



PSYC 2301 001/002 – Introduction to Psychology

Course Syllabus: Fall 2026

“Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide personal, dynamic learning experiences empowering students to succeed.”

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This syllabus serves as the documentation for all course policies and requirements, assignments, and instructor/student responsibilities.

Information relative to the delivery of the content contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Should that happen, the student will be notified in class (if F2F) and/or via Blackboard and email.

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, stress and its effects on health, 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.

Student Learning Outcomes:

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.

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

The breakdown of the course requirements is as follows:

%	Requirement
10%	Study Plans (participation grade)
20%	Chapter Quizzes (average)
35%	Four exams

10%	Experimental Design
10%	2 Summary Papers (total)
15%	Reflections Paper

Semester grades will be earned as follows:

Percentage	Letter Grade
90% and above	A
80 %–89%	B
70 %–79%	C
60%–69 %	D
59.9% and below	F

Study Plans & Quizzes: You will be required to complete the Study Plan and a quiz for all 13 chapters. These are all accessed in Blackboard (under the chapter folders). As for the study plans, you do NOT have to watch every video and you do NOT have to complete the essay questions. You will receive a participation grade for completing the other questions (multiple choice, matching, etc.) throughout the study plans, including the concept check at the end of each section. Due dates for the quizzes and Study Plans (ebook readings) are listed in Blackboard and on the Assignment Checklist. You will have 2 attempts on each quiz, and you may use your textbook and class notes to complete the quiz.

There will be 4 exams: All exams will be multiple-choice format. Dates for exams are listed on the class calendar. Make-up exams may be scheduled prior to the missed exam. No make-up exams are given after the following exam has been given or after the last day of class. Exams are each worth 100 points. The final exam must be taken by the scheduled time to obtain credit for the course.

Students who have at least a 70 average on their Study plans and quizzes, and who have submitted all major assignments, will have their lowest exam grade replaced with the average of their lowest and highest exam grades.

Experimental Design Worksheet: You will design and think through all aspects of your own psychological experiment. This will be a typed paper, written in third person and in complete sentences, addressing the specific questions provided. (Additional info. may be found in Blackboard.) It will be worth 100 points. Due date is listed on the class calendar.

Research Summary Papers: You will write two summary papers*. For each, you will read and summarize selected articles. The summaries will cover the major sections of the articles (make sure to clearly label each section). Papers will be typed, double spaced, and written in third person and complete sentences, using APA format. Each summary paper will be worth 50 points. *Further instructions will be given in class. APA format is different than 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 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 Blackboard, under the Summary Paper tab, so that you know how to write correctly in APA format (see the Purdue OWL link).

Reflections Paper: All instructions for this 100-point paper may be found in the corresponding folder in Blackboard. You will be asked to watch two videos and to read part of an assigned article, and will write a paper reflecting on your thoughts/ideas regarding the assigned media and what we have been studying in class. Because this is a reaction paper, it is personal and written in first person. It will be typed and double-spaced. You will tell me how you feel about the material. **This IS an “I” paper. APA documentation is required on the reference page, while in-text citations may be less formal.**

Always put your name, course and section number on all assignments submitted, including email submissions. **Late papers will lose 20 percentage points and may not be accepted later than 1 week after the due date.**

Assignment due dates are listed on the Assignment Checklist. My preference is to have papers printed and submitted in class. I will accept papers submitted via email (jsutton@ntcc.edu). Papers submitted after 11:59p.m. on the due date will be considered late.

Five additional points may be added for perfect attendance and submission of all work. Three additional points may be added if a student has only one absence and has submitted all work.

Self-improvement opportunities: These are bonus points that can be earned throughout the semester - Syllabus quiz worth 10 points, APA quiz worth 16 points, review of each of the first 3 exams, worth 5 points each. These opportunities will be explained in more detail as the semester progresses. In the meantime, shoot me an email (jsutton@ntcc.edu) that you just read this, and I will give you a free 100 on any chapter quiz.

AI Statement for PSYC 2301.101: It is a violation of NTCC policy to misrepresent work that you submit to your instructor by characterizing it as your own, such as submitting responses to assignments that do not acknowledge the use of generative AI tools. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have about the use of generative AI tools before submitting any content that has been substantially informed by these tools. While the use of these tools for brainstorming ideas, exploring possible responses to questions or problems, and creative engagement with the materials may be useful for you as you craft responses, you may not use AI tools to create entire (or even majority) responses to assignments.

Required Instructional Materials:

Waymaker by Lumen materials are provided electronically with course costs. There are no additional required course materials to purchase.

Publisher: Lumen Learning

Minimum Technology Requirements:

Students must have access to a computer with Windows XP SP3 or later OR MAC OS X10.3 or higher. Students will also need Office 2003 or higher and broadband internet access. Computers are available for student use in the Learning Commons building if a student does not otherwise have access to adequate technology.

Required Computer Literacy Skills:

Students will need to be able to navigate Blackboard to read course materials and complete online assignments, use email, and type and print assignments.

Course Structure and Overview:

Students will complete online study plans (readings) and quizzes for each chapter, 4 exams, an Experimental Design, 2 Summary Papers (summarizing select research articles), and a Reflection Paper. Self-Improvement opportunities and extra credit options are available throughout the semester to help students improve their overall grade in the course.

Communications:

Students can expect my reply to any email correspondence within 12-24 hours, typically within a couple hours.

***Reminder: NTCC email is the official form of communication used by the college.** I do not have set office hours and will be on campus Mondays and Wednesdays. You may contact me via email or speak with me before or after class to arrange to meet with me in the office. Please be sure to include your name, as well as your class and section number, in any email correspondence.

Institutional/Course Policy:

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

Use of electronics in class is restricted to taking notes or accessing course related content.

You may use audio and/or video recording devices to record lectures or portions thereof, provided you get permission from me. Materials may only be used by you to aid in the completion of requirements for the course. Content recorded remains the property of NTCC and may not be duplicated for distribution, 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 before withdrawing. I reserve the right to drop you from class due to excessive absences (3) prior to the drop date. Please talk with me if, at any time, you are concerned about your grade.

Plan to participate in class and demonstrate an interest in the subject matter. A positive attitude and polite demeanor will enhance in-class discussion. 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 life experiences will greatly enhance understanding.

If I am late to class, check Blackboard announcements &/or email for any notifications from me and then wait 15 minutes before leaving.

Alternate Operations During Campus Closure and/or Alternate Course Delivery Requirements:

In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, it may be necessary for Northeast Texas Community College to move to altered operations. During this time, Northeast Texas Community College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to, online through the Blackboard Learning Management System, online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor NTCC's website (<http://www.ntcc.edu/>) for instructions about continuing courses remotely, Blackboard for each class for course-specific communication, and NTCC email for important general information.

Additionally, there may be instances where a course may not be able to be continued in the same delivery format as it originates (face-to-face, fully online, live remote, or hybrid). Should this be the case, every effort will be made to continue instruction in an alternative delivery format. Students will be informed of any changes of this nature through email messaging and/or the Blackboard course site.

Statement Regarding the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technology:

Employees and students shall be permitted to explore artificial intelligence (AI) and implement its use in and out of the classroom in accordance with policy and administrative regulations. The use of AI shall only be as a support

tool to enhance student outcomes or as necessary to engage in research and shall never take the place of faculty, staff, and student decision-making. Any use of AI must comply with law, policy, and administrative regulations relating to student and employee privacy and data security. A student shall only use AI tools with faculty permission and shall be expected to produce original work and properly credit sources, including AI tools used in creating the work.

Example:

APA (7th edition)

OpenAI. (2026). ChatGPT (March 25 version) [Large language model]. <https://chat.openai.com/>

MLA (9th edition)

OpenAI. ChatGPT. 25 Mar. 2026, <https://chat.openai.com/>.

Employees or students who use AI tools to deceptively harm, bully, or harass others shall be disciplined in accordance with policy. [See DH, DIA series, FFD series, FFE, FLB, and the FM series] AI Use by Employees and Students. Northeast Texas Community College 225500 TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES CRB ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (LOCAL) DATE ISSUED: 12/8/2025 1 of 1 UPDATE 50 CRB(LOCAL)-AJC Adopted: 12/16/2025

NTCC Academic Honesty/Ethics Statement:

NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits in an honest manner that is beyond reproach using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty and Academic Ethics policies stated in the Student Handbook. Refer to the student handbook for more information on these subjects.

ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodation 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 accommodation as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodation. An appointment can be made with the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special populations page on the NTCC website.

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.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Psyc 2301.001/002

Introduction to Psychology

Fall 2026

Nicole Sutton

MW 11:00am – 12:20pm/1:30pm – 2:50pm UHS 151

Monday		Wednesday	
8/24/26	Syllabus/Intro.	8/26/26	Ch 1 – Psychological Foundations*
8/31/26	Ch 2 – Psychological Research	9/2/26	Ch 2 (cont.)*
9/7/26	No class - holiday	9/9/26	Discuss Experimental Design
9/14/26	Hypothesis Due /Ch 3 – Biopsychology*	9/16/26	Review for Exam 1/ Experimental Design help
9/21/26	Exam 1 (Ch 1, 2 & 3)	9/23/26	Ch 4 – States of Consciousness*
9/28/26	Experimental Design Due / Ch 5 – Sensation and Perception*	9/30/26	Discuss Summary Papers & APA Quiz
10/5/26	Ch 6 - Memory*	10/7/26	Ch 7 - Learning*
10/12/26	Review/Summary Paper help	10/14/26	Exam 2 (Ch 4, 5, 6, & 7)
10/19/26	Summary Paper 1 due Ch 8 – Lifespan Development*	10/21/26	Ch 9 – Social Psychology
10/26/26	Ch 9 (cont.)*	10/28/26	Ch 10 – Motivation and Emotion*
11/2/26	Review	11/4/26	Exam 3 (Ch 8, 9, & 10)
11/9/26	Summary Paper 2 due/ Ch 11 – Psychological Disorders	11/11/26	Ch 11 (cont.)* /Discuss Reflections Paper
11/16/26	Ch 12 – Therapy and Treatment*	11/18/26	Ch 13 – Stress, Lifestyle, and Health
11/23/26	No class – work on your Reflections Paper	11/25/26	No class - holiday
11/30/26	Reflections paper due/ Ch 13 (cont.)*	12/2/26	Final Exam Review
12/7/26	Final Exam for Psyc 2301.001 No class for section 002	12/9/26	Final Exam for Psyc 2301.002 No class for section 001

***Chapter quizzes are due by 11:59pm the Sunday after we cover content in class.**

All dates are subject to change. Students will be notified via email, blackboard and/or in class.