



PSYC 2301.82 – General Psychology 1st 8 week online

Course Syllabus: Fall 2026

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

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Weekday	Office Hours
Monday	11:00am-12:20pm; 1:30-4:00pm
Tuesday	By request
Wednesday	11:00am-12:20pm; 1:30-3:00pm
Thursday	1:30-4:30pm
Friday	None

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.

Course Description:

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

Prerequisite(s): None

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:

Points	Requirement
325	Lumens Homework
350	4 Exams
100	Experimental Design
100	2 Summary Papers
100	Reflection Paper
30	Additional Points
45	Discussion Forum
1050	Total Points

The grading scale below will be used to determine your final grade. In general, a course grade of a "C" represents an acceptable level of work. A course grade of "B" represents substantial effort and achievement. It is clearly a grade for the better than average product and effort. An "A" is awarded only in the case of both outstanding efforts and quality in the required products.

Semester grades will be earned as follows

Points	Percentage	Letter Grade
945-1050	90% and above	A
840-944	80 %–89%	B
735-839	70 %–79%	C
630-734	60%–69 %	D
Below 629	59.9% and below	F

Lumens Homework: You will be using Lumens Waymaker with the OpenStax Psychology textbook. There will be 13 modules/chapters divided into 4 Units. Each module/chapter has multiple low stakes

assessments to help you practice and learn the material. You can earn 10 points for completing the Study Plan. This is a completion grade of 10 points for completing the Study Plan which includes the Show What You Know pre-quiz, Try it embedded questions, and Self-check quiz for each module. This means that this grade will not be determined by the number you answer correctly. You have unlimited attempts at the Study Plan. Each module will also have a separate graded quiz worth 15 points based on the number answered correctly. You may take the graded quiz twice. The higher attempt will be used. Together, the Study Plan grade and graded quiz will represent the Lumens homework for each Module. In total, Lumens homework will be worth 325 points almost a third of your total grade. Homework cannot be completed after the due date. ALL Study plans and graded quizzes are due by 11:59 pm on the date listed on the Due Date calendar found in the START HERE folder.

Exams: There will be 4 exams (high stakes assessment): All exams will be in a multiple-choice format. All exams will open 2 days before the 11:59 pm due date listed on the Due Date calendar found in the START HERE folder. Unit 1 covers only two modules and will have an exam worth 50 points. Unit 2, 3, and 4 exams will each count 100 points. The final exam, Unit 4, must be taken at the scheduled time to obtain credit in the course.

The following three writing assignments (high stakes assessment) will be uploaded to TURNITIN and must be saved as a .pdf You will find the TURNITIN Submission in the Unit the assignment was assigned.

Experimental Design Worksheet: You will design and critically think through all aspects of your own psychological experiment on a worksheet. This will be a typed, double-spaced paper written in the 3rd person and in complete sentences addressing the specific questions provided. Saved as a .pdf and uploaded to TURNITIN. It will be worth 100 points. Due date is listed in Due Date calendar found in the START HERE folder.

Research Summary Papers: You will write two summary papers. You will choose an article to read from blackboard. You may only use Summary Paper 1 articles to write Summary Paper 1. There will be different articles for Summary Paper 2. 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. Saved as a .pdf and uploaded to TURNITIN. Each Summary paper will be worth 50 points. Due date is listed in Due Date calendar found in the START HERE folder.

APA format is different from MLA! There are PowerPoint Instructions in Blackboard. If, in any section of a written paper, you give information that comes from your article or another written source, you must use in-text citations and list the reference 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.

Reflection Paper: Students will watch two half hour videos and read a portion of Zeb Larson's Origins article: The first video is an Amazon Prime episode (#3) of Modern Love titled "Take me as I am, whoever I am". The second video is a BBC 2014 production from Films on Demand titled "Bedlam Behind Bars: Mental Health Problems in American Prisons". The article is titled "America's Long-Suffering Mental Health System". This paper will be worth 100 points. Due date is listed on the Due Date calendar. This paper must be typed and double spaced and saved as .pdf but does not have to be written in 3rd person. You may write as if writing a letter to the professor or a diary entry. Due date is listed in Due Date calendar found in the START HERE folder.

Discussion Forum: In this course, you will have the opportunity to interact with your classmates through five discussion forums (low stakes assessment). The first is your original introduction post worth 5 points. Each of the next 4 posts are worth 9 points each divided as follows:

An original post in response to a prompt is worth 5 points.

A response to a peer is worth 2 points (x 2, please respond to two peers).

Due date is listed in Due Date calendar found in the START HERE folder.

Additional points: Syllabus quiz worth 10 points, APA quiz worth 15 points, and assigned email to professor 5 points (low stakes assessment). Due date is listed in Due Date calendar found in the START HERE folder.

Required Instructional Materials:

Format: Waymaker / OHM Courseware with eText embedded Course Name: Introduction to Psychology

Publisher: Lumen Learning

ISBN Number: 978-1-64087-237-0

Optional Instructional Materials:

None

Minimum Technology Requirements:

You must have access to a computer to take this course. Your computer needs to have Windows XP SP3 or later or MAC OS X10.3 or higher. You will need Office 2003 or higher, and you will need broadband internet access. You can check your operating system by right clicking on the My Computer icon on the home screen. You can check your word processing program by going to Start and clicking on All Programs. You will find your Office program there. As a student, you can download Microsoft Office for free.

Required Computer Literacy Skills:

- 1) The ability to properly use email, attach documents to email, and open, download, and save attachments
- 2) The ability to properly update personal computer settings
- 3) The ability to properly utilize online help when needed
- 4) The ability to properly use a word processing application
- 5) The ability to properly print an electronic file to a printer
- 6) The ability to properly submit files in the Blackboard assignment windows
- 7) The ability to properly save documents in a .docx or .pdf format and save in an electronic form in multiple places, e.g. computer hard drive, portable flash drive, cloud storage, etc.
- 8) The ability to properly connect to a broadband internet system
- 9) The ability to properly search for and locate information on the internet
- 10) The ability to properly scan documents for electronic submission. NOTE: Free mobile phone applications are available that can substitute for a scanner. Scanned assignments must be submitted in pdf format through Blackboard.

Course Structure and Overview:

PSYC 2301.082 is an 8-week online class; there are no required face-to-face or real-time components. Although I do not require you to log in to class at a specific time, there are due dates for class discussions, Lumens homework, writing assignments and exams within each unit. Because this is an accelerated course, no late work will be accepted.

Online classes can offer great flexibility and often students think that online classes are easier. It is true that online classes do offer great flexibility to work through course learning materials and assignments in your own time and space, but you still have to complete a large amount of work in a non-traditional classroom. Online classes take more time than traditional courses. Plan accordingly.

You should be spending an average of 6-12 hours a week completing class discussion, Lumens homework and writing assignments. Some weeks will be lighter, and some weeks will require more time. Time management is key to being successful in this course.

Our class is found on Blackboard, and the content is organized into four Units. Unit 1 will only open after you score 100% on the syllabus quiz (found in the START HERE folder). After that all units will be open. You are encouraged to look and work ahead.

Please see the Due Date calendar (found in the START HERE folder) for specific unit and assignment due dates. Within each unit you will find these main areas: Unit Overview, Lumens Modules (reading, homework, and video lectures), Discussion forum questions, a writing assignment, and Unit Exam. There are readings from the Lumens textbook assigned for every unit, as well as video lectures. Unit Exams will be over Lumens textbook readings.

Communications:

NTCC email is the official form of communication used by the college. The best way to contact me is from your NTCC email address to my email address kskaar@ntcc.edu. You should check your NTCC email daily. Email communications from non-NTCC email addresses will not be answered. Emails will be responded to within 24 hours Monday through Thursday. If you do not receive a response within 24 hours, then the email was not received. When you email the professor, include your class and section number in the subject line. I will also post reminder information through Blackboard announcements. DO NOT message your professor through Blackboard (you will receive no reply).

Institutional/Course Policy:

No late work will be accepted. All due dates are set prior to the beginning of the 8-weeks and can be found on the Due Date calendar in the START HERE folder. It is your responsibility to know when assignments are due and submit them on time. All Lumens homework, writing assignments, discussions, and exams will be due at 11:59pm on the dates listed on the Due Date calendar. A zero will be entered for work not completed by the due date.

All writing assignments must be typed and double spaced and saved as .pdf. Papers must be submitted as a pdf using the link provided in the current unit. No late work will be accepted. A student cannot earn a grade higher than a "C" in the class without turning in all writing assignments. Writing assignment due dates are listed in Due Date calendar found in the START HERE folder.

AI is prohibited (this means do not use) unless instructions specifically outline how to use AI for the assignment.

Students that have enrolled in the course after the start of the semester are still responsible for all course material from the start of the semester. Due dates will not be changed for late-enrolled students. Late assignment policies will apply.

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:

Week 1: Syllabus and Module 1 (Psychological Foundations) and Module 2 (Psychological Research)

Week 2: Module 3 (Biopsychology)

Week 3: Module 4 (States of Consciousness) and Module 5 (Sensation and Perception)

Week 4: Module 6 (Memory) and Module 7 (Learning)

Week 5: Module 8 (Lifespan Development), Module 9 (Motivation and Emotion), and Module 10 (Social Psychology)

Week 6: Module 11 (Psychological Disorders) and Module 12 (Therapy and Treatment)

Week 7: Module 13 (Stress, Lifestyle and Health)

Week 8: Final