



PSYC 2301 – Introduction to Psychology

Course Syllabus: Spring 2018

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

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Office Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Online
	Online	Online	Online	Online	Online	Online

The information contained in this syllabus is subject to change without notice. Students are expected to be aware of any additional course policies presented by the instructor during the course.

Course Description: This course is an introduction to the fundamental principles of behavior. Special emphasis is placed on methods of research and critical thinking skills. This is a survey course and covers a variety of topics, theories and approaches to the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. PSYC 2301 is reading and writing intensive and is a college sophomore course

Required Textbook(s):

Kalat, J.W. (2017). *Introduction to Psychology, 11th edition.*

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

You are also required to have MindTap. For your convenience and lower price, the bookstore has a loose-leaf edition of the textbook bundled with **MindTap**. 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.

Publisher:

Cengage Learning

ISBN Number:

978-1-337-12746-2

Recommended Reading(s):

None.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students enrolled in Psychology 2301 will demonstrate critical thinking skills by utilizing the scientific approach to problem solve.
2. Students enrolled in Psychology 2301 will obtain an understanding of a variety of research methods.
3. Students enrolled in Psychology 2301 will be able to locate, critically evaluate, and accurately interpret published research in the area of psychology.
4. Students will be able to differentiate and analyze differing points of view and standard ethical practices used in psychology.
5. Students will recognize the prominent names, theories, and contributions of major historical figures in psychology.
6. Students will be able to translate knowledge and terminology gained in class to applied questions.

7. Students will be able to identify physiological and psychological factors contributing to human behavior.

Course Objectives:

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.

Lectures & Discussions:

This course is online. Instructor lecture materials consist of Power Point slides and chapter notes. These materials can be found in the Blackboard course.

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

Everything is due by 11:59pm on Mondays. Check your course calendar for exact due dates.

Chapter assignments and discussions will be due the following Monday by 11:59 pm. Weekly chapter assignments and chapter discussions received past 11:59 pm will be considered late and **will receive a zero**. Keep in mind that it takes a few minutes for my system to receive it once you hit "submit". Plan accordingly. If it registers in my system even two minutes past 11:59pm due to a slow computer or bad internet connection, it will receive a zero. **No exceptions.**

Your grades will be posted on Blackboard in "My Grades".
Grades will be computed as follows:

Exams (4) = 30.0%
Chapter assignments & discussions = 30%
Experimental Design = 10%
Research Analysis Project = 10%
Hospitality House Visit & Paper = 10%
SLO quizzes = 10%

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

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

If you are not making the grade that you hoped for, please talk to me and I will give you ideas that may help improve your study skills and therefore bring up your grade. I do not grade on a curve and I do not throw out any assignments or exam questions.

I will give you a chance to earn a few bonus points right now. If you send me an email titled "Syllabus" and tell me five things you learned about this course from reading your syllabus, I will give you 10 bonus points. But you must send me this email during the first week of class in order to earn these points.

Exams and Quizzes

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.

If you miss an exam for any reason, you will be required to take a make-up exam. The make-up exam will be similar to the regular exam but with 10 points off your grade as a late penalty. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to schedule the make-up exam. The make-up must be taken within one week of the regularly scheduled exam, unless prior arrangements have been made. Any missed exam that is not made up within one week of the original test date will receive a grade of zero. There will be no exceptions to this policy. Exams **may not** be made up after one week of their original due date.

SLO Quizzes: 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"

Assignments

Chapter Learning Activities and Assignments: Your chapter assignments 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 will be in the form of hands-on activities, assignments, MindTap quizzes, Mindtap videos, and discussions designed to increase your understanding of the material.

These assignments must be completed and received by 11:59pm the following Monday regardless of holidays or time off. For example, the assignments listed for January 15 should be started on January 15 and turned in by 11:59pm January 22. 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.

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

Discussions: 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! 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.

You must read all discussion posts from all students each week. You will be required to respond to at least two students within each discussion. Please try to post your own posts by Wednesday of each week to allow your classmates plenty of time to comment and for a conversation to get started.

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.**

Major Projects

You will also have three major writing assignments (experimental design, research project, and Hospitality House paper). The due dates for these assignments are on your course calendar. They will be received **up to one week past the due date for 10 points off your grade**. After one week, they will no longer be accepted for a grade and you will earn a ZERO for that assignment. This is an important part of your grade.

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 "Grading Rubrics" folder and also in the "Major Projects" folder.

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 “Grading Rubrics” folder and also in the “Major Projects” folder.

Hospitality House Visit and Paper: You will visit the Hospitality House in Mt. Pleasant, Texas, at a specified time. You will have several times to select from. You will write a reaction paper after your visit. Additional information is found in the “Major Projects” 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. 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 “Grading Rubrics” folder and also in the “Major Projects” folder.

Optional Chapter Review Quizzes

For each chapter, you will find an optional Mindtap 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 grade that you make on the optional study quizzes does not count toward your final grade. Most students find that taking each quiz 4-5 times greatly improves their understanding of the material. I will not give you extra credit for doing these quizzes, but I highly encourage you to take them.

GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Student Responsibilities/Expectations:

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.

It is your responsibility to check your class calendar and know when assignments are due and submit them on time. I will not tell or remind you that it is time to turn something in.

Reading assignments are listed in the course outline. Please read the assigned reading BEFORE the week of discussion on that topic.

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 rather than use the discussion board.

Active class participation is expected. You should plan to log on and read emails and discussions every day. Please be active in the discussion board. Answer questions that your classmates have posted. Help each other.

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.

COMMUNICATION

I live in Arizona, so I do not have an office on campus. That means that all of our communication will take place through email. Please send me emails through Blackboard email, not to mjoubert@ntcc.edu, unless Blackboard is down.

You should check into Blackboard often during the week to keep yourself updated on information. I will often send class news by Blackboard email, so make sure you check your mail regularly. 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 chat and 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.

As a last resort, you may also contact the secretary for the M/S building at 903-434-8292 and she can usually get in touch with me.

Other Course Requirements:

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 folder.
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 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 or 8280**. You may also email him at abaker@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.

FINAL REMINDERS

Please remember: all assignments are always due by 11:59pm the following week regardless of holidays or time off. Items are considered late if they are not received by 11:59pm the following Monday. 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 lose 10 points if they are turned in 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.**

NTCC Academic Honesty Statement:

"Students are expected to complete course work 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."

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.

ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC 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 NTCC 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.