates listed on class calendar.

**There will be 4 exams:** All exams will be in a multiple-choice format. Dates for exams are listed on the class calendar. Make-up exams may be scheduled prior to the missed exam and will occur within 1 week of the exam date posted in the calendar. No make-up exams are given after the following exam has been given or after the last day of class. It is a good idea to take the exam as soon as you return to class so you do not get behind. The regular exams will each count 100 points. The final exam must be taken at the scheduled time to obtain credit in the course.

**Retests:** If you are not satisfied with your in-class exam grade, you may take the exam repeatedly until you are satisfied with your test grade. These retests will be given in the Testing Center, which is located in the Business Technology Building, during **their** hours of operation (Mon.-Thur. 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Fri. 8 a.m. to Noon), and you must provide a photo id. Your highest grade will be the one recorded on the re-takes. In order to retest, you must have been present for and have taken the in

class exam. If you did not take the original in-class exam, then you must make-up that missed exam before any retests can be allowed. Retests are available for a limited time and no retests will be available after the last day of classes.

**Experimental Design Worksheet:** You will design and think through all aspects of your own psychological experiment on a worksheet. This will be a typed, double spaced paper written in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person and in complete sentences addressing the specific questions provided. It will be worth 100 points. Due date is listed on the calendar.

**Research Summary Papers (2):** You will be given an article to read. You will summarize each section and label each section in your paper. Your paper will be typed, double spaced and written in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person and in complete sentences using APA format. Each Summary paper will be worth 50 points.

APA format is different from MLA! If, in any section of a written paper, you give information that comes from your textbook or other written source, you must use in-text citations in the APA format. Sources, which are cited in the text, must also be referenced at the end of the paper on your References page. You will need to look up the APA guidelines on the LRC homepage so you know how to write correctly in APA format.

**Hospitality House Visit and Paper:** You will visit the Hospitality House in Mt. Pleasant during one of your scheduled class times. This will count 100 points so it is important that you tour with your class AND write the paper (typed and double spaced).

You will be asked to write about your experiences during the visit. This is a reaction/relection type paper and you are to make this paper personal. Tell me how you feel about the visit. **Do not** use the names of any residents; you must respect their privacy. **This IS an "I" paper! No APA documentation is required on this one! You will also be required to bring a signed consent form to the Hospitality House if you are under 18 years of age. You will find this form posted in BlackBoard.**

Always put your name, course number and section on all assignments submitted. **Late papers will lose 20 percentage points and will not be accepted later than 1 week after the due date.** Paper due dates as listed in class calendar.

**There will be two SLO quizzes.** Both quizzes will have 30 multiple choice items and be worth 30 points each. The first quiz will cover chapter 2 (Scientific methods). The second quiz will be comprehensive and cover the entire course. Dates listed on class calendar.

**Self-improvement opportunities:** Syllabus quiz worth 10 points, APA quiz worth 16 points, Office visit to review first Quiz worth 5 points, Office visit to review the first 3 exams worth 5 points each (prior to retest), office visit to review Experimental design paper worth 5 points, office visit to review 1<sup>st</sup> Summary paper worth 5 points.

**Mandatory Tutor requirements:** A psychology tutor is available to help all Psyc 2301 students (see Bb home page for information). The tutor can assist you with logging onto MindTap, studying, and preparing papers. **\*\*If you earn a grade of less than 65% on any exam or paper, you will be required to see the psychology tutor within 1 week of the posted grade. Upon completion of the mandatory**

tutoring sessions, you will bring the tutor form to the professor and the posted grade will be adjusted by 5%.

### Grades

Grades will be computed as follows:

MindTap homework	=30%
Four Exams:	=30%
Experimental Design paper	=10%
2 Summary papers	=10%
HH visit and paper	=10%
SLO quizzes	= 5%
Self-improvement	= 5%

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

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

Also, five (5) additional bonus points may be added for perfect attendance and submission of all work.

You may want to make the best grade possible so you qualify for membership in Psi Beta, which is the National Honor Society in Psychology. Ask me about the qualifications and what Psi Beta does here on our campus.

Appointments with me may be scheduled for times other than the scheduled office hours. Speak with me before or after class to make arrangements. You may also contact the secretary, Ms. Rodriguez, for the M/S building at 903-434-8292 and she can usually get in touch with me.

**I check my campus email more frequently than blackboard.** When you email the professor, include your **class and section number** in the subject line.

#### *Class Hours*

MW 11-12:20pm  
TR 8:00am-12:20pm and 3:00-4:20pm

#### *Office Hours*

TBD

## **COURSE GOALS:**

The primary goal of all introductory psychology courses is to explore the subject matter of the field and to become familiar with the vocabulary, concepts, and with some of the research findings upon which our knowledge of human thought and behavior is based.

This class will emphasize development of critical thinking skills and prepare you to be a cautious and analytical consumer of information that is proclaimed to be scientific or based on research.

I also hope that you will derive personal benefits from this class; that at the end of the term you will have increased your understanding and acceptance of yourself and others; and that you will gain something from this class that will enrich your personal relationships and add to your success in your chosen occupation.

## **CORE CURRICULUM 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 Curriculum 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. CS1: Students will effectively develop, interpret and express ideas through written communication.

#### **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.

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLO'S)**

#### **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.**

### **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 seeing Austin Baker 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**. You may also email him at [abaker@ntcc.edu](mailto:abaker@ntcc.edu)

### **OFFICIAL POLLICIES**

#### **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.

## Syllabus Quiz

1. What is your class and section number? Psyc \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What percentage of your grade are the MindTap homework assignments? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who is the psychology tutor? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Where is my office?\* \_\_\_\_\_
5. Do you receive a grade for reviewing your exams and papers in my office? Yes No  
(Check your schedule and see when you would be able to visit my office during my office hours.)
6. Do your papers have to be typed? Yes No
7. How many SLO quizzes are there? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How many Research Summary papers are there? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What is the penalty for turning in papers late? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What is the latest a late paper will be accepted? \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Bring a completed hard copy of this quiz to my office during my office hours by Thursday, August 30 at 3pm for a self-improvement grade.**

My signature below indicates that I have read the syllabus and understand the requirements of this class. I understand that it is in my best interest to attempt all assignments and discuss in person with the professor anything I do not understand.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature