



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

## Syllabus

### Introduction to Psychology PSYC 2301.082TR Spring1 2021 (8-WEEK)

**Instructor:** Heather McGregor

**Email:** [Hmcgregor@ntcc.edu](mailto:Hmcgregor@ntcc.edu) (for faster response time, email: [hmcgregor@reg8.net](mailto:hmcgregor@reg8.net))

**Online Office Hours:** Online several times daily M-F

**Office Phone:** 903-434-8292

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

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.

### 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 & REQUIRED MATERIALS

Kalat, J.W. (2017). *Introduction to Psychology, 11<sup>th</sup> edition*. Cengage Learning.  
**ISBN 978-1-337-12746-2** This textbook is required for this course.

The electronic textbook is available in Blackboard as part of the course. For your convenience and lower price, the bookstore has the loose-leaf edition available bundled with **MindTap**. MindTap assignments are 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. Videos are often utilized in this course, which will require speakers or earbuds/headphones and a graphics card.
4. 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 see 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**.

## 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 Blackboard Tools tab to find

answers to your Blackboard questions. Knowing how to navigate through the course will aid in your success this semester.

## COMMUNICATION

I do not have an office on campus. That means that all of our communication will take place through email. Please email: [hmcgregor@reg8.net](mailto:hmcgregor@reg8.net) for the fastest response time.

I will return emails promptly. Emails sent over the weekend will be returned 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 respond until Monday. For this reason, I highly suggest that you not wait until Sunday night to finish exams and papers that are due the next day.

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

## GENERAL COURSE OVERVIEW

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

Reading assignments are listed in the course outline and organized by module. There are four modules. You will have **chapter assignments** each week in the form of short MindTap activities, assignments, and quizzes. These assignments and discussions will be due the following Monday by 11:59 pm. Points will not be given for chapter assignments that are received late.

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

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

► **Chapter Learning Activities and Assignments:** Your chapter assignments will consist of MindTap assignments and quizzes and are designed to increase your understanding of the material. They can be found posted in each Module linked on the home page. Click on the current chapter link, then "Learning Activities and Assignments". All chapter assignments and quizzes must be completed and submitted on time. Points WILL NOT be given for late chapter assignments or discussions. You will earn a zero for items submitted past 11:59pm. There are also optional study quizzes posted for each chapter. These are not calculated into your grade and are intended to help you better understand the material.

► **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 are 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 will 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".

► **Exams:** There will be 3 exams. All exams are comprised of multiple choice items and are worth 100 points. There are 10 items for each chapter. Exams will all be taken online. **Exam questions will come from the textbook.** You will have 1 hour and 30 minutes for each exam. The exams largely test a student's ability to APPLY the knowledge of the course content to specific scenarios. You may use your notes, textbook, and other resources to help you be successful. However, you should understand that you must have a thorough UNDERSTANDING of HOW TO APPLY the content being assessed.

If you miss an exam for any reason, you will be required to complete a make-up exam. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to schedule the make-up exam. Exams **may not** be made up after one week of their original due date.

► **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 Summary Papers:** 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 3rd person and in complete sentences using APA format. Please refer to the sample paper provided in the link for this assignment in "Major Projects" on our Blackboard home page. 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 so you know how to write correctly in APA format. [Purdue Owl](#) is a great source for APA formatting guidelines.

► **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 in Blackboard. 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 in Blackboard.

## **GRADING**

Grades will be computed as follows:

Exams (3) = 30%

Chapter Learning Activities & Assignments = 30%

Experimental Design = 10%

Research Summary Papers = 10%  
Hospitality House Paper/Visit = 10%  
SLO quizzes (2) = 10%

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

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

Your grades will be posted in Blackboard in the "My Grades" link.

**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. Even though I do not offer any extra credit in this course and will give you only a few opportunities to earn bonus points, 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.

## **OFFICIAL COLLEGE 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.

**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.